

Supplementary Agenda

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Item 5- Public Question responses 1-8

We welcome you to

Tandridge Local Committee

Your Councillors, Your Community
and the Issues that Matter to You



Venue

Location: Tandridge District
Council offices,
Station Road East,
Oxted, RH8 0BT

Date: Friday, 20
September 2019

Time: 10.15 am

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

5 FORMAL PUBLIC QUESTIONS

(Pages 1 - 6)

To answer any questions from residents or businesses within the Tandridge District area in accordance with Standing Order 69. Notice should be given in writing or by email to the Community Partnership and Committee Officer by 12 noon four working days before the meeting.

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

DATE: 20 September 2019

SUBJECT: Public Questions: Parking Enforcement and Parking meters in Caterham

DIVISION: Caterham Valley



Question 1

Sue McGeown, Caterham BID Manager asks;

'The Caterham BID has agreed to pay for FREE meters to be installed in Caterham town centre in order to increase churn in the parking bays and TDC have agreed to meet the ongoing costs. Why, therefore, are SCC refusing to submit the necessary report to the Formal Local Committee to consider, when the Informal Local Committee has already indicated that they wish to support this project?'

Question 2

Matthew Baker, on behalf of Champ Consultants (local business) in Caterham,

Parking enforcement in Caterham Valley is generally regarded as woefully inadequate and ineffective – why has this poor level of service been allowed to continue?

Question 3

Andrew Browne, on behalf of JJ Browne & Son (Jewellers) Ltd (local business) in Caterham,

Why is the report relating to the installation of FREE parking meters in Caterham Valley not included on the Formal Local Committee Agenda as requested by Councillors at the Informal Local Committee meeting?

Question 4

Paula Parsons, on behalf of Croudace Homes Group (local business) in Caterham,

Why has Reigate and Banstead Council been allowed to deliver such a poor parking enforcement service in Caterham town centre without being penalised?

ITEM 5

Question 5

Lucie Allen, on behalf of the Martin & Co (local business) in Caterham,

'Does SCC intend to generate income from the installation of on-street meters in some areas of Tandridge? Is this why SCC are stalling the plan to install free meters that has been proposed by the BID?'

Question 6

Ben Clarke, on behalf of the Wingate group (local business) in Caterham,

'Does SCC support the installation of FREE parking meters as a way of improving enforcement and providing the parking churn that businesses need to survive in Caterham town centre?'

Question 7

Ying Shi, local business owner in Caterham asks,

'I would like to know the details of the Enforcement Contract that exists between the organisation responsible for the management of the contract (Is this SCC or TDC?) with Reigate and Banstead Council. Please provide details of the Key Performance Indicators and performance against these over the past three years (calendar or fiscal – whichever is easiest)?'

Response:

Surrey County Council is responsible for on street parking enforcement within the county. We have agency agreements with most of the district and borough councils to provide this service on our behalf. In Tandridge our agreement is currently with Reigate and Banstead Borough Council until March 2020, However Tandridge District Council has proposed to take over and manage on street parking enforcement in the District from April 2020 or sooner if that is possible.

The agency agreement is a legally binding document that transfers some powers and responsibilities for parking enforcement from SCC to another authority. We are currently in discussions with TDC about the detail and content of the agency agreement and how they plan to manage the enforcement service.

Until this agreement is in place and we have a clear understanding of how parking enforcement would be operated and managed by Tandridge, we do not think it is appropriate to propose or introduce new infrastructure to manage parking in Croydon Road, Caterham. Indeed we could not recommend a parking enforcement solution to the committee that was likely to operate at a loss or need long term subsidy from the general taxpayer because this would be against Department of Transport guidance. Surrey Highways thinks a financially sustainable solution is required.

We anticipate the new parking enforcement arrangements with Tandridge will be resolved in the near future and we can bring proposals on Croydon Road to the committee at a later date.

Parking enforcement data has been supplied by R&BBC parking team in previous years and can be viewed by following these links.

Report and annexes from 22 June 2018 Local Committee Meeting (Item 24/18) KPI's are available in Annex 4.

<https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=166&MId=5804&Ver=4>

Report and Annex from 23 June 2017 Local Committee meeting (Item 125/17)

<https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=166&MId=5392&Ver=4>

Contact Officer: Dave Curl, Parking Strategy & Implementation Team Manager.
highways@surreycc.gov.uk

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SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

DATE: 20 September 2019

SUBJECT: Public Question: Roadside verges

DIVISION: Caterham Valley



Background

Whyteleafe Village Council has noted an apparent increase across local Councils to 're-wild' roadside verges. Although we recognise the potential benefits e.g. greater biodiversity, improved appearance and fewer regular cuts (less carbon dioxide), we do not have any details of the cost (installation, planting and ongoing maintenance).

Question:

Whyteleafe Village Council would like to know:

- a) Does Surrey County Council have a strategy to 're-wild' some of its roadside verges. If plans exist to create 'pictorial meadows' or add wildflowers to verges, Whyteleafe Village Council would like to know how the Parish can get involved?
- b) If no strategy exists, would Surrey County Council undertake a feasibility study, in partnership with others (such as neighbouring County Councils, Surrey Wildlife Trust) to see whether 're-wilding' is a viable option for some of the County's roadside verges?

Response:

Surrey County Council does not currently have a formal strategy to 're-wild' some of its roadside verges, preferring to ensure that where suitable highway grass verges are maintained with a sympathetic approach to flora and fauna. Wildflowers flourish best where the soil is poor, which means in order to encourage wildflowers, the ideal solution is to cut the grass and collect the arisings. Unfortunately, that is costly, and Surrey County Council has no additional funds to do this.

Surrey County Council is very keen to work with our Districts, Boroughs and Parishes to manage, where it is safe to do so, highway verges with a different approach. Footways, and edge of carriageways will still require a 1m swathe to be cut, to ensure that the carriageway edge does not become overgrown and prevent water run off, and that footways are still clear for people to walk along them. Safety is always the priority for a highway authority, and not all verges will be suitable to nurture wild flowers.

The Principal Engineer for grass cutting, has been on two events with various Wildlife trusts, and organisations looking into this issue, and developing knowledge from other Highway Authorities.

Surrey County Council is keen to encourage wild flowers along road side verges where sight lines do not need to be maintained. Currently, where individuals or Parish's approach Surrey County Council with suggested areas, each area of verge is risk assessed before a plan is agreed. There are opportunities to plant Birds-foot trefoil and Yellow Rattle, which are both green and can cover grass verges relatively quickly, whilst only growing 20cm high. However, the verges need scarifying or at the very least the last few grass cuts require the arisings to be removed to reduce the nutrients in the soil, if this has any success. Currently, Surrey County Council's grass cutting contractors does not have the equipment to remove the arisings, and paying individuals to rake up the arisings will be too costly within our existing budgets.

Grass verges should always be cut at least annually – as without this cut the area will quickly become overgrown in undesirable woody species, shrubs and tree saplings. Hence, areas should not be allowed to become 'wild', but should be nurtured and maintained in a more sympathetic way to support flora and fauna where safe to do so.

Contact Officer: Helen Currie, Principal Maintenance Engineer- Environmental Works
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