



Surrey Heath Local Area Committee
Date: 12 March 2015

Annex B

Written Public Questions, Responses and Supplementary questions

Q. Written question from Mr David Powell, Local Resident

Could we have speed cameras in Surrey Heath to control traffic speed? I frequently observe cars exceeding the 30 mph speed limit, particularly on Park Road, Camberley. Frequently when I drive down that road at 30 mph I see another car driving very closely behind me which would cause an accident if I had to stop suddenly. I have even been overtaken several times on this road.

A. Response from Chairman on behalf of the Committee:

Surrey County Council's policy for new safety camera (speed and red light) sites is to follow national guidance that ensures that new fixed safety cameras are only introduced at sites that have suffered a serious history of collisions and where speeding or red light jumping has been confirmed as a problem. The reason for this is that a new camera site would cost typically £50,000 to install, and would then require ongoing police processing of offences and maintenance. Therefore we do not have the resource to provide cameras for every site that they are requested, and instead they are reserved for the sites that need them the most with reference to casualty and speed data. This approach also helps to maintain public support for safety camera enforcement as a method of improving road safety rather than being seen as purely a revenue raising exercise.

Officers have checked the county council's database of collisions resulting in personal injury reported to the police and this shows that in the last three years there have been six collisions resulting in slight injury on this stretch of road. Although any one injury is one too many, this does not represent a large number of collisions compared to many other locations in Surrey, and does not therefore qualify for a new permanent fixed safety camera. Data on personal injury collisions is available to view via www.crashmap.co.uk or <http://road-collisions.dft.gov.uk>

This road has already been investigated due to concerns over speeding and road safety. A one week automatic speed survey conducted in October in 2013 outside house number 64 showed that the mean speed in both directions was 35 mph and the 85th percentile speed (the speed above which 15 per cent of vehicles travel) was 39 mph. This shows that there is a relatively high

proportion of speeding on this stretch of road. However implementing changes to the layout of the highway to manage speeds along this stretch would require a large amount of investment, and because the number of personal injury collisions is comparatively low, such investment is a lower priority than other highway schemes at other locations across Surrey Heath at this time. Instead this road has been prioritised for additional attention by Surrey police using hand held laser speed enforcement. The speeds on this stretch will be measured periodically in partnership with the police to check upon the success of the enforcement as part of the Surrey Heath speed management plan.

Q. Supplementary question from Mr Powell, asked at the meeting

Surely speed cameras pay for themselves?

A. Response from Chairman on behalf of the Committee:

Unfortunately this is not the case. Any fines and revenues from speed cameras go to central government. We have spent money on vehicle activated signs in Surrey Heath to try to encourage speed reduction and they can be quite effective in some areas. Speed enforcement is undertaken by the Police, whose budgets are under pressure. It is possible to set up a community speed watch, manned by volunteers as fixed speed cameras are only 1 method of controlling speed. Please do report all speed issues as there are regular meetings with the Police and Road safety colleagues within Surrey, with targeted enforcement in hot spot areas.

Q. Written question from Cllr Ruth Hutchinson, Windlesham Parish Council - Bagshot Ward

Please can the Committee reassure the residents of Bagshot that the Zebra crossing on the Guildford Rd between the junctions of Gloucester Rd and Bagshot Green is adequately lit during hours of darkness, according to the standards required and in the interests of pedestrian safety?

A. Response from Chairman on behalf of the Committee:

Pedestrian crossings are designed to the regulations required at the time of construction. Assessments and works to bring the crossing in line with new policies or regulations are only under certain circumstances, including other highway improvements to the general area or kerb line.

However, the recent program of replacing lighting columns across Surrey has improved the lighting on Guildford Road and the pedestrian crossing. Before providing a more detailed response it would be helpful to understand what has led to these concerns being raised.

Valerie White (SHBC Cllr) clarified that the concerns were with regard to the lighting of the crossing at night and asked whether Highways Officers could visit the site at night to check light levels.

Highways to look at this again and try to address the concerns raised.