

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (WOKING)

DATE: 4 DECEMBER 2013

SUBJECT: WRITTEN MEMBER QUESTIONS

DIVISION: WOKING



1. Question from Cllr Tony Branagan, Woking Borough Council

Some time ago this Committee agreed to a no cycling policy on Gloucester Walk, Jubilee Square and Commercial Way between the hours of 10am and 4 pm. The matter was deferred pending completion of works in Commercial Way.

May the Committee be advised when implementation of the no cycling policy is to be enforced?

Answer from Chairman on behalf of the committee:

As the works in Commercial Way are not yet complete, signs to enable the enforcement of the time restrictions to the shared use arrangements in Woking Town Centre have not been erected.

Since the decision was taken by Woking Committee to restrict the times during which the shared use facilities are in operation, Woking Borough Council (WBC) have assumed maintenance responsibility for the town centre area in partnership with Surrey County Council. For this reason, it is likely that the signs will be erected by WBC.

Although shared use areas are now commonplace Nationally, the time restrictions themselves are not, and these have created an unusual circumstance that the existing sign regulations do not make provision for. To ensure that the signs erected are legally enforceable, it will be necessary to apply to the Department for Transport (DfT) for permission to use non-standard signs. This is presently being actioned by Surrey Highways.

The method of enforcement has not yet been agreed. It is likely that enforcement would need to be carried out by Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) operating within the town centre area, and the capacity for this would be determined by the level of resource available and other operational demands on the PCSOs.

2. Question from Cllr John Kingsbury, Woking Borough Council

Could consideration be given to painting white lines at the entrance of Pine Road, Hook Heath to try and stop dangerous parking which is on the increase?

Answer from Chairman on behalf of the committee:

White line markings are advisory and non-enforceable. Although many such markings have been introduced historically to manage parking, these are no longer used by Surrey Highways.

To address a parking issue of this nature, it is necessary to raise the matter with Surrey Highway's Parking Team, who will consider the introduction of yellow lines as part of the next annual parking review.

Although yellow lines could be extended into Pine Road, this could only be as far as the extent of the public highway, as Pine Road itself is privately maintained. The public highway would extend to the back edge of the footway in Hook Heath Road.

In this case a request for this to be considered by the Parking Team has been forwarded directly to them.

3. Question from Cllr Anne Murray, Woking Borough Council

Local highways officers have indicated that traffic delays along Victoria Way are made worse because the pedestrian crossing lights are not synchronised with the traffic lights. Therefore could synchronisation of these lights be implemented as soon as possible?

Answer from Chairman on behalf of the committee:

The Woking region traffic signals run on SCOOT (Split Cycle Offset Optimisation Technique) and are controlled by UTC (Urban Traffic Control). SCOOT is a tool for managing and controlling traffic signals in urban areas. It is an adaptive system that responds automatically to fluctuations in traffic flow through the use of on-street detectors embedded in the road surface.

Alongside the SCOOT loops (which detect vehicles entering/exiting the SCOOT/UTC region), a database is built, which aids control and helps to eliminate congestion within that region.

Currently, the following junctions (which are linked using SCOOT & UTC) are being looked at:

- Victoria Way near Goldsworth Road, Woking (near the Market) - Toucan Crossing
- Church Street j/w Victoria Way, Woking (near Fire Station) - Junction incorporating pedestrian facilities
- Lockfield Drive j/w Victoria Way, Woking - Junction only
- Peacocks Shopping Centre j/w Victoria Way, Woking + The Toucan Crossing near the Lightbox - Junction incorporating pedestrian facilities

- Chobham Road j/w Victoria Way, Woking - Junction incorporating pedestrian facilities

There are certain issues which have been identified with the above junctions and these are currently being rectified. Over the coming weeks there will be various site visits to report what is happening on street so any fine tuning to the database and timetables are accurate and reflect current traffic conditions. It is anticipated that improvements should be seen in the next few weeks, and fine tuning taking place into the New Year. Once this work has been completed, it will then be assessed to see if the crossing by 'Evans' (other side of the Arch) will need to be added to UTC. The works are all due to be completed by March 2014.

4. Question from Cllr Ann-Marie Barker, Woking Borough Council

Would Surrey Highways agree that the section of the Neptune cycle trail that runs along the most easterly entrance to Horsell Moor in Horsell is not fit for purpose and is in urgent need of resurfacing?

Answer from Chairman on behalf of the committee:

It is presumed that this question relates to the section of Horsell Moor immediately joining Brewery Road in Horsell.

Surrey Highways do not agree that this section of the Neptune cycle trail is unfit for purpose. Horsell Moor forms part of the public highway and is inspected regularly as part of the programme of highway safety inspections. If any safety defects are identified, appropriate repairs are arranged. It is also possible for anyone to report defects they are concerned about directly to Surrey Highways by using the Report It link on the County Council's website. This method ensures that the matter is dealt with at the earliest opportunity.

This location has not been identified for resurfacing work as part of the central works programme (Project Horizon), and so no resurfacing works are planned at this time. However, this matter has been referred to the Maintenance Engineer for Woking, Chris Higgs, who will review the condition of this location, and, if appropriate, may be able to accommodate limited patching works funded from Woking Committee's the 2014/15 revenue budget.

5. Question from Cllr Ann-Marie Barker, Woking Borough Council

Can I please be updated on any action taken to resolve the flooding problem at the entrance to the new WWF offices and re-opened car park at Brewery Road in Horsell? Officers may recall that I raised this earlier in the year and the minor works team did assess the situation. The last update I had was that the issue could not be resolved as minor works.

Answer from Chairman on behalf of the committee:

Routine maintenance work to the drainage in Brewery Road, in the vicinity of the WWF building, has been carried out under the instruction of the

Maintenance Engineer, Chris Higgs. This action failed to improve the function of the drainage, and in consequence, this matter was raised with the County's Drainage team for more detailed investigation and assessment. An site survey has been undertaken by the Drainage Team who have been in regular dialogue with Councillor Colin Kemp. As this survey has only recently been carried out, details are not available at the time of writing this response. Following assessment, the normal process is to prioritise the drainage works using a number of criteria which include severity of flooding, safety, and whether or not flooding impacts upon private property. The prioritisation system is applied on a Countywide basis to ensure that locations with the most severe issues are attended to first.

6. Question from Cllr Ann-Marie Barker, Woking Borough Council

What was the total cost of both the original works, and subsequent reversal of these works, at the junction of Arthur's Bridge Road / Well Lane and Lockfield Drive in Horsell?

Answer from Chairman on behalf of the committee:

The safety improvements to Lockfield Drive at the junction with Well Lane cost £29,579 in total to introduce. This included £24,951 for the civil engineering works, £3,128 for amendments to the signals, and approximately £1,500 for a temporary Traffic Regulation Order to enable the works to be carried out.

The cost of subsequent works in response to the congestion issue that has resulted on the Woking-bound carriageway is £5,532. This work is scheduled for commencement by 6 December 2013.

7. Question from Cllr Bryan Cross, Woking Borough Council

Can the Local Transport Manager please let me know:

- a) When the road surface in Bampton Way (near to the Lockfield Drive) will be resurfaced as the surface continues to deteriorate.
- b) When the road surface on the Lockfield Drive/Parley Drive roundabout will be resurfaced as the recent patching work has done little to improve things.

Answer from Chairman on behalf of the committee:

- a) Repair work to Bampton Way (near to Lockfield Drive) forms part of the County Council's Winter damage programme. The programme coordinator has advised that this work is intended to be completed in advance of Christmas, subject to weather conditions. The condition of the carriageway has been assessed, and there are presently no defects that would be considered safety related.
- b) Lockfield Drive from Arthurs Bridge Road to Parley Drive roundabout is a site identified under the Project Horizon programme for resurfacing work. This is presently scheduled for years 3-5 of the programme and at present it is not possible to provide a more specific

timescale for delivery. The condition of the carriageway has been assessed, and there are presently no defects that would be considered safety related. Until the resurfacing work is carried out, this location will be subject to routine inspection as part of the wider programme of inspections carried out by Surrey Highways, and, if any safety related defects are identified, suitable repairs will be arranged to ensure that the highway is maintained in a safe condition until the resurfacing work is completed.

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