

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**LOCAL COMMITTEE (EPSOM & EWELL)**

**DATE: 21 SEPTEMBER 2015**



**LEAD OFFICER: NICOLA MORRIS, COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP & COMMITTEE OFFICER**

**SUBJECT: AREAS OF FOCUS FOR THE COMMITTEE IN 2015/16**

**DIVISION: ALL**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

At the informal meeting of the Committee in July, members of the Committee reviewed the progress made against the priorities agreed for the previous year and were asked for three areas where they would like the Committee to focus its attention during the current municipal year. The Committee recognised that the identification of an issue did not necessarily mean that the Committee would be able to resolve it due to the limited resources available, but that it should be taken into account during relevant discussions.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The Local Committee (Epsom & Ewell) is asked to note the Committee's priorities for 2015/16, together with the comments on the highway related items from the Area Highways Team Manager.**

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

To agree the areas where the Committee will focus during the current year.

**1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

- 1.1 Each year the Committee is invited to review the progress made with its priorities and to put forward areas where it would like to focus its attention in the coming year. These are published on the Local Committee's webpage [www.surreycc.gov.uk/epsomandewell](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/epsomandewell) so that residents can see where the Committee will be directing its attention. Clearly other areas of focus may arise during the year so the list is not an exhaustive and must be viewed in the context of the resources available to the Committee.

**2. ANALYSIS:**

**Review of Priorities for 2014/15**

- 2.1 Achievements against the priorities in 2014/15 include the following:

**Ensuring the highway repair programme is carried out effectively and to time.**

The Committee has received regular reports outlining progress not only with work funded from its own local budget, but also on centrally funded projects such as "Project Horizon". Members have expressed concern about the changing schedules for scheme completion and have pressed the project Horizon team for improvements to communications with members to allow them to keep their residents better informed on when work will be carried out. County members have worked with local highway officers to identify priorities so that work can be planned effectively and to ensure that the budget is fully allocated in the financial year.

**Whilst balancing the funding available to the Committee, consider highway projects that will improve road safety outside schools, upgrade pavements, promote sustainable transport and ensure that traffic signals are operating effectively.**

The Committee has ensured that the zig-zag keep clear markings outside schools are in place and enforceable and have directed parking enforcement officers to schools where there is a problem with inconsiderate and illegal parking. A number of pavements and town paths have been resurfaced this year with a combination of central and member funding. Members were asked to identify traffic signals which they felt were not operating effectively. Officers have reviewed traffic signals in Ewell Village and at Cheam Road to ensure they are working effectively and repairs to the traffic signals at Newbury Gardens and Dirdene Gardens both of which had faults which were difficult to solve have been pursued by members. However, there are always more schemes suggested than funding available.

**Ensure the parking and waiting restrictions and residents parking areas, requested by residents are put in place as soon as possible and appropriately enforced.**

The Committee commenced a parking review in September 2014 and the majority of the yellow line restrictions are now in place. Residents Parking zone requests have been analysed and residents will shortly be contacted to establish the level of support for any proposed schemes. The Committee's Parking Task Group has been working with county and borough officers to ensure that problems are addressed. Members have continued to express concerns about the time taken for the completion of the current phase proposals as a result of a lack of resources within the parking team and have asked for additional staff.

**Ensure improvements to the street scene in the Borough by removal of street clutter and the timely and effective maintenance of street furniture, verges and signage.**

Members were asked to identify areas where verges and barriers had been damaged and any signs needing cleaning or being obscured by vegetation and highway officers were notified and asked to take the necessary action. Members were also encouraged to report issues to the county council contact centre.

**Develop our relationship with the local schools team and monitor the actions of all involved in school place planning to ensure that decisions on additional school places in the Borough is timely and that appropriate sites are identified and infrastructure and highways issues are addressed at the outset.**

Termly meetings have continued with the Area Education Officer to which the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Borough Chief Executive and Community Partnership and Committee Officer have been invited. These review the current status of the Boroughs schools in terms of Ofsted performance and highlight any issues of concern. The Committee received reports on both school and early years performance and have discussed school place planning issues. The Committee made strong representation on the need for early planning for increased numbers, planning applications and highway improvements.

### **Priorities for 2015/16**

2.2 Committee members each put forward three topics which they felt it would be important for the Committee to focus on for the coming year. These have been amalgamated into the following priorities:

- Whilst balancing the funding available to the Committee and other priorities, consider highway projects that will:
  - upgrade pavements and alleyways;
  - promote cycling;
  - address speeding issues;
  - Improve the street scene by removing clutter, and
  - ensure that traffic signals are operating effectively.
- Ensure the parking and waiting restrictions and residents parking areas, requested by residents and which meet the agreed criteria, are put in place as soon as possible and appropriately enforced;
- Develop our relationship with the local schools team and in particular to monitor the plans for the expansion of local schools to ensure that additional school places are provided as required and infrastructure and highways issues are addressed at the outset.

2.3 As a number of these relate to highway activities the Area Highways Team Manager has reviewed the priorities and provided the following comments on how they may be progressed in the coming year.

#### **Maintenance of footways and alleyways.**

There are a number of sides to this.

- Day to day maintenance of surfaces, vegetation, etc, which the Local Committee can allocate funding for from its Highways budgets;
- More substantial resurfacing or short lengths, which again the Local Committee can allocate funding for;
- Resurfacing of significant lengths would need to be centrally funded.

#### **RPZs and inconsiderate parking**

The Local Committees ongoing programme of Parking Reviews is addressing this on a piecemeal basis. Committee may wish to consider what the on-street parking strategy should be for different areas Epsom and Ewell, and draft a holistic programme of parking changes on an area by area basis. At the present time on-street parking changes are made generally as a reaction to concerns from the local community, rather than being planned and designed.

### **Street scene improvements**

This is an area where Borough Councils normally take the lead. Any improvements that touch on the Highway could of course be facilitated by the County Council if funding were to be made available.

### **Traffic light phasing**

The County Council has just been provided with funding from the Capital to Coast LEP for various improvements to our Intelligent Traffic Systems. This may well include the review and updating of the intelligence at traffic signal junctions. It would be useful for Members to prioritise sites where they feel traffic light phasing could be improved. At the present time we are developing improvements for a number of town centre junctions as part of Plan E, and also the junction of the Ewell Bypass with Cheam Road. The Spring Street / Chessington Road / London Road / Kingston Road junction has recently been reviewed, and unfortunately there is very little opportunity for improvement due to the inherent constraints of this junction. If the Local Committee would like to fund review and improvement of a junction, then it could allocate funding for this.

### **Traffic calming/speed management**

Members are encouraged to be cautious in their responses to requests for speed limit reductions and especially 20mph zones. Residents frequently believe that a change in speed limit has a magical effect on driver behaviour. In practice the posted speed limit is only one factor that affects drivers' choice of speed. The most important factor is often the environment presented to the driver. If a road does suffer from speed related casualties, there are various traffic calming methods available, and officers can advise Members on individual sites. Members are also encouraged to focus investment on those sites where there are existing patterns of casualties.

### **Improvements to cycle ways**

There are a number of improvements to cycle ways being developed at the present time - funded using developer contributions arising out of the St Ebbas development - or indeed being delivered by the developers themselves. The Local Committee may of course allocate its funding to develop and / or improve further routes.

## **3. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:**

- 3.1 Any actions to implement the identified priorities will need to be funded from the allocations made to the Local Committee or by influencing the inclusion of appropriate activities in centrally funded budgets.

## **4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 4.1 **The Local Committee (Epsom & Ewell) is asked to note the Committee's priorities for 2015/16, together with the comments on the highway related items from the Area Highways Team Manager.**

**5. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

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- 5.1 The agreed priorities will be published on the Local Committees web page and kept in mind during the work of the Committee this year.
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**Contact Officer:**

Nicola Morris, Community Partnership & Committee Officer, Epsom & Ewell  
020 8541 9437

**Consulted:**

Members of the Local Committee

**Annexes:**

None

**Sources/background papers:**

None

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