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LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND
RESPONSES**

26 SEPTEMBER 2014

1. From Mr David Beaman (Farnham)

Upper Hale Road has again been closed for resurfacing, albeit for a much shorter period of time than the recent long period of closure required by South East Water. Whilst these closures bring residents relief from the number of HGVs that generally use Upper Hale Road, they also cause considerable inconvenience to local residents and loss of valuable trade for local businesses which could mean the difference between survival and closure in these difficult economic times. I have the following questions:

1. Why could not the resurfacing work have been undertaken at the same time as the work undertaken by South East Water, which would have required only one road closure with resurfacing taking place over stretches of road as they were completed by South East Water and resulting in the road having to be closed for slightly less time ?
2. There have been some comments from local residents regarding the quality of the resurfacing work that has been undertaken. What quality checks are undertaken on contractors to ensure that the resurfacing work is up to the standards required by Surrey County Council and nationally for A roads ?
3. During the periods of closure HGVs appear to have found no problems in finding alternative routes to use other than Upper Hale Road. Whilst it is appreciated that it is not possible to implement traffic calming measures on A roads, could consideration be given to implementing space sharing proposals similar to the proposals suggested by Jeremy Hunt for Farnham Town Centre on roads which are themselves A roads, along with a 20 mph speed limit and a weight and/or width restriction along the narrowest stretch of Upper Hale Road between the Recreation Ground and the junction with Alma Lane to "encourage" HGVs to continue using the alternative routes they have found when Upper Hale Road has been closed ?
4. Are there are known further proposals that will require Upper Hale Road to be closed again in the foreseeable future ?

Response

1. Upper Hale Road was surface-dressed earlier in the month under daytime off-peak closures. South East Water had installed a new main along the entire length of the road in 2013 with the road closed for several months. This left a trench along much of the road along with various other reinstatements for connections between the new main and dwellings. The patched condition of the road following installation of the new main prompted Surrey County Council (SCC) engineers to include it in the surfacing programme for 2014/15, and it is this work that has now been undertaken. Now that the surfacing has been installed kerbs will be raised at vehicle accesses to preserve a surface water check along the edges of the road and this work will be undertaken in October and November using off-peak temporary traffic signals or stop-go boards.
2. Completed work is inspected by SCC engineers and payment is withheld for both defects and failure to comply with national specifications until such time as these are rectified.
3. Guidance suggests that it is inappropriate to use traffic calming methods or any type of HGV weight or width restrictions on strategic A roads as this may lead to a displacement of larger vehicles on to less appropriate smaller roads, which in turn may lead to an increased risk of safety and collisions. It is also highly likely that any restrictions would receive objections from the Police and freight industry. 20 mph speed limits are required to be self-enforcing with average speeds at 25 mph or less. The average speed for Upper Hale Road is 32 mph which means that it would not meet the criteria for a reduction to 20 mph.
4. The SCC Streetworks Team, which issue permits for all works on the highway, has received no notices for the future closure of Upper Hale Road at present.