

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)

DATE: 4 DECEMBER 2013

LEAD OFFICER: VICTORIA JEFFREY, COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AND COMMITTEE OFFICER

SUBJECT: PUBLIC QUESTIONS

DIVISION: MOLE VALLEY



Question from Ron Billard, Chairman Mole Valley Cycling Forum

1. Please can the issue of who is responsible for regular sweeping of Cycle Paths be resolved at the next local committee? In particular A24 Southbound from Leatherhead down to Beare Green.

Safety is at issue here, does SCC have a statutory duty to ensure that users of cycle paths are safe?

What would be the additional cost to Mole Valley District Council of one additional trip of sweeping the paths a year? Would MVDC be able to ensure that sweeping be carried out after the autumn Leaf fall?

I am concerned that with the investment in cycling infrastructure being made by Surrey County Council that not enough thought is being put in to making sure there is adequate maintenance.

Response from MVDC Street Scene Team:

1. Some sections of the cycle route are swept, however some cannot be as either the surface is unsuitable or the pathway is not wide enough for the mechanical sweeping vehicle. SCC has been working on these sections with Payback to cutback the overgrown vegetation that is encroaching on to the footpath. This work should make some sections more accessible. Once they have been improved we are happy to include them in the current sweeping schedule.

The whole of the A24 is litter picked and leaf blown and the carriageway swept throughout the summer from May-October as part of the joint high speed grass cutting programme that Surrey organise. During the last cut in October this year, following a request from the Cycle Forum, Veolia also used a smaller mechanical sweeper to sweep the section of cycle path on the northbound A24 at Beare Green. This was one of the sections that Surrey were able to cut back earlier in the year. We are happy to continue this arrangement for the first and last cuts in May and October where the path is suitable for the sweeper.

Unfortunately Veolia can only work on the dual carriageway section of the A24 whilst lane closures are in place. A decision was made a few years ago to work in partnership with Surrey to reduce costs and disruption to road users to only carry out this work whilst the grass cutting lane closures were in place. Therefore the scheduled sweeps/litter picks are carried out between May and October.

We have an additional sweeping resource (a large mechanical sweeping vehicle) that is available to us throughout the winter. This year we have it Mid November to Mid March. The wide sections of the A24 cycle paths are usually swept a couple of times throughout this period. These sweeps do not have a scheduled date as the leafing seasonal work is very much reactive and directed by the local Area Monitoring Officers based on need. I understand the section of cycle path that runs from Givons Grove to Denbies was swept week commencing the 18th of November and a second winter sweep is due to take place in February.

In summary, Mole Valley District Council does sweep the cycle paths as described above. This is undertaken on our behalf by our contractors Veolia. The frequency and timing is dependent on resources and practical health and safety and accessibility issues.

Question from Roger Troughton, Member of Mole Valley Cycling Forum

1. Recently Tesco opened a small store in the old Punchbowl Inn adjacent to the Travelodge on the Reigate Road. Vehicular access to this (which can be quite busy) is across the pavement which is also a shared cycle path, and a Safe Route to School from Brockham to Dorking. Some vehicles appear cross this pavement without due regard to other users of the pavement. I raised this as a potential issue to the MVDC Planning Committee, as Surrey Highways had raised no issues of this nature.

Could Surrey Highways and/or the responsible authorities look at introducing appropriate signage and/or markings to alert drivers to the fact that pedestrians, cyclists etc. may be using the pavement and that they should have priority?

Response from SCC Highways Team:

1. The change from Frankie & Benny's restaurant to a Tesco Store was allowed under planning law as permitted development. Therefore SCC Transport Development Planning Group could not raise any objections or request money to carry out localised Highways improvements. At this time there is no available funding for the design and implementation of a road table at this location.

The Local Divisional Member has asked for signing improvements to the Deepdene Roundabout cycle path. It is proposed that officers will look at any

possible signing improvements that can be made at the Tesco entrance as part of these improvements. However, these works cannot be programmed until the new financial year.

Question from Dino Adriano, Resident of Dorking Rural

Very recently the road has been re-surfaced in this part of Coles Lane and much improved it now is. However I am concerned at the state of the drainage. When it rains significant pooling occurs in Coles Lane close to the junction with Station Approach. Whilst excessive pooling is unpleasant for drivers and walkers, over time it cannot be good for the road surface. Something should be done about it, I suggest. Two photos are below.



Response from SCC HighwaysTeam:

The County Council has carried out initial investigation into the surface water issues that have been highlighted in Coles Lane on the A24 side of the station entrance following the recent surfacing work. This investigation has concluded that:

- the surface water issue is not related to the Operation Horizon resurfacing works
- there does not appear to be a water leak and the section of road was completely dry on the day of the inspection
- the water flow is from the adjacent fields, and the surface water pictured was probably a result of run-off during the recent heavy rain when the ground was already saturated

- there is no positive highway drainage at this location (the gullies start on the bend towards the station entrance)

The leaf debris on the gullies near the station has been cleared and the culvert by the station entrance has been checked and is clear of debris.

There may be blocked ditches which are located off the highway which could be contributing to the problem of surface water on the carriageway. This will require further investigation, including ownership and maintenance liability of any ditches identified.

It is proposed that further investigation be carried out, particularly with respect to the run-off from the adjacent fields. Officers will inform the divisional Member of the findings of this further investigation.

Question from Mike Ward, Resident of Dorking South and the Holmwoods

1. At the last Committee meeting, I asked a verbal question about plans for repairing Povey Cross Road and the parts of the A217 that have not been done in Hookwood. I was told that the information was not to hand and officers would let me know following the meeting. I have not received an answer despite a reminder by email. Please explain what the plans are for sorting out these roads which are among the worst in the area and yet do not feature in Project Horizon. When will the work needed be done?

Response from SCC Highways Team:

The Planned Maintenance Team has confirmed that neither Povey Cross Road nor the parts of the A217 in Hookwood that have not yet been repaired are on the current Operation Horizon programme. Any defects identified on either of these roads that meet the intervention levels under the safety matrix will be repaired according to the timescales set out in the matrix. Works raised to repair all other defects identified as condition defects will be carried out as minor planned works.

The Planned Maintenance Team has recently submitted a bid to the Local Enterprise Partnership for extra funding for the A217 in its entirety (with the exception of the sections already on the Operation Horizon programme). Confirmation of the success of this bid will not be known for some time.

With the support of the divisional Member, the Area Team Manager will request that Povey Cross Road and the A217 in Hookwood are placed on a list for inclusion on a future planned maintenance programme.

Question from Paul Potter, District Councillor for Brockham, Betchworth and Buckland

1. Warrenne Road parking strip – at the last Committee meeting I received an answer confirming that a parking strip would be installed on the north side of Warrenne Road. I was told that this would be done in a month.

To my knowledge, so far no work has been done. Why has this been delayed and when will it be completed?

2. Nutwood Avenue – After asking all residents to move their cars for resurfacing, the contractor left leaving a section of the road unfinished. I have been told that there was no more budget. When will money be allocated to finish this job and when will the work be carried out?

3. Pebble Hill – The Committee decided not to proceed with a reduction in the speed limit following a petition from residents. This was based on advice from the Police who had measured the speed of traffic at this location. I now understand that the point at which measurements were taken was one where cars are forced to slow down. Since it would appear that the initial measurement understated the problem, will the measurement now be repeated at a more representative location so that the Committee can reconsider its decision?

Furthermore it was agreed that improved signing and other physical measures would be introduced. What exactly is proposed and when will it be done?

Response from SCC Highways Team:

1. The work to install grass grid reinforce a part of the verge in Warrene Road Brockham will still go ahead although the original intended start date was delayed for operational reasons. The works is due to be completed by the end of December and will not overlap with any nearby parking restriction proposals at the junction with wheelers Lane.

2. The work carried out formed a part of the County Councils Winter Damage road repairs programme and was one of a number of sites within Mole Valley for this additional funding opportunity.

The work was to deal with the worst areas of damage only within the road and not intended to be a total carriageway resurfacing scheme.

Limited budgets for winter damage repairs meant that sites for this treatment are carefully selected to ensure the worst areas can be treated.

The road does not form a part of the current Project Horizon resurfacing programme and there are no plans to resurface the remained of the road at this time. However colleagues will continue to look for funding opportunities in the future, in consultation with the divisional member, for this and other similar sites throughout the district.

3. A drawing has been produced showing proposed signs and road markings on Pebble Hill. This drawing has been agreed with the Police, local divisional Member and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Local Committee.

Major maintenance works are programmed for Pebble Hill, which are currently scheduled to take place late this financial year. It is proposed that the lining works are carried out at the same time to make best use of resources. However it is intended to carry out the signing in advance of these works.

Question from Peter Seward, Chairman of the Bookham Residents Association

Surrey CC designated the Dorking Road as a top priority in its Wet Spot programme started several years ago now. Whilst improvements have been made can we please be updated on the following:-

1. We understand a major programme here is on hold awaiting further discussion with land owners.

2. A local resident has often provided what has been acknowledged by Highways as positive information on the key problems areas in the road. These details here are from his latest input.

"No cleaning out of gullies has been done in Dorking Road since my last surveyed on the 4th of August and the gullies that were cleaned out adjacent to the soakaways are now all completely blocked.

Response from SCC Highways Team:

1. This area of Dorking Road contributes a great deal of silty water which has a tendency to block the existing gullies. An environmentally sustainable design for a detention basin has been progressed which would address the issues of the silt and water runoff, and would be fed by drainage grips as opposed to gullies. This would reduce the reliance on maintenance of the gullies. However, an area of privately owned land is required for the drainage basin. Negotiations with the land owner have been ongoing for some time and officers are continuing pursue these negotiations.

2. At the request of the Mole Valley Maintenance Engineer, the Operations Team carried out drainage investigation works including jetting and CCTV surveys. This was followed by extensive repairs and soakaway cleaning in October 2012. This included works to repair defects, replace broken grids and dig out buried gullies.

The gullies are next programmed for cleaning this month.