

Supplementary Agenda

We welcome you to
Mole Valley Local Committee
Your Councillors, Your Community
and the Issues that Matter to You

Supplementary Agenda

Item 5a – Written Public Questions

Item 5b – Written Member Questions



Venue

Location: Council Chamber,
Pippbrook, Reigate Road, Dorking,
Surrey, RH4 1SJ

Date: Wednesday, 29 September
2021

Time: 2.00 pm

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

a PUBLIC QUESTIONS (Pages 1 - 4)

To receive any questions from Surrey County Council electors within the area in accordance with Standing Order 66.

b MEMBER QUESTIONS (Pages 5 - 8)

To receive any written questions from Members under Standing Order 47.

Mole Valley Local Committee – 29 September 2021

Written Public Question

Question 1 from Mr John Moyer, Leatherhead Living

A number of us in Leatherhead have been trying without success to get a firm date for the SCC contractor to repaint the 'Waterless Feature' in Leatherhead High Street. We have established via Lucy Quinnell that an on site meeting with the contractor was held to choose the paint colour. And that the contractor was awaiting a spell of dry weather.

When is the work scheduled to start and can it now be done before the winter? Why has it been left all summer if it needed dry weather? Is it better to leave it to next summer and perhaps allow some temporary public art or banners over the winter?

Local district councillors and MVDC are being constantly blamed for delays but it seems this is not the case.

Response

The colour was discussed at the site meeting held at the end of July and subsequently agreed with the divisional member in August. A number of questions were raised by Lucy Quinnell of the Fire and Iron Gallery at the site meeting which were then passed to the specialist contractor for response. A job has been raised with the contractor but the work has not yet been scheduled. It is important for the correct materials and application to be used on this job so that the paint does not flake again. Unfortunately this has resulted in a delay to work starting on site.

It is agreed that the work should not be started if there is a risk that the wall is not dry and so the paint will flake due to moisture in the concrete. Officers will take advice from the specialist contractors but it is likely that the job may need to be postponed until Spring/early Summer 2022. Officers would support finding a temporary solution to address the current condition of the feature and will instigate discussions with the divisional member, Mole Valley District Council, and the Fire and Iron Gallery.

Question 2 from Andrea Bradley and Janice Brown, Dorking

A recent example in Claremont Court, Dorking (see attached photos) has highlighted poor technical consideration and decision making in respect of Surrey County Council's Equalities Act obligations. The scheme suggests a lack of understanding of the needs of the disabled in the location and design requirements for both advisory and statutory parking bays. Experience of other projects in Mole Valley suggests that this lack of understanding in infrastructure development and design extends beyond parking bays (information can be supplied).

Could the council please explain its application/location screening, design and consultation policies for disabled parking bays, specifically, and for transport infrastructure in general?

Further, would councillors ensure that:

Mole Valley Access Forum is included as a "Stakeholder" organization in all future traffic and transport consultations;

location of the parking bay in Claremont Court is reconsidered with a view to moving it to a more suitable location nearby, not only for the specific user but also of wider value to nearby residents;

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in future, all transport facilities under Surrey County Council control or participation are located and designed within nationally recognised guidance and regulations for the disabled.

We would also suggest that, in pursuit of that goal, Surrey's Environment Transport and Infrastructure staff undergo a training and development programme design to improve their understanding of the needs of the disabled.

Response

The county council installs different types of disabled parking bays for different purposes. It installs them for general use by all blue badge holders where it is beneficial to assist with access to amenities, for example in front of a row of shops, and it installs them in response to an application from an individual blue badge holder in order to help them be able to park close to their home. The bay in Claremont Court falls into the second category. On the application form, the applicant is asked to describe where they would like the bay to be installed, which is normally right outside their property. Where this is not possible, the council, bearing in mind the applicant's suggestion, will locate the bay in the nearest suitable location, taking into account the needs of the applicant. The council sometimes takes a pragmatic approach, and there is therefore more flexibility in the design and location of bays of this sort than where bays are being installed that fall into the first category.

For an application to be successful, the applicant must be a blue badge holder, their vehicle must be registered and kept at their address and they cannot have access to usable off-street parking, such as a driveway. The applicant has to submit a copy of their blue badge and their vehicle registration document with their application form and the council carries out a site visit to check the situation with regard to off-street parking space and to select the location of the bay.

When installing bays in response to an application from an individual, the council notifies the properties closest to the proposed location of the bay, which is normally just those neighbouring the applicant's address, but this may include more properties, depending on the particular circumstances, at the discretion of the officer carrying out the site visit.

When the council installs a statutory disabled parking bay, there is a more extensive consultation process, which includes publishing a notice of its intention to install the bay in a local newspaper, and taking steps to bring it to the attention of those likely to be affected, such as putting up notices at or near to the location and a letter drop to nearby properties. There are also statutory consultees, which vary depending on the location of the bay, such as the emergency services and bus operators.

It is appreciated that the Mole Valley Access Forum have raised important accessibility issues with us, and these are taken into consideration when schemes and policies are developed. Different accessibility requirements are also considered as part of national statutory regulations and design guides.

The Equality Act 2010 requires Local Authorities to have due regard to the equalities implications of their decision making rather than imposing a requirement to undertake specific works.

Equality Impact Assessments are assessments that public authorities may carry out as part of the decision-making process prior to implementing or amending a policy in order to ascertain its potential impact on equality. They are not required by law but are a way of understanding the impact on equality of our policies and services.

It is very helpful if all residents engage on these important transport issues and there is still time for responding to the Local Transport Plan (LTP4) consultation that remains open until

24th October 2021. The new LTP4, that puts climate change at the core of new strategies, has proposals to 2030 and beyond. These proposals include: increasing safer and improved walking and cycling routes (including for those who may need to use mobility aids) to encourage people out of their cars; providing more charging points and parking for electric vehicles; more bus services; charging for transport use and introducing car clubs; as well as improving internet connections and redesigning neighbourhoods to enable easier access to local services, reducing the need to travel by car.

Surrey County Council takes the needs of resident groups with different accessibility requirements very seriously. Stakeholders are identified for each project that has community engagement and consultation, and the Mole Valley Access Forum will be put forward as a stakeholder for future projects.

There are training opportunities available to all colleagues on a variety of equalities issues, including for the engineers and street scene designers who work on our projects. They are all qualified, trained, skilled and experienced in assessing projects for accessibility and are kept up to date on all aspects of highway and transport design.

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Mole Valley Local Committee – 29 September 2021**Written Member Questions****Question 1****From County Councillor Hazel Watson (Dorking Hills)**

The first main directional sign on the A24 southbound approach to the Givons Grove Roundabout was reported to County Highways as damaged (partially missing) in March 2020 (Reference: 1528477) and a request made for the sign to be reinstated. The sign remains damaged with three quarters of the sign missing.

It is my understanding of the KPI is that damaged signs reported in one Quarter, are ordered for replacement in the following Quarter, and replaced in subsequent Quarter by the contractors.

As it is now eighteen months since this damaged sign was reported and the report was acknowledged by the County Council, can an explanation be given as to why the damaged sign has not been replaced and can a commitment be given as to the date when the damaged sign will now be replaced?

Response

It is appreciated that it has taken longer than usual to arrange for this direction sign to be replaced. This has been due to several factors, outside of the KPI process, including supply difficulties for specialist support clips for the new sign. The sign is on passive type posts, because of the speed and nature of the road, and specialist clips are needed to attach the sign to these posts.

The sign work has been chased, and although the replacement sign has been delivered there is still a supply difficulty for the clips to attach the sign to the passive posts. The contractor made an initial visit to the site on 20 September, however, the work has been delayed due to the clip supply difficulties.

The sign installation will take place as soon as is possible once the specialist clips have been delivered. The Principal Maintenance Engineer will inform County Councillor Hazel Watson when the replacement sign has been installed.

Question 2**From District Councillor Elizabeth Daly (Bookham South)**

Residents in Downs Way, Great Bookham, tell me they have complained to Surrey County Council about:

- (i) the danger caused by inconsiderate parking in the lower part of the road near the junction with Leatherhead Road, which makes the speeds currently encountered a threat to residents, pedestrians, cyclists and learner drivers; and
 - (ii) the number of potholes and damaged footpath at the lower part of the road.
- In response, Surrey County Council have (i) told residents they need to pay for £50 for an application and, if successful, £120 for installation of access protection marking, and (ii) patched some of the potholes last winter, only for them to reappear.

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Why is Surrey County Council addressing these issues properly for other roads, but not for the residents of Downs Way?

Response

(i) the danger caused by inconsiderate parking in the lower part of the road near the junction with Leatherhead Road, which makes the speeds currently encountered a threat to residents, pedestrians, cyclists and learner drivers

Downs Way, Great Bookham is a residential road with a concentration of on-street parking on one side of the road at its northern end.

Surrey County Council hold personal injury collision data for traffic collisions that have occurred over the most recent 5 year period this information is provided by Surrey Police and shows that there has been no personal injury collisions in Downs Way over the most recent 5 year period for which data is available (from 01/07/16 to 30/06/21).

Access protection markings are white "H" shaped lines which can be painted on to the road to draw attention to a driveway or access, to try to discourage drivers from parking too close to private accesses and preventing their use. These white lines are advisory and therefore have no legal standing. Access protection markings are also not an effective tool to ensure that on-street parked vehicles, do not obstruct the visibility of approaching vehicles for drivers exiting private accesses.

Due to the sheer number of requests received for access protection markings, it is no longer financially sustainable to provide these markings free of charge, and it is considered unfair for the general tax payer to fund something from which they would derive no benefit.

Therefore, the following charges apply regarding the installation and maintenance of access protection markings;

- 50 (non-refundable) for application and assessment, plus (subject to a successful application),
- £120 for installing a new APM, refreshing an existing APM, or extending and refreshing an existing APM up to 7 metres in length, or
- £160 for installing, refreshing or extending and refreshing an APM more than 7 metres in length.

Further information regarding applying for an access protection marking is available at the following location on Surrey County Council's website;

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/parking/restrictions-and-controls/access-protection-markings-h-bars>

In order to address concerns about on-street parking, Surrey County Council could install waiting restrictions (e.g double or single yellow lines) or controlled parking (e.g parking bays at the side of the road reserving space for parking at specific times). Surrey County Council receive numerous requests each year for parking restrictions and have to consider all requests that are received, and unfortunately not all get progressed to implementation. However, Surrey County Council are currently accepting requests for the 2022 Mole Valley parking review and will be up until the end of May 2022.

Further information regarding how to submit requests for new parking controls or restrictions is available on Surrey County Council's website at the following location;

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/policies-plans-consultations/policies-and-plans/traffic-policy-and-good-practice/waiting-restrictions-and-controlled-parking>

(ii) *the number of potholes and damaged footpath at the lower part of the road.*

All roads have regular Highway Safety Inspections, and this inspection provides information about the condition of the surfaced road. To maximise funding from central government Surrey prioritises major maintenance schemes on the Horizon 2 programme in accordance with best practice guidance on asset management. All roads on the Horizon 2 programme have been prioritised in accordance with the cabinet approved prioritisation process. The process takes account of criteria including: condition; network priority; risk and network management.

The pavements in Downs Way were slurry sealed in 2013. Slurry sealing is a waterproof material which seals the surface of the footway. The pavements were assessed in December 2019 and some minor condition defects were present such as moss, tree roots and some damaged vehicle crossovers but overall condition did not require a scheme.

Footpath FP62, that leads on from the southern end of Downs Way, is a public Right of Way and the levels of maintenance to public footpaths are not as high as those for pavements. However, it is very helpful if residents report any specific individual or multiple potholes with a high risk to pedestrians to us (including photos and location) so that these could be inspected and either repaired or the path closed.

The prioritisation for surfacing of Downs Way, Bookham has been checked and is on the list of resurfacing schemes for future programme consideration. In the meantime, until this surfacing work is prioritised, any pot holes that meet the intervention threshold for repair will be fixed. Details can be found on our website here:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/policies-plans-consultations/policies-and-plans/highway-safety-inspections-standards-and-procedures>

Any reports regarding the footpath section should be reported using our online reporting system via this link:

[Contact us or report a problem on a Right of Way - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/contact-us)

Question 3

From District Councillor Paul Kennedy (Fetcham West)

Please can you provide a list of locations where parking restrictions were requested but not taken forward as part of the current parking review?

Response

The remaining sites that were not progressed as part of this parking review are listed below.

- Oaken Coppice, Ashtead
- Allen/Leatherhead Road, Bookham
- Sole Farm/Little Bookham Street, Bookham
- Woodlands Road, Bookham
- Tanners Meadow, Brockham
- Glovers Road, Charlwood
- Ashcombe Road, Dorking
- Bennetts Way, Dorking
- Harrow Close, Dorking
- Oak Corner, Dorking
- Pippbrook Gardens, Dorking
- Cock Lane, Fetcham
- Copperfields, Fetcham

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Hazel Way (opp Rec Ground), Fetcham
Povey Cross Road, Hookwood
Cleeve Road, Leatherhead
Kingston Road (Plough Roundabout), Leatherhead
Middle Road, Leatherhead
Orchardleigh, Leatherhead
Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead
Poplar Road, Leatherhead
Russell Court, Leatherhead
Ashley Way, Westcott

37 requests were received via letter or email to the Highways inbox, 66 requests via the webpage and 8 requests via email direct to the Parking Officer from councillors. Removing those that were repeats, had already been introduced, or had been added to the review produced the list above. The majority of requests were from residents.

Question 4

From District Councillor Paul Kennedy (Fetcham West)

Ahead of the discussion of Mole Valley Local Committee's forward programme for 2021/22, can you please provide a full list of the Committee's scrutiny and decision-making responsibilities with details of any meeting(s) at which it is currently proposed that those responsibilities will be discharged?

Response

The Local Committee's responsibilities are described in Paragraph 7 of Part 3, Section 1 of the County Council's Constitution (via [this link](#)). This outlines the executive and non-executive functions (where the committee can take decisions), and the service monitoring functions. The Local Committee is not constituted as a scrutiny committee – there are separate functions set out in the SCC constitution that cover this work.

Regarding forthcoming meetings, there are two formal meetings (for decision-making) in the diary after the September meeting: 10th November and 9th March (provisional). The need for other meetings can be considered according to the subjects suggested for discussion and there are different possible formats such as a private (informal) meeting or an interactive session with local residents. These can be scheduled on an ad hoc basis.