



WOKING JOINT COMMITTEE

DATE: 25 JUNE 2014

SUBJECT: WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS

DIVISION: WOKING

1. Question from Mr Simmons

Please advise progress on the subject raised on the last "Local Committee (Woking)" on the 5th of March 2014 "Item 5 Section 3 on the first new lamp post in Wheatsheaf Close from the Chobham Road regarding shading due to tree foliage.

Answer from Chairman on behalf of the committee:

Following this matter being raised in the Woking Local Committee meeting held in March 2014, a review of vegetation in the vicinity of lamp columns was carried out by the Community Highways Officer. As a result of this, some trimming of vegetation has been arranged around column No.3.

However, as column No. 1 was clear of vegetation at the time of this inspection, no works are proposed in this vicinity.

As was explained in the previous response, it is not possible to secure perfect lighting distribution from every lamp column on the public highway, and a balance must be struck between providing adequate lighting levels and maintaining the character of the area.

2. Question from Mrs Ann-Marie Barker

Much disturbance and inconvenience has been caused to residents of Well Lane, Horsell and neighbouring roads by recent resurfacing works (still to be completed). Can Surrey County Council tell me:

i) Why it considered an experimental method of dealing with the old road surface, whereby it was to be recycled on site requiring heavy machinery and noise, suitable for a key road in a heavily populated residential area.

ii) What controls are in place to ensure that contracted out highways work and the myriad of sub-contractors that involves, work within licenced conditions (I had to phone highways out of hours service on 2 occasions to get late night work stopped - the second time after officers had told the contractor there was to be no night

working).

ii) What redress is there to be for residents and businesses who suffered over many weeks. The trade of businesses in the road, particularly the fish and chip shop has suffered.

ii) Residents will not have the same dreadful experience when other Horsell roads including Arthur's Bridge Road, Church Hill, High Street and Thornash Road are resurfaced.

Answer from Chairman on behalf of the committee:

- i. The recycling design choice for Well Lane was necessary due to the structure of the road, predominantly consisting of coal tar, (a product used historically, that has to be treated/ disposed of differently to normal road construction material). Disposing of this material is particularly cost prohibitive, and as such is one of the main reasons why resurfacing roads constructed with this material have had to be deferred over the past decade. Surrey County Council are looking at innovative solutions to reduce these costs and deliver major resurfacing (not just pot hole repairs), that will provide long lasting benefit to the area.

In situ recycling is an industry proven method that has been used successfully on many schemes outside of the county for many years, and is the best value engineering solution for treating this material. It provides excellent savings and environmental benefits (reducing waste to landfill) for these sites.

There were unique local ground conditions that presented themselves on Well Lane that did cause issues. Such issues/ risks occur so rarely that the level of resources necessary to undertake the site testing, to pre-empt a possible problem, would not be viable for every scheme. It would add months onto the design process on something that may only happen in 1 in 100 or more. This would in turn reduce the amount of schemes we complete county wide considerably.

There were two main issues at Well Lane. The first was a weak cast water main that is at a depth of approximately 1m, and fractured in several places when the existing surface course was removed. The largest delay on the site has been associated with a sewer failure/ collapse, which was 3m deep and not identified until the existing surface layers had been removed. Thames Water have since been working on site for several weeks to rectify an historical issue and have now completed works.

The recycling works were suspended during these Thames Water works, but the final surfacing is due to take place on the evening of Friday 27th June (Weather permitting).

- ii. In regards to the start of the works on Well Lane there were definite teething issues with the contractor on the first 2 days and these were immediately rectified, however the longer lasting disruption is due to site conditions not contractor quality.

The night works described was the lowering of man hole covers, this operation needed to be carried out as close to the main works as possible,

and was delayed due to works elsewhere. Consequently the sub contractors operatives carrying out the work decided to work on to catch up without approval, and as soon as this was discovered the situation was resolved. We must apologise for this, even though it was carried out with the best intention of those involved.

- iii. We have been in discussion with the local councillor and Woking Borough Council in regards to an appropriate compensation process for this scheme, and we will action as necessary.
- iv. As a Highway Authority we are continually seeking to improve our service for both value for money and public service. This scheme has highlighted areas where we will seek to improve, including how we deliver local communications and programme our works to deliver the least amount of disruption to residents.

We again apologise to both residents and business for any disruption this scheme construction has caused. However, hopefully the £300,000 investment in Well Lane to improve not just the road surface, but underlying drainage system, replacing leaking water pipes and delivery of an updated traffic calming scheme which will provide lasting benefit to the wider community.

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