



**LOCAL COMMITTEE
(WOKING)**

**MEMBER QUESTIONS
3 February 2010**

1. Question from Cllr Richard Wilson, Woking Borough Council

Residents in Hatfield Close, West Byfleet, are deeply concerned about the on-going risk of flooding to their properties due to the collapsed highways surface water drainage pipe along Parvis Road (A245). In periods of prolonged heavy rainfall the close and front gardens are flooded. The drainage ditch to the rear of the properties also becomes saturated and overflows into gardens.

When will Thames Water be replacing the already identified length of collapsed pipe?

If the answer is not in 2010/2011, what pressure can SCC bring to bear on Thames Water to bring these works forward?

In the meantime what practical measures can SCC Highways undertake to minimise this risk?

Answer from Marc Samways, Surrey County Council's Local Highways Manager for Woking

At a site meeting with Thames Water on 10 November 2009, it was confirmed that further major repair or pipe replacement work was required to restore the efficiency of their carrier. They had not yet completed their camera surveys, but indicated that there could be up to 500m of old concrete piping to replace, and that constituted a major scheme that would need to be agreed, funded and programmed from their central offices. We and the MP, Sir Humphrey Malins, were told that we would be advised accordingly. No further information has been received to date. This office will assist in chasing for an update.

In the meantime, Surrey County Council arranged for a specialised jetting crew to visit on 1 December. They cleared the gullies and pipes leading into the main carrier, and identified that there were some tree roots blocking the outfall of one gully connection into the open ditch to the west of Dartnell Avenue. However, the pipe from the gully at the junction with Hatfield Close was clear.

That ditch acts a soakaway for any overflow that the main carrier can't cope with, and in normal circumstances should be dry. However, SCC intend to have it cleared to maximise its capacity, and to divert the outlet of the blocked pipe away from the offending young oak tree.

In addition, it was noted that two of the four gullies in Parvis Road upstream from Dartnell Avenue are side inlets, which are more readily blocked by debris than conventional gullies. We intend to replace them when funding is available. This will help to collect water before it washes into the junction, but still relies on the main carrier to be working properly.

The flooding coming from the ditch at the rear of the affected properties is not a Highways asset, and may be private or Borough Council maintained. However, it appears to run back to the same main surface water carrier, in which case it has the same dependency on it as the gullies.

2. Question from Diana Smith, Surrey County Council

Please could the Local Highways Manager update:

- a. Progress on items i, iv, and v in the motion relating to Warbury Lane (item 13) at this Committee's meeting on the 22 October.
- b. His answers to the questions put to the Committee by Mr. Ross Daniel and myself at the Committee meeting on the 22nd of October.

Answer from Marc Samways, Surrey County Council's Local Highways Manager for Woking

- a. In respect of the road markings at Warbury Lane a programme of road markings has been issued to our contractors and subject to satisfactory weather conditions works were planned to commence this week from Monday 1st February 2010 and we have requested that Warbury Lane is attended to, this week.

We are still waiting for a costing from our contractor, on the order issued, for the maintenance of the signs, bollards and vegetation removal. A decision was made not to reinstatement the bollards until completion of the

road markings as access would be required. We will seek to reinstate the bollards as soon as possible after completion of the road markings using the Community Gang if necessary.

There will be an agenda item at the Surrey Heath Local Committee on the 18th February 2010 to update members. This will outline the issues and varying opinions raised through the Local Committee (Woking).

- b. A programme of road markings has been issued to our contractors and subject to satisfactory weather conditions works were planned to commence this week from Monday 1st February 2010. The works to the zebra crossings at The Broadway and High Street, Knaphill should be completed this week.

3. Question from Diana Smith, Surrey County Council

Is the list of salt/grit bins for the public to use in Woking that is given on the SCC website correct and complete, and can it be reviewed and bins added in the light of public comments and requests during the recent snow and ice?

Answer from Marc Samways, Surrey County Council's Local Highways Manager for Woking

The list of salt bins was correct when put on the SCC website. We are aware that some have been damaged, one has been moved (not by ourselves), and at least one has disappeared.

There are other bins out on the network that have been supplied by other agencies, such as the Borough Council, local residents and private businesses, that are not maintained or filled from Surrey Highways resources.

There have been many enquiries relating to existing bins and requests for additional ones. These are being collected, and there will be a review before the next winter maintenance season.

However, the general policy for many years has been to provide bins only in critical locations, such as near a health centre or school, or on a steep hill that is not on a primary gritting route. Each request is considered according to its merits, but especially given the restrictions in funding that have recently been promulgated, it is unlikely that there will be many additions to the existing list.

4. Question from Will Forster, Surrey County Council

During the January snowfall:

- a. Surrey County Council deployed teams to help the Borough and District Councils' attempts to clear the footways of the county's Town Centres. Two teams were sent to Guildford, one team to Staines and another to the East of the county.

Why did Surrey County Council not deploy any of these teams to assist in Woking Borough Council's efforts to clear Woking Town Centre's footpaths?

Did Woking Borough Council request support from Surrey County Council to clear the footways?

- b. Why was both the roadway and footpaths of Station Approach Woking not gritted before or cleared during the January snowfall?

Routes to railway stations are classed as part of the Priority 2 Network, however those routes are only treated once Priority 1 roads are treated. What is the purpose of classing routes as Priority 2 if the County Council does not have the resources to clear the Priority 1 Network - therefore leaving any other route untreated?

Answer from Marc Samways, Surrey County Council's Local Highways Manager for Woking

- a. Surrey County Council (Surrey Highways) and Woking Borough Council have a long-established understanding regarding snow clearance.

Basically, the Borough uses its manpower (eg street cleansing operatives) to clear and grit the pedestrian areas of the town centre and routes in from public transport and car parks as a priority.

Surrey Highways uses its resources (eg Community Gang) to visit identified sites in the outlying areas, and there is liaison between the two organisations to try to ensure that all locations listed on the winter maintenance plan are covered. We also try to address customer requests as far as we can.

There is arrangement whereby the Borough can replenish their grit supply by request from SCC stocks, which they did, until operations were curtailed when the restrictions on salt use were imposed.

In the January snowfall, it was considered by the central Winter Maintenance Team that, thanks to the efforts of the Borough both in the town and the villages, its own resources could be deployed to areas in greater need. Nevertheless, two gangs were put into Woking over the weekend to grit routes to secondary schools who had 'A' level exams starting on the Monday.

b. One section of Station Approach, between the new flats and the Station forecourt, is privately maintained.

However, with reference to 4a above, the Borough Council did grit some routes for pedestrians from the Station into the town, and from the car park in Heathside Road (and of course the subway under the railway was not affected).

As a primary route, the carriageway in Station Approach would have been gritted prior to the snowfall, but after salt restrictions were imposed, only that section of the road on the A320 one way system could be included.

5. Question from Cllr Tony Branagan, Woking Borough Council

It would be appreciated if the progress on the feasibility study re Abbey Road could be advised. The issue was raised at the October 2009 meeting.

Answer from Marc Samways, Surrey County Council's Local Highways Manager for Woking

A review of traffic conditions in Abbey Road has yet to commence but it remains on our schedule of works for investigation in the near future.

6. Question from Cllr Tony Branagan, Woking Borough Council

Feedback from Countyliner on the usage of the bus service through Horsell, replacing the no 28 bus could be advised

Answer from Laurie James, Transport for Surrey, Environment and Infrastructure

Countryliner report that usage of bus service 97 (which part-replaced the 28 in Horsell) has been disappointing and they cannot any longer sustain it on a

commercial basis. They proposed to withdraw it from 8 February but SCC has offered some modest financial support so it may continue, at least until September 2010, when we intend to review/change bus services to the north of Woking as part of the Bus Review. Also from 8 February, the Countryliner bus route will be extended to serve Knaphill village and Sainsburys, in response to local requests from Horsell and a revised timetable will apply. This is about to be advertised locally.

7. Question from Cllr Bryan Cross, Woking Borough Council

I would be grateful if you could let me have the following information regarding a number of matters concerning the Highways in Woking:

- a. Can you please let me know the powers that SCC have with relation to directing when and at what times 'utility companies' can carry out significant road works on Highways?
- b. Can you please let me know why SCC did not insist that the Contractor carrying out the work under Woking Arch:
 - at night
 - 24 hrs a day until finished
- c. When can residents and visitors to Woking expect that the work under Woking Arch will be completed and the diversion removed?

Answer from Nia Griffiths, Streetworks Manager

- a. Section 56 of the New Roads and Streetworks Act 1991 (as amended by the Traffic Management Act 2004) enables the authority to serve a Direction on an undertaker, setting out the dates and times during which proposed or ongoing works may be carried out, if the authority believes that the works will cause 'serious disruption'.

The Direction is served by the authority when the advance notification of proposed works is received by the authority.

- b. A formal direction was not served in relation to the works at Victoria Arch, as an agreement for 24 hour working for the main section of the Southern Gas Networks scheme (ie works directly beneath the railway bridge) had already been reached at planning meetings before any notice was submitted. Extended working hours (7am to 10pm) were agreed for the rest of the scheme.

We have received assurances from SGN that 24 hour working has taken place up until 31st January, when the laying of the new gas main

beneath the bridge was completed, and until 10pm on 1st February. Any evidence to the contrary would be welcomed.

Works will continue on extended hours for approximately 4 – 5 weeks, but the lane closure will be swapped to the opposite carriageway in about two weeks time. There will also be short periods of 24 hour working within this timescale, where connections are made that require excavations across the carriageway. All of these works have been carefully planned to accommodate the SCC pedestrian crossing improvement works that are also being carried out at the same time.

- c. The lane closure will be removed in full in 5 weeks time (by 12th March 2010). There will still be some connection works to follow by SGN, but these will all be localised with minimal traffic management required.

Members are also reminded that there is still a significant programme of works planned for the Woking town centre area (as detailed in the response to the Committee in October 2009), including development related works on behalf of SCC. This continue to be planned in order to minimise the impact on residents and visitors as far as possible.

8. Question from Cllr Bryan Cross, Woking Borough Council

Would the LHM please advise:

- a. how long 'salt and grit' can be stored for before its becomes ineffective to be used on roads and paths?
- b. What is SCC's policy on the gritting of roads and approaches to Schools and Community Centres?
- c. On how many days, between 1st January 2010 and 25th January 2010, were the following gritted:
 - roads in Woking Town Centre
 - 'A' roads in the Borough
 - roads and approaches to Schools in the Borough of Woking

Answer from Simon Mitchell, Asset Planning Group, Surrey County Council

- a. Provided salt is stored in a dry environment it has an indefinite life, once exposed to moisture its structure will change with crystals joining together to form a crust together with leaching. Ideally salt should be recycled every two years, following Surreys investment in salt bars the cycle of replacement can be extended.

- b. Within the policy the Priority 2 salting network includes for main access route to large education establishments (500+ pupils). In the event of snow the operation will be expanded to include access to other schools but only once the priority 2 network is cleared.
- c. Details of salting runs below

Jan-10	01/01/10 10GMS	All Primary routes @ 6pm
	02/01/10 15GMS	All Primary routes @ 6pm
	03/01/10 15GMS	All Primary routes @ 3.30pm
	03/01/10 15GMS	Followed by secondary routes @ 9pm
	04/01/10 10GMS	All Primary routes @ 7pm
	05/01/10 10GMS	All Primary routes @ 2pm
	05/01/10 15GMS	A roads with ploughs @ 7pm
	06/01/10 15GMS	A roads with ploughs @ 12am midnight
	06/01/10 15GMS	A roads with ploughs @ 3.30am
Winter Event 9	06/01/10 15GMS	All Primary routes @7am with Ploughs A Roads only
Winter Event 9	06/01/10 15GMS	Hand gritting
Winter Event 9	06/01/10 15GMS	All Primary routes @10am with Ploughs A Roads only
Winter Event 9	06/01/10 15GMS	All Primary routes @1pm with Ploughs A Roads only
	06/01/10 15GMS	A Roads only @ 7pm with Ploughs
	07/01/10 15GMS	A Roads only @ 12am midnight with Ploughs
	07/01/10 15GMS	All Primary routes @ 3.30am with Ploughs
Winter Event 10	07/01/10 N/A	Refilling Salt Bins and Footpaths
	07/01/10 15GMS	A Roads only @ 7pm with Ploughs Surrey Mix A Roads
	08/01/10 15GMS	A Roads only @ 4am with Ploughs Surrey Mix A roads
Winter Event 11	08/01/10 N/A	Footway and Salt bins
	08/01/10 15GMS	A Roads only @ 6.30pm with Ploughs Surrey Mix A Roads
	08/01/10 15GMS	A Roads only @ 12 Midnight with Ploughs Surrey Mix A Roads
Winter Event 12	09/01/10 N/A	School footways
	09/01/10 15GMS	A Roads only + Specials @ 6.30pm with Ploughs

		Surrey Mix A Roads
	09/01/10 15GMS	A Roads only + Specials @ 12 Midnigt with Ploughs Surrey Mix A Roads
	10/01/10 15GMS	A Roads only + Specials @ 4am with Ploughs Surrey Mix A Roads
Winter Event 13	10/01/10 N/A	School footways
	10/01/10 15GMS	All Primary routes @ 6.30pm with Ploughs Surrey Mix
Winter Event 14	11/01/10 N/A	Hand gritting
	11/01/10 20GMS	All Primary routes @ 7pm with Ploughs Surrey Mix
Winter Event 15	12/01/10 N/A	Hand gritting Sand
	12/01/10 10GMS	A Roads only @ 7pm
Winter Event 16	13/01/10 N/A	Hand gritting Sand
	13/01/10 10GMS	All Primary routes @ 7pm with Ploughs White Salt
	14/01/10 10GMS	All Primary routes @ 4am with Ploughs White Salt
Winter Event 17	14/01/10 N/A	Footway and Salt bins
Winter Event 18	15/01/10 N/A	Footway and Salt bins
	15/01/10 10GMS	Pesalt Hoggs Back and BVR only
	17/01/10 10GMS	A Roads only + Specials @
	17/01/10 10GMS	A Roads only + Specials @ 7pm
	20/01/10 20GMS	All Primary routes @ 4am