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LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

20 MARCH 2015

1. **From Mrs Mary Grigalis (Witley)**

The question relates to pavement flooding alongside the A283, west side, opposite the Chichester Hall, Witley. Local residents wish to put the question:

In spite of several years of difficulty with regard to the pavement being flooded, why cannot residents and visitors use this pavement, which is essential for those walking between Wormley and Witley, especially those with infants, King Edward School students and pupils at Rodborough School, who close for health reasons to walk to school ?

Local residents have drawn the attention of Waverley Borough Council and more specifically Surrey County Council to this problem. We have correspondence dating back to 2003, when we were dealing with Mr Philip Crossland (Local Transportation Director) and in 2006 with Mr Mike Dawson. Most of our correspondence has been with Waverley and Surrey County Council, but we have also kept the local parish office informed of the difficulty.

Waverley and Surrey County Council undertook some remedial work along this length of pavement. One year Waverley had it swept and shrubs were cut back. Two years ago Surrey County Council had a work party there to cut ditches for water catchment purposes. Those ditches were soon overflowing.

Most recently we wrote to Mr Jason Russell at County Hall. Our 62 signature petition to him in September 2014 was acknowledged in December 2014 by Mr Lewis, Community Highway Officer.

Our stoicism and tolerance have been tested to the limit. We are now seeking engineering competence, resulting in a safe pedestrian pavement.

Response

The Local Highways Team has identified several gullies on the footway which appear to be blocked and require cleansing. This work is due to take place in the week commencing 23 March 2015. Following that, additional drainage measures in the form of a French drain are planned to be installed along the grass verge, subject to funding, as part of the 2015/16 highways work programme.

2. From Mr David Boyd (Haslemere)

The Local Committee is asked to consider a request for two 'missing' street lights in Haslemere, one in Derby Road and one in Weydown Road.

Former County Councillor Christine Stevens arranged for additional lights in Derby Road and Weydown Road several years ago; due to budget constraints two were omitted which create dangerously dark stretches along the footpath (details of the location of the 'missing' lights have been supplied).

The lights are needed for the following reasons:

- They are filling logical gaps in the sequence.
- The footpath is regularly use by the residents.
- The footpath is used by close to 100 commuters twice a day.
- The footpath is used by many of the parents taking their children to St Bartholomew's School.
- The footpath is used by the Roman Catholic Church and all the various groups that frequently use that church hall in the evenings.
- The footpath is regularly used by the residents of High Lane when they visit Weyhill.
- For safety: a couple of years ago a car was highjacked along Derby Road and also a commuter had their laptop and handbag wrestled off them on the same road.
- I understand from a local resident that at least one commuter has recently fallen over in the dark, again demonstrating the safety issue.

I understand that some street lighting is to be installed in Sandrock Hill which certainly has some of the same needs above, but I doubt if it has all of these. I therefore hope that our request would be treated in at least the same way as theirs. I hope that not all of the 2015/16 budget has been allocated and that some may be allocated to provide us with our much needed light. Finally if funds this coming year only exist for one light, then the one in Derby Road would be our priority.

Response

The Highways budget for 2015/16 has already been fully allocated. The request for additional street lighting in Derby Road and Weydown Road will need to be discussed and prioritised at the Haslemere and Western Villages Task Group meeting later in the year with the view to prioritisation for funding in the 2016/17 highways programme.

3. From Mr Mike Bryan (Farnham)

Surrey County Council has proved itself unable to satisfactorily meet Farnham's current needs for roads, school places, healthcare/wellbeing and welfare/social support. What identified and fully-funded measures has Surrey County Council taken to ensure that the massively increased public service needs of the tens of thousands of additional residents of new homes planned and identified, both in and within a few miles of Farnham over the next few years, will necessarily be fully met ?

Response

There are of course tight constraints on public sector spending and it is the case that resources available for funding local authority services are finite. Nevertheless, the County Council recognises the need to provide the highest possible level of service and to maintain good quality for residents. It continually reviews service delivery priorities in the light of feedback from stakeholders. Even within budget constraints we believe that it is always possible to improve our service and the County Council consistently looks for ways for this to be achieved.

You will be aware that Waverley Borough Council consulted last year on some alternative approaches to delivering new housing in Waverley. At this stage no firm decisions have been made on the level of future development to be allocated for Farnham and the surrounding area. The Farnham Neighbourhood Plan is also being prepared which will include proposals for development. It is reasonable to assume that, given the pressures of housing need, there is likely to be new development in the area, either through the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan or through the granting of planning permission. In its capacity as a key provider of infrastructure and services the County Council is consulted on development proposals and has a legal Duty to Cooperate with Waverley Borough Council, as the Local Plan is prepared, on the infrastructure required to support new development. The Council shares your concerns about how this infrastructure is to be funded.

In an ideal world, borough and district councils would approach us with firm future housing numbers and locations for new development and we would assess the likely impact on existing services, the need for additional provision, when it will be required, how much it will cost and how it will be funded and delivered. However a Local Plan goes through a number of stages of preparation and it is only during the later stages that the scale and location of likely new development is known. The Waverley Local Plan has not yet reached this stage.

On planning applications, the County Council has been working with Waverley Borough Council to ensure that where possible they can secure from developers contributions towards the cost of providing infrastructure to avoid these costs being borne by local residents through increases in council tax. However, developer contributions will not be sufficient to fund all the infrastructure required to support new development. Therefore, the Council is working in partnership with the Borough Council to bid for funding for strategic infrastructure from the Local Economic Partnership and actively lobbies Government on a regular basis for additional infrastructure investment in Surrey. For example, the Council successfully lobbied Government to retain the New Homes Bonus to help deliver infrastructure and continues to make the case at national level for more funding to meet future needs for school places in Surrey.

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