



**Minutes: Annex 1**

**SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN SPELTHORNE – 29 September 2014**

**AGENDA ITEM 6**

**MEMBER WRITTEN QUESTION TIME**

**1. Mr Spencer Taylor will ask the following question:**

‘Complaints have been received from Westland Close, Stanwell, regarding street lighting. The question at hand is if this area is covered by SCC or A2Dominion? If the later, why have these residents been subject to light levels that encourage antisocial behaviour.’

**Nick Healey, SCC Highways Area Team Manager (NE), will give the following answer:**

‘Westland Close is a private road. It is up to the owner of the road to install whatever street lighting they deem to be appropriate.’

**AGENDA ITEM 7**

**PUBLIC WRITTEN QUESTION TIME**

**1. Mr Andrew McLuskey will ask the following question:**

'In the light of the local MP's comment that the proposed River Thames Flood Relief Scheme 'won't happen' and the fact that we are now into autumn can the Committee give a full update on progress that has been made towards protecting Spelthorne residents from inundations of the kind we saw last winter?'

**Ian Good, SCC Head of Emergency Management, will give the following answer:**

'Agencies have been working together throughout the flood recovery and a full report on progress is already scheduled for the December 2104 Committee.'

**2. Cllr Marian Rough will ask the following question:**

'Would Surrey agree to enclose photographs of good and bad examples of landscaping front gardens when granting permission for VCO's together with the rules on ingress and egress. Also to remind applicants that the vehicles using such facility should not overhang or intrude onto the pavement. Unfortunately some residents believe that granting of VCOs allow them rights over the public highway therefore adversely affecting parking in residential roads and neighbourhood relationships. The signage between the roundabout and traffic lights at Kingston Road indicating 'left turn only', apparently disappeared which is resulting in more confusion and inhibiting traffic flow. Will there be a replacement or new traffic pattern?'

**Nick Healey, SCC Highways Area Team Manager (NE), will give the following answer:**

**'Would Surrey agree to enclose photographs of good and bad examples of landscaping front gardens when granting permission for VCO's together with the rules on ingress and egress?'**

'In considering applications for Vehicle Crossovers, we do consider the space available for parking a vehicle within the curtilage of the property, and would refuse permission for a Vehicle Crossover if the minimum space requirements were not met. However it is not Surrey County Council's business to comment on the quality or otherwise of landscaping within private front gardens. Once permission is granted for a Vehicle Crossover the applicant acquires a legal right of vehicular access to and from the Public Highway from their property. There are no specific rules on ingress and egress, although Vehicle Crossovers would only be approved on the basis that vehicles would drive out forward onto the Public Highway. Nevertheless normal rules of the road apply - for example drivers should always proceed with due care and

attention - for example drivers must not park their vehicle so as to cause an obstruction.'

**'Also to remind applicants that the vehicles using such facility should not overhang or intrude onto the pavement. Unfortunately some residents believe that granting of VCOs allow them rights over the public highway therefore adversely affecting parking in residential roads and neighbourhood relationships.'**

'The guidelines to householders for Vehicle Crossovers make it clear that it is not permitted to park a vehicle on the Vehicle Crossover itself. If a vehicle were to be parked on a Vehicle Crossover, or indeed if a vehicle parking on a resident's driveway were to overhang a footway, carriageway or verge, it may be considered an obstruction under section 137 of the Highways Act 1980. Surrey Police have powers to issue Penalty Charge Notices for such offences. In granting new Vehicle Crossovers, the minimum space requirements ensure that there is enough space within the curtilage of the property for an average sized vehicle. Vehicle Crossover Guidance for Householders is published on Surrey County Council's website here: [www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/road-permits-and-licences/vehicle-crossovers-or-dropped-kerbs](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/road-permits-and-licences/vehicle-crossovers-or-dropped-kerbs).'

**'The signage between the roundabout and traffic lights at Kingston Road indicating 'left turn only', apparently disappeared which is resulting in more confusion and inhibiting traffic flow. Will there be a replacement or new traffic pattern?'**

'The Kingston Road junction with Gresham Road was inspected on 19 September 2014 and the officer confirmed that all the 'no left signs' erected to ensure the smooth function of the junction are in place but part of some of the signs are obscured by overgrown vegetation. The officer will arrange for the overgrown vegetation to be cut back.'

### **3. Mr John Burnett will ask the following question:**

'I represent Chertsey & Shepperton Regatta Association which owns a small field off Chertsey Bridge Road, Shepperton, near the Littleton Lane roundabout. Whenever it rains, the gullies in the road adjacent to the field quickly fill up, a standing puddle forms at the roadside and water flows into the entrance of our field creating a quagmire.

I first notified Surrey County Council Highways Department about the problem in October 2012. Since then I have written six further letters. Mr Jim Marshall responds to me by e-mail (but uses a "do not reply" e-mail address). In June 2013 Mr Marshall reported that the gullies had been cleaned but the drainage route was found to be blocked. In December 2013, following a further query, he told me that the budget for this type of work had been exhausted for the current financial year.

## ITEM 2

When it rained last month, August 2014, the effect was exactly the same as two years earlier: gullies brimming, a standing puddle and water flowing into the field. I wrote to Surrey Highways again but have not received a response as yet.

The Association, which is a voluntary non-profit-making organisation, has owned the field since 2008. Until 2012 there was no problem. We have done nothing that would affect the drainage.

I would be grateful for a promise of action to restore effective drainage to this section of Chertsey Bridge Road and an indication of when it might be done.'

**Nick Healey, SCC Highways Area Team Manager (NE), will give the following answer:**

'There are a number of gullies at the roundabout junction of Chertsey Bridge Road and Littleton Lane, with lateral connections suggesting a historical ditch or sewer to the south of the roundabout. The lateral connections are blocked, and so the gullies have almost no drainage capacity at all. After the flooding of the previous winter we investigated the cutting of a new ditch. However this is very difficult due to the presence of a number of utility services, and the close proximity to the carriageway of two residential properties. The gullies in Renfree Way to the east towards Shepperton are operating, and we are now investigating whether the gullies at the roundabout could be connected into this system to the east. We are hoping to implement a solution this Financial Year.'

#### **4. Mr John Seaman will ask the following question:**

'Did Surrey County Council ask all or some of the Members of Parliament who represent constituencies in Surrey to ask the Secretary of State not to call in the decision to allow the Eco Park at Charlton Lane to be modified? If so when was this discussed and agreed by SCC and where are these discussions and agreements recorded?'

Are all the documents associated with this subject that are held by Surrey County Council both on paper and electronically subject to the Freedom of Information Act? If so how should they be described so that a single Fol request will capture all of them?'

**Richard Parkinson, SCC Waste Group Manager, will give the following answer:**

'Mike Goodman, Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning wrote to all eleven Surrey MP's in May 2014, outlining his concern about the time it was taking for the Secretary of State to determine whether or not to call in the planning application for the Eco Park and asking whether they could assist in expediting this process. To be clear the letter did not request a decision one way or another, merely that it was important for a decision to be made as

soon as possible to avoid uncertainty. The decision to send the letter was agreed by Mike Goodman in consultation with officers in the normal course of his work. There is no requirement for such decisions to be formally recorded and therefore no record exists.

A copy of all the letters sent to Surrey MP's in connection with the Secretary of State's determination on whether to call in the planning application for the proposed Eco Park, which was considered by the council's Planning and Regulatory Committee on 17 March 2014 can be obtained from the council, if requested.'

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