



**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL
LOCAL COMMITTEE IN EPSOM & EWELL
7 December 2015**

MEMBER QUESTIONS

**Question 1 John Beckett
Re: Traffic Light Systems**

Residents in Epsom and Ewell are becoming increasingly frustrated at the apparent lack of action regarding the repair and upkeep of the traffic light systems within Epsom and Ewell. Several local Borough Councillors have approached me recently regarding the ongoing problems at the Cheam Road Junction and the A240 which is causing particular concern.

I have also been informed that the team looking after traffic light management is now only made up of 6 individuals which appears to be totally inadequate to cope with the issues that are arising and the ongoing problems that need addressing.

Can officers please investigate?

Officer Response:

Congestion problems have indeed been exacerbated at the busy A240 Ewell-by-Pass/A232 Cheam Road junction, since the recent carriageway resurfacing works completed as part of Surrey's 'Project Horizon' Programme. Regrettably, such resurfacing inevitably damages the detector loops buried in the carriageway surface which enable the current traffic signals controller to operate at its optimum efficiency and such damage has indeed occurred at this location.

This damage does affect the intelligence of the junction which can lead to extended queues at busy times, as has recently been experienced. Unfortunately this problem has also been compounded further by a fault with the BT line which links the junction's controller to the 'Urban Traffic Control' (UTC) Server at Surrey's offices, to operate in conjunction with the nearby signals at the junction of Cheam Road/Nonsuch Court Road. I am pleased to confirm that having been followed up by Surrey Officers, this fault was rectified by BT on Tuesday 1st December, which should help to improve the junction movements a little.

Regrettably current contractual performance issues with Surrey's specialist Traffic Signals Contractor, have delayed the re-cutting of the detector loops into the new carriageway surface. Contractual performance problems continue to be managed closely by Surrey Officers to mitigate future similar delays and I am pleased to confirm that this work is now scheduled to commence on Thursday 3rd December. Works will take place in the evening outside peak times to avoid any further disruption. With the BT line repaired and the detector loops restored the junctions should revert back to their previous performance levels (under UTC control) by Tuesday 8th December.

Furthermore, utilising funds from Local Committee, further enhancements to these junctions - also linked to the nearby pedestrian crossing near the railway bridge - are already in hand, upgrading traffic signals controllers and their mode of operation to the optimum level of

intelligence. Site refurbishments are planned for the end of January 2016, with final connections and system checks completed by February.

With regards to staffing levels, the number of posts in the Traffic Operations team maintaining Surrey's Traffic signals has not reduced over recent years and no changes to team numbers were proposed when the Environment and Infrastructure Service went through its latest restructure this year. Whilst additional staff numbers might well assist in dealing with any problems with Traffic signals across the County, current and future pressures on all revenue budgets make it unlikely that further posts will be created, so management focus remains on refining and improving processes, managing Contractor Performance and maximising the use of the latest technology to improve signals operation and maintenance.

Looking slightly further ahead, Surrey have successfully bid for an allocation of Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Capital money as part of the 'Wider Network Benefits' project, which over the next couple of years will enable all the Traffic signal controllers along the A24, and A240 routes to be upgraded to the latest specification and optimum method of operation.

Question 2 Cllr Clive Smitheram
Re: Danetree School Expansion – parking issues

The residents of the roads adjacent to Danetree School in West Ewell, particularly Gadesden Road, Oakhurst Road and Danetree Road currently experience a very high level of inconsiderate, antisocial, inappropriate and quite often very dangerous parking during the 'school pick up' between 2-30pm and 3-30pm Monday to Friday.

With the impending large increase in pupil numbers and more than probable vehicle journeys what measures are being put in place to address a totally unacceptable impact on the local highway infrastructure.

Officer Response:

The proposed expansion of the three Ewell schools has come about as a result of an approach to Surrey County Council by the governing bodies of West Ewell Infants, Ewell grove Infants and Danetree Juniors. All three schools have, at different times, expressed a keen interest in becoming all through primaries. Once SCC identified a basic need for more primary school places in Ewell this re-organisation became possible for SCC to fund through the grant it gets directly from central government for additional school places. These places have been added to all three schools.

Two public consultations have been held on this proposal and both have had a high level of parental support and equal support from the schools' governors. Surrey County Council and GLF (the multi-academy trust of which Danetree is a part) has therefore determined that the re-organisation will go ahead.

SCC is now ready to commence its planning applications to enable the council to provide the appropriate accommodation at all three schools. The planning proposals will also include measures to mitigate additional traffic as advised by Surrey Highways officers and an independent transport assessment.

The Council is aware of residents' concerns about traffic and these will be taken into consideration, as part of the planning application, by the Surrey Planning Committee when it considers this early next year.

However traffic mitigation may not wholly resolve this issue which regrettably occurs, from time to time, around many schools. Anti-social parking or the behaviour of individual drivers is a matter for the residents to take up with the schools, in the first instance, or with the local police.

Question 3 Jan Mason
Re: Gulley Clearance

What is the routine schedule for gulley clearance in Epsom and Ewell? How does Surrey Highways deal with individual reports of localised flooding and blocked highway drains?

Officer Response:

Information on gully and drain maintenance and cleaning is available on the Surrey County Council website: <http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/road-maintenance-and-cleaning/drainage-and-flooding/drain-cleaning>. This includes the gully cleaning schedule for the County. In the past the County Council had contracts in place for every publically maintainable gully in Surrey to be cleaned once a year. We are now moving to a more intelligent programme, whereby gullies that fill with silt more quickly are cleaned more frequently, and gullies that fill with silt more slowly are cleaned less frequently. This means that resources can be targeted to where they are most needed.

We welcome reports of blocked or damaged gullies, or indeed troublesome puddles, on an ad hoc basis. Depending on the timing of these reports, we may respond through the routine gully cleaning programme. We are also able to respond ahead of the routine cleaning programming with ad hoc gully cleaning and jetting. When there is physical damage to a gully or drainage system, we are also able to commission more substantial repairs. Recent examples of more substantial repairs include London Road, Ewell, near Bourne Hall, and Beaufort Way, also in Ewell.

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