

Notice of Meeting

Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Flooding

**Date & time**

Wednesday, 12
November 2014 at
3.30 pm

Place

Committee Room B,
County Hall, Kingston
upon Thames, KT1
2DN

Contact

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Room 122, County Hall
Tel 020 8541 9938

Chief Executive

David McNulty

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This meeting will be held in public. If you would like to attend and you have any special requirements, please contact Anne Gowing on 020 8541 9938

Elected Members

Mr John Furey

AGENDA

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests from Members in respect of any item to be considered at the meeting.

2 PROCEDURAL ITEMS

2a Member's Questions

The deadline for Member's questions is 12pm four working days before the meeting (6 November 2014).

2b Public Questions

The deadline for public questions is seven days before the meeting (5 November 2014).

2c Petitions

Notice of Petitions

Petition 1 – received from Martin Cherrett, River Ash Action Group, 109 signatures

It states: 'In February 2014 dozens of houses around the River Ash were flooded, when flood water spilled into it from the Thames Water Aqueduct. The Thames Water Aqueduct carried flood water away from a remote, relatively unpopulated area into a residential part of Staines upon Thames. This was a repetition of a smaller incident that happened in 2003. Over 500 homes in Staines upon Thames are at risk of flooding if such floodwater is not contained in the Thames Water Aqueduct.

A. On 10 February 2014, Surrey County Council was party to a decision to ask residents in the area around the River Ash to evacuate their homes. It was also party to a decision to order Thames Water to close a sluice gate on their aqueduct on 12 February 2014 in accordance with a pre-existing Protocol to prevent flooding in the area. We believe such decisions should be carefully made and clearly documented.

The County Council should account for:

- (i) what factors were taken into account when these decisions were made?
- (ii) why were emergency measures not taken to contain the flood water in the aqueduct before residents were flooded on 11 February 2014?
- (iii) Why did it take until 12 February 2014 before the formal order to close the sluice gate was given to Thames Water by Surrey Gold Control?

B. The Flooding was caused by flood water spilling out from a facility wholly owned and operated by Thames Water. The subsequent costs to the community have so far been absorbed by local residents and local and national taxpayers. Surrey County Council should seek to recover that proportion of the public cost of dealing with the February 2014 floods that is attributable to Thames Water, taking legal action to recover these costs if necessary.

C. Surrey County Council should formally support 'passive' measures to prevent flood water spilling out of the Thames Water Aqueduct in the future. Preventative measures should not rely on mechanical infrastructure such as pumps and sluice gates but should be based upon substantial physical barriers to prevent flood water spilling into the River Ash in any circumstances.

Petition 2 – received from Joanne Breeden-West, 532 signatures

It states: 'We are sending you this petition for road safety campaign outside the Sandcross School in Woodhatch. We have tried to call, send emails, asked and begged for help but it falls on deaf ears. What will it take before action takes place, a child to be hurt or even killed? Ever since the 2 Sandcross schools have been put on 1 site nothing has been done to aid the issues with road safety.

We need the parking laws to be enforced as many people are parking either on double yellow lines or parking on the pavement not leaving room for people to walk on the path. People are also stopping just before railings and allowing kids to jump out of cars thus blocking the road and causing congestion.

We need the crossing to be put in correctly with a drop curb allowing disabled access and ease for buggies and the kids with scooters. A drain is desperately needed because when it rains there is a huge puddle at the crossing and people drive through the puddles and splash people walking on the path. Also, the kids are having to spend the day with wet feet as they have to walk through the puddle to get to the path. The railings along the path must be extended for the safety of the children.

As for the speed limit, why on earth have we not got a 20 mile speed restriction, this is an infant and primary school It is so dangerous as some drivers go far too fast and a child will get seriously hurt if not killed. Is that what is needed before you do anything about it?

Other schools in the area have had restrictions put in place yet this school has nothing. Why is it at other schools such as Reigate, secondary kids had to get seriously hurt and killed before you do anything about road safety, many children have been hurt please do not allow this to happen to such small children at the Sandcross school.

We have approached the school however they are unable to do anything about the issues as its outside their school premises, and it is down to Surrey County Council.

There have been so many near misses where children or even adults have been nearly hit by vehicles, including the lollipop lady as so many people flout the laws.

Please do not ignore these concerns as they are shared by all that have signed the petition for road safety.

We look forward to your speedy reply and quick actions to get the issues resolved as soon as possible.

We hereby submit the signed petition asking Surrey County Council to

make safe the roads and pathways around Sandcross School, we are requesting that the following is dealt with as soon as possible:

- Barriers to be extended
- Reduce the speed limit to 20mph during school times
- Drain to be put in place at the crossing as huge puddle occurs when it is wet
- Drop the curb at crossing to allow disabled access to crossing and ease for buggies
- Better enforcement of the road laws and parking laws

Response to each of the petitions will be tabled at the meeting

David McNulty
Chief Executive

Published: 4 November 2014

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Thank you for your co-operation