

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL
LOCAL COMMITTEE IN EPSOM & EWELL
15 September 2014**

MEMBER QUESTIONS

**Question 1 Cllr Michael Arthur
Re: Chessington Road Rail Bridge, Ewell**

Local residents have raised concerns about the “strength” of the road bridge over the railway especially that larger lorries seem to now be using it.

With this increased usage, how often is it inspected to ensure its integrity?

Officer Response:

The B2200/1 Ewell West Station Bridge is owned and maintained by Network Rail. Network Rail carried out an assessment of the strength of the bridge in May 1998. The bridge passed the load assessment at full capacity of 40 tonnes vehicles. Network Rail would request a weight restriction if the load assessment were determined to be below current standards.

We have no details of when Network Rail last inspected this bridge. However, as with local authority bridges, Network Rail have a programme of cyclic inspections of their bridges. Although this information has been requested, unfortunately, it has not been available in time for this reply. Once received it will be passed to members.

There is no recent traffic count data available to determine any increase in HGV usage of Chessington Road.

**Question 2 Cllr Michael Arthur
Re: East Street Temporary Lights**

I refer to the road opening by Thames Water on East Street outside Lintons Lane. For five days (at time of writing 12 noon on 9 September) there has been long delays of traffic on the busy A24. The drivers problems have been compounded by lack of activity on site, whilst this may be due to waiting for a special part, could not the relatively small opening have been plated over to restore working without temporary traffic lights.

Officer Response:

The works in question were carried out by Thames Water under an Immediate Emergency Permit. The New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 allows for works promoters to undertake works without prior consultation and approval with the Highway Authority.

In this instance Thames Water advised us on Friday the 5th of September of the works by submitting a Permit application. On Monday the 8th of September messages were left with Thames to contact Surrey regarding the works. The information received was that the site would be clear on Tuesday the 9th At this time Conditions were added imposing extended hours working (07:00 to 19:00) to expedite the works and manual control of the signals during peak hours (06:30 - 09:30 and 15:30 to 19:00) to assist with traffic flows. We received notification that these works had stopped at 15:01 on Wednesday the 10th of September

A review was undertaken on Monday the 8th to confirm the requirement for temporary traffic signals given the degree of traffic disruption being caused. The available carriageway width adjacent to the works site did not meet the national standards to permit two way traffic hence the use of lights was appropriate.

The use of road plates to cover excavations whilst works are not in progress is used with caution. Unless used appropriately, the right type in the right place secured in the right manner, consequence can be significant. In this instance given the indication that the works would be completed sooner and with the mitigation applied as Permit Conditions, plating was not considered appropriate.

The Street Works Team within Surrey Highways has however noted the Thames Water East Street scenario especially the levels of traffic congestion with a view to reviewing the policy on when and where road plating would be appropriate.

Question 3 Cllr Jan Mason

Re: Road Safety Improvements at Tesco store Ruxley Lane

At the June meeting of the Committee, it was agreed to advertise a Traffic Regulation Orders for a No-Entry and waiting restrictions near the entrance to the new Tesco store in Ruxley Lane in order to improve road safety in this area. With the return of children to schools in this very busy area, please can I have an update on when this work will be carried out?

Officer Response:

Since the last committee meeting, detailed design drawings have been produced and a meeting has taken place with Tesco to discuss the issues regarding access to the car park.

Tesco have been very co-operative and a design has now been agreed which will see the entrance to their car park widened slightly. The service road will be kept free of parked cars with double yellow line waiting restrictions and will be resurfaced. Additional dropped kerbs and tactile paving will be provided and Tesco have put in place restrictions on all their vehicle movements which will only access the store car park from the Gatley Avenue side of Ruxley Lane. They have also agreed that any delivery vehicles and refuse collection vehicle manoeuvres can only be carried out with additional staff in attendance to ensure the public are safe from reversing vehicles. Construction is likely to take place in the new year.