

**Annex A****Surrey Heath Local Area Committee****2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014****Open Public Question Time**

There were 11 members of the public present.

**1. Jez Banks, Earlswood Park Residents Association**

Earlswood Park is a Charles Church estate in Bagshot, on part of the old Notcutts garden centre site. The original plan called for the road to be adopted by SCC Highways, once it had met their standards. I understand that these conditions have been met, so when can the road be adopted and can residents influence the speed limits?

**Reply from Andrew Milne, Highways Area Manager (NW)**

Adopting roads can be complicated and we would need to look at the planning application for the site. Adoption is possible, but can take a year to 18 months from start to finish. The reason for this is that adopted roads are funded from taxpayers money and Highways need to be assured that the developer has met the standards required. I will get the details of this site and get a more formal and detailed response to you.

**Reply from Mike Goodman, SCC Cllr**

The speed limit on the road would be 30mph – unless very clear reasons can be given as to why this should be lower.

**2. Darren Cook, Earlswood Park resident**

I refer to the SANGS land next to the old Notcutts site. Most SANGS sites are handed to the Council who pays for their upkeep, however, this site has been left in dire condition by Charles Church builders and estate residents have to pay for its upkeep. The space is now also open to direct public access from the new Waitrose site and has insufficient dog poo bins. Can the Council take this on?

**Reply from the Chair**

SANGS are not the responsibility of Surrey County Council, but we can draw this issue to the attention of Surrey Heath Borough Council.

**Reply from Vivienne Chapman, SHBC**

Dog waste can be placed into any bin, so special bins are not always required. We would need to look at the ownership issue of the site in further detail.

Cllr Valerie Chapman agreed that the site was in a state.

**Reply from Mike Goodman, SCC Cllr**

I am prepared to get directly involved and broker a meeting on this issue. If necessary, I might be able to fund bins for the site. I suggest that we get together outside of this meeting to resolve this.

**3. Jon McClelland, Local resident**

I asked a question at the last meeting and have started a petition as I would like the Hatches path upgraded and resurfaced. I have written to Members, the Countryside Access Team, Network Rail and Michael Gove and have brought a copy of my open letter along to this meeting.

**Reply from the Chair**

Your open letter has already been circulated to members and some, including myself, have visited the site. This is a rural pathway but is well used.

**Reply from Luke Dawson, Countryside Access Team**

We do have planned maintenance schedules for our pathways and we have scrapped back the mud and vegetation on this particular pathway. However, we only have a maintenance budget and do not have funds for major improvements. We could possibly look at using part of next years' maintenance budget for minor improvements – but this would have an impact on other pathways. We could also look for external funding as a long term plan.

**Reply from Mike Goodman, SCC Cllr**

I understand that approx £50,000 would be needed for substantial improvements and we do not have a budget for this so we would need to look at other ways of funding this as a Committee.

**Reply from Denis Fuller, SCC Cllr**

It is a shame that we cannot find funds for The Hatches Bridlepath, yet we are obliged to spend money providing SANGS. We need to do more to get rid of the SPA legislation which makes us spend on SANGS, rather than much needed local infrastructure improvements. SANGS can be several miles away in Yateley or Woking.

**Reply from Vivienne Chapman, SHBC Cllr**

All SANGS from Surrey Heath developments are provided within Surrey Heath.

**Reply from Andrew Milne, Highways Area Manager (NW)**

The pathway is a bridleway, so is not within my normal workload – however, the proposed plan for this pathway would double the current width. As we cannot get heavy plant onto the site, the work would need to be done manually. This would cost in the region of £50,000 to £60,000 and if drainage improvements and cutting back of vegetation was required, this could rise to as much as £80,000. For works on that scale, we would need to look at how many people would benefit vs how many would not support the project – especially as some people view this as an “urban alleyway” in a rural area.

**Reply from the Chair**

Your petition ends in November and will therefore be presented to the December committee. We can ask for a more detailed study on the improvements required, but cannot promise major improvements.

***DRAFT MINUTES – to be formally agreed at the next meeting*****4. Virginia West, local resident**

Can anything do done about the entrance to Watchetts Park and Recreation Ground – could it be made one-way in from park road and Watchetts Drive?

**Reply from Denis Fuller, SCC Cllr**

I know the problem well. We could get in touch with the Rugby Club and get their views and then speak to Highways to see what is possible.

**Reply from Rodney Bates, SHBC Cllr**

This has come up in the past and been investigated, but residents at Watchetts Drive were not keen on a one-way system. It is not a great entrance to the park but there is no easy solution.

**Reply from Vivienne Chapman, SHBC Cllr**

Watchetts Recreation Ground belongs to SHBC and is under current review as the Bowling Club has closed and the Rugby Club are looking to extend their premises. I will ask that the entrance is looked at during the review.

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