

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL
LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)



DATE: 3rd December 2014

LEAD OFFICER: Cheryl Poole
Community Partnership & Committee Officer

SUBJECT: Written public questions

DIVISION: Mole Valley

1. Question from Mr Peter Seaward (Bookham RA):

Could we (the Bookhams Residents Association) have an update from SCC Highways on progress on the main Highways flood issues to the east of Bookham? Highways have been concentrating on three areas. Firstly alleviation of flooding arising at the junction of Chapel Lane (BOAT) and the Dorking Road where we understand discussion with land owners has taken place. The second is the issue caused along the Dorking Road due to inadequate gulley and soakaway maintenance. The third linked problem is flooding along this eastward line is at the northern end of East Street and Lower Road. Here flooding causes severe problems to pedestrians and children as well as damage to property.

All three topics are documented and reported to SCC with two being listed and accepted by SCC as official Wet Spots.

Response from SCC Highways:

Junction of Chapel Lane (BOAT) and the Dorking Road

Ongoing discussions are taking place with landowners concerning the flooding issue in Dorking Road, Bookham at the junction with Chapel Lane. Unfortunately, until a resolution can be found no further action can be taken to progress the scheme at this time.

Dorking Road

Maintenance works have recently been carried out on a number of road gullies in Dorking Road and eight jammed grids have been repaired or replaced by the County Council's contractors. This work will be followed up shortly with the gully cleaner to ensure these are all working correctly.

Soakaway cleansing was carried out earlier this year during the summer and a further cleansing will be included on a future soakaway programme where necessary following the gully maintenance works.

Lower Road/East Street

Lower Road at the junction of East Street, Bookham is included in the investigation work of the Bookham Flood Forum and CCTV drainage investigation has been

carried out. The data is currently being analysed to determine the cause of the flooding in this area. The Maintenance Engineer will keep the Local Committee Chairman, Vice-Chairman, who is also the local divisional Member, and the Bookham Flood Forum advised of progress.

2. Question from Mr Michael Agius (Bookham RA):

Could the Bookhams Residents Association [BRA] have an update from SCC Highways on progress in finding solutions to the serious highways flood issues identified last winter to the west of Bookham at The Lower Road Recreational Ground and at the Manor House Lane junction? These areas are on the main footway/cycleway from Bookham to The Howard of Effingham School and flooding earlier in the year resulted in serious safety concerns, as children had to walk in the road over many months.

With winter already upon us, BRA are concerned that flooding at these two locations will once again result in safety issues. Whilst we would hope that long term solutions could be put in place at an early opportunity, we would, at the very least, hope that some immediate work could be carried out to improve the situation at both locations.

Response from SCC Highways:

In response to last winter's flooding, the County Council are progressing two capital schemes in Lower Road, Bookham, the first at the junction with Manor House Lane and the other at the recreation ground.

Initial site investigations at both sites have been completed and very recently CCTV surveys have been carried out into the existing surface water drainage systems at these locations. The results of the CCTV surveys will be examined as a part of the feasibility and design process. Once this has been completed, the Maintenance Engineer will update the Local Committee Chairman, Vice-Chairman, who is also the local divisional Member and the Bookham Flood Forum on the way forward for these sites.

The Maintenance Engineer would be happy to discuss any possible cost effective immediate/short term actions at both the sites with the Bookham Residents' Association and the divisional Member.

3. Question from Mr Peter Browne (resident):

Ashtead to Leatherhead Cycle Path

The written report and supporting oral presentation by officers to the last meeting of the Local Committee on 10th September about this cycle path scheme contained a number of significant inaccuracies in respect of the scope, and of the nature, of the scheme. The inaccuracies are such that neither the report nor the discussion can stand uncorrected on the public record. I therefore ask that officers provide a corrective statement, or corrected report, for the scheme, together with an associated updated cost report based on the final account due to be completed by 30th November and a statement on the likely cost implications of the safety audit which was conducted during the week commencing 17th November.

Response from Jason Russell (SCC Assistant Director – Highways & Transport):

We do not consider that the written report and supporting oral presentation by officers to the Local Committee on 10th September, contained a number of significant inaccuracies in respect of the scope, and of the nature, of the scheme. As such we will not be providing a corrective statement or corrected report.

We have undertaken remedial works to address a couple of issues identified on the scheme, and following completion of these works a Safety Audit has been carried out. The final audit report has not yet been shared with the Highways Project Team, however our preliminary understanding is that no material concerns have been highlighted. Any safety issues that are raised in the audit will be addressed. The final account is currently being agreed and will be subject to the recommendations from the Safety Audit, however initial assessment confirms the scheme is on budget and as based on the forecast provided to the Local Committee in September. The final account should be ready in early December.

4. Question from Mike Ward (resident):

The report on Project Horizon to the Committee held on 5 March 2014 stated that re-surfacing of the stretch of Newdigate Road from the Beare Green roundabout to Trigg Street is due for completion in the financial year 2014-5. Please confirm the expected start and completion dates and whether any road closures will be required and if so, when and for how long?

Response from SCC Highways:

The Newdigate Road works have been deferred to 2015.

The design team has highlighted essential drainage and kerb issues that will need to be addressed prior to the surfacing works taking place. These works are being coordinated with the local maintenance team, and will be actioned as soon as possible.

Also following the carriageway assessment, and our laboratory core results, a significant quantity of tar was found in the construction layers of the road. Disposing of this material is particularly cost prohibitive, and as such is one of the main reasons why roads constructed with this material, have had to be deferred in the short term. Surrey and its contractor partners have been looking into several options to reduce these costs, and as such need to coordinate works together to give the best value to Surrey.

Any proprietary works will be carried out this year, and therefore the main resurfacing scheme will now be planned for 2015.

The programme is currently being finalised, and we will advise of the proposed date as soon as available. However we anticipate resurfacing will commence in the first quarter of our 2015/ 16 programme.

5. Question from Robin Todd (resident Chalkpit Lane):

Could the residents of Chalkpit Lane, Little Bookham please have an update on the following long standing maintenance issue?

- ***Drainage maintenance at the junction of Chalkpit Lane with the Guildford Road (A246).*** Despite the existence of five drains in the area there is significant flooding every time there is heavy rain. Some work has been carried out on the drains in the last few days but, as usual, as soon as there is more rain the flooding returns. Clearly whatever is done has no effect. When will the drains be properly cleared and what arrangements for ongoing maintenance are proposed?

Response from SCC Highways:Drainage Maintenance

The drains (road gullies) in the entrance to Chalkpit Lane and the old highways depot have been cleaned out recently. These were last attended on Monday 24th November after the removal of the materials at the depot entrance.

In the past the gullies have been dealt with on a reactive basis. However they will now be included on the asset register and be included on a regular cyclic clean.

In the meantime the Maintenance Engineer will arrange for the outlet pipes to be checked and the situation monitored to check effectiveness.

6. Question from Christine Matthews (resident Chalkpit Lane):

Could the residents of Chalkpit Lane, Little Bookham please have an update on the following long standing maintenance issue?

- ***Surface maintenance of that part of Chalkpit Lane used by the residents to access their properties.*** It is understood that Chalkpit Lane is classified as a BOAT and that generally there are limited requirements on the Authorities regarding maintenance of the surface. However, given that all the residents pay the top rate of Council Tax they feel that they should be able to access their properties without causing damage to their vehicles. Can some way be found to improve the surface of that part of the Lane that leads to the residential properties?

Response from SCC Highways:Surface Maintenance

The surface maintenance of Chalkpit Lane is currently the subject of a formal complaint to Surrey Highways. A response to this question could prejudice the current complaint investigation. A formal response will be provided to the complainant from the independent complaints team in due course. Once resolved, a copy of the formal response will be sent to the Local Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman, who is also the divisional Member.