



SURREY

SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN SPELTHORNE – 28 September 2015

AGENDA ITEM 6

MEMBER WRITTEN QUESTION TIME

1. Cllr Robert Watts will ask the following question:

“Regarding the A244 Walton Bridge/Gaston Bridge Road cycle facilities:

- i) Have all the safety problems highlighted in the stage 3 safety audit been completed to the satisfaction of Surrey County Council?
- ii) If not please provide a list, with time scales, and any designers’ reasons for non completion of safety queries?
- iii) Total cost of scheme in Spelthorne and amount paid to date?
- iv) What is the defects liability period and has that yet started?
- v) Any survey data to show increased cycle use bearing in mind the large cost of the scheme?”

Mr John Furey, SCC Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Flooding, Surrey County Councillor - Addlestone, will give the following answer:

“On the Spelthorne side of Walton Bridge all items raised in the Road Safety Audit Stage 3, where the recommendations made by the Auditors have been agreed with by the project team, they have been completed by the contractor on site. The only exception to this is the recommendation for the Toucan crossing along the A244 Gaston Bridge Road near Gaston Way which is currently in the detailed design stage with construction of the crossing scheduled for the next financial year. Although all of the Safety Audit works has just been completed, barring the above mentioned Toucan crossing, these still need to be inspected which is scheduled to take place later this week.

The final account for the cycle scheme is still to be determined with Surrey County Council Officers and representatives from the contractor working towards agreeing a final account. However to date the agreed construction costs paid for the Spelthorne side of the scheme is £336,000.

The defect liability under the contract is 24 months from the final completion date. As the scheme has not been fully completed with a small number of outstanding items of work on the Walton side, the final completion has not been signed and so the defect liability period has not started as yet.

No monitoring of cycle usage of the new facility has taken place due to the entire scheme not being complete. Once all construction works have been finished the proposal is to install a number of automatic cycle counters along the entire route including two on the Spelthorne side to monitor cyclist numbers on a continuous basis. These counters will be installed in the footway immediately outside Windmill

Terrace and on the footway on the opposite side of the road, and also on both footways and in the channel line of the carriageway between the new roundabout at Walton Lane and the western end of the new Walton Bridge.

With regard to the cafe/toilet building constructed as part of the Walton Bridge project, the remedial works to address the outstanding issues began on Monday 14 September and are scheduled for completion by the end of next week although the contractor is confident of completing these works earlier subject to weather and operational conditions. Once the works have been completed a joint inspection between ourselves, our appointed Building Inspector, Elmbridge Borough Council and the contractor will take place which is tentatively pencilled in for late next week subject to when the remedial works are completed.

Upon the completion of these works to the satisfaction of both councils the aim will be to open the toilet facilities on a permanent basis by the end of September which will allow the temporary facilities to be removed. The completion of these outstanding issues will also permit the commencement of the fitting out of the new cafe facility by the new tenant with a view to opening the new facility in due course.”

2. Mr Robert Evans will ask the following question:

"Bearing in mind the major flooding last Spring and the lesser occurrences at other times (e.g. Stanwell, August 2015), what measures have been put in place to lessen the impact of any similar occurrence?"

Residents in the past have complained about many aspects including eg the lack of co-ordination between the two councils, 'buck-passing', the lack of a dedicated help line and the non availability of sandbags."

Doug Hill, SCC Strategic Network Resilience Manager, will give the following answer:

"Following the major flooding last spring a significant amount of multi-agency work has been undertaken to lessen the impact of any similar occurrences.

Improved working between partners on emergency response

- There have been a number of positive discussions at the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Delivery Group regarding the new arrangements for emergency planning in Spelthorne. At the meeting of this group on the 14.07.2015, it was agreed that either the Borough or Applied Resilience would provide an overview of the new arrangements and how this will fit with existing processes. The Head of Emergency Management at Surrey County Council (SCC) and either the Borough representative and/or Managing Director of Applied Resilience are due to meet in the near future in order to agree how these new arrangements will work in practice.
- Since February 2014 all of Surrey's flood risk management partners (including the EA, Thames Water and other utility companies) have engaged in much closer multi-agency working. This has included the identification of flood risks and the implementation of improved asset management and decision making processes.

Thames Major Incident Plan

The Lower Thames Major Incident Plan has been signed off by the Surrey LRF partners, and further work is now underway to support the arrangements outlined in the plan. The two key areas of work at present are:

1. Upgrading the resources for responders at Chertsey Fire Station to provide a forward control point to assist the partnership response;
2. Ensuring that response arrangements are adapted to the principle of the National Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles (which is seen as a key means to improve the coordination and communication in the response to emergencies).

Completion of these two workstreams will further improve joint working between partners in an emergency event.

Availability of sandbags

- It is worth noting that there is no statutory requirement for Local Authorities to provide sandbags to residents. However, the local authorities within Surrey recognise that there are vulnerable people and premises that that may require them during a flooding incident. To this end a sandbag protocol has been agreed whereby SCC will hold a strategic stock of sandbags which will be used to support Districts and Boroughs in the event of future flooding. (We are happy to provide a copy of the sandbag protocol should further information be required).
- SBC has reviewed its own sandbag policy to ensure requests for sandbags are handled as efficiently as possible. SBC are also reviewing how they can link in with community flood groups in the distribution of sandbags. However, with so many properties at risk of potential flooding, with very real risks and hazards associated with their distribution and with their limited effectiveness, there is a limit to the number of sandbags that can be delivered and used in defending against flooding.

Dedicated helpline and community resilience

- SBC is making use of the EA's extended flood line service which will assist in ensuring residents calls relating to flooding are promptly answered, even during peak times, and that residents are given the latest and best information relating to flooding from flooding specialists.
- The Borough Council has distributed an information booklet to all properties within the 1 in 20 flood zone giving key information on roles and responsibilities, contact numbers, advice relating to flooding, flood warnings, recovery, and updates from agencies in response to the flooding (including information on maintenance and the River Thames Scheme).
- Spelthorne Borough Council along with SCC and the EA are working hard to engage local residents in community resilience efforts to better link up responses during any future flooding. SCC has also recruited a Community Resilience Officer, whose role is to equip local communities to become more self-sufficient

during emergency events, and assist them in establishing flood fora and networks of flood wardens.

- 77 applications for the County Council-administered Repair and Renew Grant were approved in Spelthorne. These residents received a total of £412,705 in Central Government funding which has been used to finance flood alleviation measures for individual homes.”

AGENDA ITEM 7

PUBLIC WRITTEN QUESTION TIME

1. Mr Andrew McLuskey will ask the following question:

“Given that Surrey’s children’s safeguarding organisation has been recently criticised by OFSTED for not being rigorous enough and given recent memories of the abuse of girls at Duncroft School in Staines, how does the Committee intend to ensure - going forward - the safety of children in Spelthorne?”

Linda Kemeny, SCC Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills, and Educational Achievement, Surrey County Councillor - Woking South West, will give the following answer:

“Children's social care does not fall within the remit of the local committees. However, protecting vulnerable children and young people is our top priority. We will work with partners to achieve this, making significant changes to improve how we work and the services we provide.”

2. Mr Andrew McLuskey will ask the following question:

“Can the Chair inform us of what progress has been made with regard to the return of the land round Stanwell Quarry to its original green lung, recreational status – this of course following the Surrey County Council planning application SCC ref 2014/0005 (now approved) which referred to ‘the continuation of..phased restoration of the whole site.’ after its temporary use for gravel raising?”

Stephen Jenkins, SCC Deputy Planning Development Manager, will give the following answer:

“In March 2015 Alan Stones (Planning Development Team Manager) provided the following response:

'Planning permission for mineral working at Stanwell Quarry was first granted in 1964. The majority of the site has been worked and restored. Planning permission for waste recycling (Ref. SP08/0337) with an amended restoration scheme was granted planning permission in October 2011 and was subject to a legal agreement which secured a long term management arrangement for the site. A planning application (SCC Ref 2014/0005) was submitted in January 2014 to reorder the phasing of restoration at the site without changing the end date for final restoration of October 2017. The issue of a decision notice for the latter planning application is dependant on completing a deed of variation to the previous legal agreement and this matter is in progress.

The approved restoration is for the majority of the land to be used for agriculture, with some wetland and woodland planting and management to the south. The approved restoration complies with planning policy in that it seeks to reinstate the previous land use which is compatible with the Green Belt designation. There is no formal element of recreation. Any future planning application to the County Planning Authority would be treated on its merits in accordance with Development Plan policy and any relevant material planning considerations.'

In terms of progress, no decision has been issued on the application as we are still awaiting completion of a deed of variation (DoV) to the previous legal agreement, and the matter is being progressed between SCC legal department and the applicant's solicitors. For the purposes of clarity, the approved restoration of Stanwell Quarry is predominantly agriculture, with some wetland and woodland planting, with no public access."