

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR GUILDFORD

DATE: WEDNESDAY 12 MARCH 2014

LEAD OFFICER: JOHN HILDER, SCC AREA HIGHWAY MANAGER SW

SUBJECT: HIGHWAYS UPDATE

DIVISION: ALL



SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

This report provides an update on the 2013/14 programme of minor highway works funded by this committee as well as Section 106 (developer funded), Casualty Reduction Group (CRG) schemes and the Transportation Task Group meetings. The committee is also asked to authorise the introduction of clearways at bus stops and consider directing funding towards flood recovery in the borough in 2014/15.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Committee is asked to:

- (i) Note the contents of this update report
- (ii) Note the effects of the recent extreme weather across Guildford and Surrey and agree that £50,000 be allocated from the 2014/15 budget towards flood recovery works organised by the area team.
- (iii) Authorise the Area Highway Manager to introduce clearways at bus stops where there is habitual parking in consultation with the Group Manager for Travel and Transport and locally elected divisional and ward members.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

To contribute to flood recovery in Guildford and introduce enforceable parking restrictions at bus stops blighted by parking.

FLOODING

The following is taken from the SCC website at the 24 of February, the time of writing this report.

'The repair bill to fix Surrey's flood-affected roads and bridges over Christmas has spiralled to £12.5 million – before this month's flooding is even taken into account.

A major clear-up of the 2,500 worst-affected Surrey roads is underway after devastating flooding twice hit the county over Christmas and again this month.

Over Christmas, heavy storms and burst riverbanks, including the Mole and the Wey, prompted county council teams to tackle hundreds of flooded roads, plus fallen trees and damaged bridges.

This month (February) the emergency services, councils, the Environment Agency and the Army helped thousands of people affected by River Thames flooding, including more than 1,000 people rescued by Surrey firefighters.

Before the latest flooding began on 9 February, council roads inspectors assessing damage across the county gave early estimates that the clear-up would cost around £5 million. This has now gone up to £12.5 million, with around £800,000 alone expected to be needed to rebuild Flanchford Road bridge near Reigate. The council has bid for Government funding to help repair six miles of A-roads and B-roads, plus 39 bridges.

John Furey, the county council's Cabinet Member for Highways, said: "The water levels from February's flooding have only just begun to drop in Surrey, so the £12.5 million repair bill from the damage over Christmas is just the tip of the iceberg.

"We'll do everything we can to put things right for the residents of Surrey, but this extra financial burden is huge so we hope our bids for Government funding are successful."

On 11 February David Hodge, Leader of the county council, said that some planned non-urgent highways works would "pause" where there was a need to tackle flooding affecting residents and key roads.

Speaking at a meeting of the Full Council, Mr Hodge said: "Our highways teams will continue to work round the clock with the main focus on tackling the effects of flooding, clearing roads and fallen trees, but all essential work across the county will continue as normal."

As well as direct damage, the weather has affected reactive repair work over the past months, particularly potholes. Gangs have often had to work in the rain to carry out urgent repairs in roads where foundations are saturated and unsurprisingly early failure rates are higher than usual. This is at the time of year, late winter and early spring, when numbers of new potholes are at their highest. Dry weather, as well as funding, is needed to recover from the effects of the winter of 2013 on the road network.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

1.1 Budgets available to this committee in 2013/14 are as follows.

	£
Capital ITS (Improvement) Schemes	263,000
Capital Maintenance	263,000
Revenue Maintenance	317,000
Total	843,000
And in addition	
Community Enhancement Fund	50,000

1.2 At the meeting of 13 March 2013 the committee agreed that this funding should be allocated as follows:-

General Revenue Works

New signs, bollards etc by Guildford team	£20,000
'Community Gang' for 48 weeks	£96,000
Jetter for 5 weeks	£25,000
Ad-hoc maintenance work by the Guildford team	£20,000
Reserve funding for the Lengthsman scheme	£15,000
Sub total	£176,000
ITS (improvement) schemes, see 2.0 below	£424,000
Market Street Refurbishment	<u>£120,000</u>
Total	£720,000

1.3 The committee agreed the residual **£123,000** (843k – 720k) should be held in reserve against potential increases in costs since estimates made before design has commenced are indicative at best. Any surplus could be directed to LSR (surfacing) work later in the year. The Guildford Maintenance

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Engineer has priced a number of LSR schemes that can be ordered at short notice should there be a risk of underspend towards the end of the financial year.

1.4 At the meeting of 18 September the committee agreed that an additional £10,000 be directed towards the Lengsthman scheme, bringing the total to £25,000.

1.5 At the meeting of 11 December 2013 the committee agreed £10,000 be allocated towards professional services to develop the High Street setts scheme, particularly refining the cost estimate.

2. SCHEME PROGRESS:

LENGSTHMAN INITIATIVE

2.1 The committee agreed to fund the following Lengthsman (or localism) bids from the £15,000 set aside in March (subsequently increased to £25,000 in September) for this initiative:-

Ash Parish Council	£4,800
Pirbright Parish Council	£864
Shere Parish Council	£3,500
Worplesdon Parish Council	<u>£5,000</u>
	£14,164

2.2 Worplesdon has withdrawn its bid, while the Horsleys (six parishes to the east of Guildford town) recently submitted a bid.

2.3 Sadly, at the time of writing no funds have been transferred to any of the above parishes. This has been due to either a lack of detail of what the money is to be used for, proposals to carry out inappropriate works, or lack of account details to allow the transfer of funding.

2.4 No bids have been submitted for 2014/15 funding to date.

MARKET STREET REFURBISHMENT

2.5 Market Street refurbishment in block paving had been included in the 2012/13 LSR programme funded by this committee. However it was agreed it should be substituted with 'blacktop' surfacing schemes in view of the risk that the complexity of the scheme would mean that it would not be delivered by the end of that financial year, and funding has been allocated in 2013/14.

2.6 Market Street has been combined with North Street refurbishment Phase 2, which will see the steps and market/parking areas in North Street re-modelled. Works in Market Street were substantially completed in December, and the contractor had planned to return in January following the 'Christmas embargo' which prohibits works in town centres. However this has been disrupted by the need to divert resources towards flooding and completion is now expected in March or April.

CONSTRUCT 3 SCHEMES DEFERRED FROM 2012/13

2.7 The estimated cost for all three schemes is **£180,000**.

2.8 Pirbright Village Safety scheme

- Public exhibition held in November, final comments received from PC in December. Installation planned for Feb/March, but delayed to mid-March start and will run into 2014/15.

2.9 Gole Road in Pirbright

- The local committee meeting in June considered a petition from residents of Gole Road in Pirbright for measures to reduce vehicle speeds, and agreed this should be included as part of the village safety scheme. The design team recommend that a 30 speed limit is introduced in Gole Road (currently 40mph) from the junction with the A243 Dawney Hill to a point approximately 1/2km to the west, and that village gateways are installed at this location as part of the Pirbright Village scheme.

2.10 Shere Village Safety Scheme

- Exhibition in Shere first week of September. Installation planned for Feb/March, but delayed to mid-March start and will run into 2014/15.
- The Parish Council has asked that making Upper Street one-way or no-entry is not progressed at present.
- The scheme includes introducing traffic calming measures aimed at reducing speeds, which are already low in the centre of the village, and was developed with the intention of reducing the current 30mph limit through the village to 20mph. The police have been consulted and are satisfied that once the traffic calming is installed a 20mph limit would be appropriate, which was approved by the committee meeting in December.

2.11 Pedestrian refuge in Portsmouth Road, Ripley

- The Parish Council has agreed preferred location at the village hall. Design being refined to accommodate lorries turning for access, installation started in February and will be complete by mid-March.

CONSTRUCT FURTHER SCHEMES AGREED AT 13 MARCH LC MEETING

2.12 Road table at Warren Road, Charlotteville

- Complete. Estimated final cost £17,000.

2.13 Safer pedestrian crossing at rail bridge, Salt Box Road, Whitmoor Common

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- Design being developed by area team in consultation with countryside officers since located on common land. Installation had been planned for Feb/March, however ecologic surveys (bats, invertebrates) required by Natural England, so include in 2014/15 programme. Estimated cost now £20,000.

2.14 Bus stop platform at The Street, Albury

- Design complete and checked by SCC structures team. Installation planned Jan/Feb, but negotiations by parish council with landowner causing delays. Include in 2014/15 programme. Estimated cost now £15,000.

2.15 Anti-skid and bollards Queen Eleanor's Road, Dennisville

- This road will be re-surfaced in 2014/15 under the project Horizon programme so anti-skid not necessary, focus on safety in the vicinity of the school. Installed December. Estimated cost now £4,000.

2.16 Traffic calming Wodeland Avenue, Guildford

- Design complete. Vertical traffic calming (speed cushions) and 20mph speed limit advertised in February. Installation commences mid-March, so will run into 2014/15. Estimated cost now £90,000.

2.17 Zebra crossing Kings Road, Shalford

- Completed in Oct. Estimated cost now £50,000.

2.18 Feasibility only, Hill Road level crossing, Brook

- Feasibility in progress. Estimated cost £2,000.

2.19 Feasibility only safer pedestrian crossing points BVR/Aldershot Road Interchange slip roads

- Feasibility complete. New signs, road markings and clear vegetation installed. Estimated cost now £4,000.

2.20 Zebra crossing serving schools, Aldershot Road Westborough

- Design complete. Installation started in February, complete March. Estimated cost £50,000.

DESIGN ONLY 3 SCHEMES (FOR CONSTRUCTION IN 2014/15)

The estimated cost for designing all three schemes is £35,000

2.21 Woking Road j/w Jacobs Well Road junction improvement

- Design in progress.

2.22 Jacobs Well Road j/w Clay Lane, junction improvement

- Design in progress.

2.23 Chertsey Rd j/w North Street, pedestrian amenity/environmental enhancement scheme

- Design in progress.

LSR SCHEMES

2.24 As at 1.3 LSR (resurfacing) schemes were prioritised and priced by the area team against the eventuality of underspend of the 2013/14 budget. Several improvement schemes have been delayed, with starts at the very end of the financial year, others will not get underway until April or later. Nothing has been spent on the Lengthsman scheme. To absorb underspend the following LSR schemes have been ordered and will be completed by the end of March:-

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| • Vicarage Gate, Onslow Village | £98,000 |
| • Wherwell Road, Guildford town | £53,000 |
| • Kings Road slip road, Shalford | £14,500 |

SECTION 106 SCHEMES**2.25 Zebra crossing New Inn Lane**

- Complete.

2.26 Pedestrian safety improvements A25 Epsom Road, Merrow

- Upgrade pedestrian refuges and introduce road table at Horseshoe Lane West. Design in progress in consultation with GBC.

CASUALTY REDUCTION GROUP SCHEMES

The central Road Safety Team fund low cost schemes at sites with clusters of accidents.

2.27 Signs & anti-skid Ash Road j/w Guildford Road, Fox Corner

- Design complete, install Feb/March.

2.28 Dropped kerbs in Dorking Road in the vicinity of Chilworth Infants School, Chilworth

- Design complete, install March.

HIGH STREET SETTS

- 2.29 In June the committee agreed a strategy for the future maintenance of Guildford High Street setts, which is to re-lay them in their entirety with work commencing in 2014/15.
- 2.30 A Steering Group has been established and met initially at the beginning of August. The meeting focussed on funding streams and opportunities, possible construction techniques and whether work should be carried out continuously or in stages.
- 2.31 Cores have been taken throughout the High Street which have established that the road has a mass concrete foundation over chalk sub-soil.
- 2.32 Thames Water have been asked to replace the water main running under the High Street which is the source of regular leaks requiring the road to be excavated to effect repairs. SCC has not yet had a response to repeated request.
- 2.33 A second meeting of the Steering Group in November recognised that a more refined estimate of works costs is needed to form the basis for discussions with potential contributors (the current working figure is £1.5m). The group recommended that professional quantity surveying services are engaged to produce such an estimate and the committee agreed to allocate £10,000 from the current years' budget towards this purpose. WSP have been engaged and are expected to report in early March – a verbal update will be given at the meeting.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT FUND

- 2.34 In late February approximately £20,000 of Community Enhancement remained uncommitted, while all Keir resources are fully employed to the end of March. Following discussions with committee Chairman, the Area Manager has placed an order with one of SCC's countryside contractors for a general gang who will clear vegetation & drains, straighten/clear signs etc across the borough under the direction of CHO's during March – worthwhile work and underspend will be reduced.

2014/15 BUDGET

- 2.35 At the December 2013 meeting the committee agreed allocations for the anticipated 2014/15 budget, leaving only around £20,000 unallocated. Late starts on several schemes in the 2013/14 programme will mean costs against the same will be incurred in 2014/15 which will have to be met from the £545,000 the committee earmarked for future ITS schemes.
- 2.36 The committee may wish to consider redirecting 2014/15 funding towards flood recovery. In the coming months there will be a centrally led programme of repair works required as a result of flooding and of course the area team has already input to this for Guildford. There may be benefit in the committee making funds available to the area team to achieve small scale quick but lasting fixes, particularly to road drainage systems, though this will be dependant to some extent on the availability of resources (men and machines) to actually carry out work at a time when demand will be

very high. The Area Manager suggests £50,000 is directed towards this with updates on use coming to future meetings.

BUS STOP CLEARWAYS

- 2.37 At a number of bus stops, particularly within Guildford town, habitual inconsiderate parking despite yellow lines and markings can make it difficult for passengers to board and alight. The committee is asked to authorise the introduction of bus stop clearways if considered desirable by the SCC Passenger Transport Team and following consultation and agreement with local SCC and GBC elected members.
- 2.38 The power to allow local authorities in England and Wales to implement bus stop clearways, which make parking restrictions enforceable, without making a TRO was introduced by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002 (TSRGD 2002). This means there is no requirement to follow the procedures for making traffic regulation orders, such as consultation, notification, or the holding of public inquiries to resolve unwithdrawn objections. Bus stop clearways introduced in such a manner would have to be clearly marked and signed in accordance with the requirements of the TSRGD 2002.

WOODBIDGE HILL

- 2.39 GBC plan to construct an environmental enhancement scheme for the shopping parade at Woodbridge Hill in 2014/15. The scheme was developed under the guidance of a Quality Audit process with assistance from SCC Highways and the local community and other stakeholders have been engaged throughout. Parking bays and spaces will be rationalised, with no loss in numbers, in order to create better pavement spaces. New pedestrian crossing points will be introduced, trees and other planting is planned, as well as good quality unit paving and street furniture.
- 2.40 Woodbridge Hill is included in Horizon year 2 and Keir will price the enhancement scheme with the intention that that the two are combined and carried out together. GBC are funding using planning contributions.

TRANSPORTATION TASK GROUP MEETING

- 2.41 At the spring meeting of the TTG held on 3 February the group received an update on all items to be included within this Highways report and also the proposed responses to the local petitions that had been submitted to the December meeting.
- 2.42 In addition, the TTG received a presentation from the Local Sustainable Transport Team describing proposals for the programme budget for the coming year. A full report is included in the agenda for the March meeting.
- 2.43 Finally, the meeting heard that the County Council would be undertaking public surveys to better understand local and through journeys made through the town centre. This would build upon the survey work undertaken last year and would be complementary to the Guildford Town Approaches Movement Study (GTAMS). The surveys are being planned to take place after the Easter holidays.

3. OPTIONS:

3.1 As discussed with members.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

4.1 Appropriate consultation will be carried out for all schemes.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Works will be carried out by SCC's term highways contractor, May Gurney, who won the term contract in a competitive tender process.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

6.1 None

7. LOCALISM:

7.1 Works and schemes are designed to improve and make safer the facilities for local communities in the borough.

7.2 The Lengsthman initiative allows parish councils to undertake enhanced maintenance of the public highway.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

8.1 None

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

9.1 As set out in the body of the report.

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

10.1 Officers will continue to progress the programme of schemes agreed by the committee.

Contact Officer:

SCC Area Highway Manager SW
Tel 0300 200 1003

Consulted:

As described within the report

Annexes:

None

Sources/background papers:

Local Committee for Guildford Wednesday 13 March 2013 Item 10: 'Highways Update & Budget Allocations for 2013 2014'

Local Committee for Guildford Wednesday 13 March 2013 Item 11: 'Localism in Highways: An Update on Devolved Highways Delivery'

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