

Members' written questions

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SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)

DATE: 02 DECEMBER 2015

LEAD OFFICER: SARAH SMITH, COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AND COMMITTEE OFFICER

SUBJECT: LC MEMBERS' WRITTEN QUESTIONS

DIVISION: ALL

**Questions received from Mrs Hazel Watson (Dorking Hills)**

1. When will the recommendations of the Road Safety Outside School report be implemented, including the extended safety barrier near the crossing on the A25 at Westcott to help children walking to Surrey Hills School do so safely?

Response from SCC Highways:

The Road Safety Outside School report of January 2015 recorded on-site observations relating to existing infrastructure, road user behaviour, pedestrian behaviour and potential conflicts. It also made a number of recommendations. The recommendations are listed below, with commentary on the current status.

- **Yellow back the school signs in both directions:** An order has been raised to SCC's contractor to replace the existing warning signs. These types of works are programmed in batches to maximise value for money from the contractor. It is anticipated that these works will be complete before the end of the current financial year.
- **Data for speed of vehicles:** This was obtained and showed average speeds of 28 mph eastbound and 32 mph westbound. The section of road is included within the Mole Valley speed management plan as a high priority for the consideration of police enforcement attention.
- **Investigate the guard railing at the bottom of the footway with the possibility to extend:** Land ownership issues have been resolved. An order has been raised to SCC's contractor for the additional pedestrian guardrailing approaching the signalised crossing plus the removal of the wooden post in the footway. This has been escalated as a high priority order and it is anticipated that these works will be complete before the end of the current calendar year.
- **Advise school of what could be done at the bottom of school lane:** SCC's Sustainable Travel Team has been in contact with the school to arrange a meeting whereby training can be delivered to teaching assistants for passing onto the pupils.
- **Advise school to cut back any vegetation that obscures sight line:** The school has received a copy of the Road Safety Outside Schools Assessment, which includes this recommendation.

2. When will a pedestrian crossing on Chalkpit Lane in Dorking near Triangle Stores be provided to enable children to safely walk to St Martin's School as this is urgently needed?

Response from SCC Highways:

A safety meeting was held at the site in February 2014, attended by the local divisional member, officers from SCC's Sustainable Travel Team and Local Highways Team, the Headteacher of St Martin's School and parents of pupils from St Martin's School. Following discussions, the Sustainable Travel Team worked with the school to investigate the potential recruitment of a school crossing patrol and also to deliver pedestrian training to teaching assistants for passing on to the pupils. The Sustainable Travel Team would be happy to assist in any further initiatives to improve safety education. Surrey Police's Road Safety and Traffic Management Team was advised of the findings and outcome of the meeting.

The provision of a pedestrian crossing was included on the list of schemes to be considered for progression by Mole Valley Local Committee. The Highways Forward Programme is included as a separate item on the agenda of this committee meeting (2 December 2015). The provision of a pedestrian crossing on Chalkpit Lane is retained on the list of schemes for future consideration by Mole Valley Local Committee. Progression will be subject to agreement by the Local Committee, available funding and prioritisation alongside other schemes.

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3. Some of the recommendations of the Safety Audit Report relating to the shared cycle path on the pavement on the east side of the A24 between the Deepdene roundabout and the Dorking Deepdene Railway Station have been implemented. However, the white line to segregate the cyclists from the pedestrians stops short and does not continue far enough north towards the station, give way markings for cyclists at the junctions with Brook Close and Deepdene Avenue Road are missing and reflective material has not been put on the posts on the pavement to warn cyclists. When will this further work be completed? In addition, can signs be provided to warn pedestrians and cyclists that there are driveways crossing the pavement as residents have poor sight lines from their properties when driving across the pavement onto the A24?

Response from SCC Highways:

Following the safety audit the recommendations were considered for design of improvements. The white line segregating pedestrians and cyclists extends from a point close to property No. 7 to a point near to property No. 29. It is not intended to extend this line further north towards Deepdene Station across the junctions with Brook Close and Deepdene Avenue Road, due to the constraints of available footway/cycleway width and street furniture. The local area highways team is coordinating the additional works, including appropriate reflective material for the posts and additional warning signs. It will not be possible to provide signs to warn of driveways crossing the pavement as only signs prescribed by the traffic signs legislation are permitted.

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4. The condition of Lyefield Lane is extremely poor. In view of this, can the resurfacing of Lyefield Lane under Operation Horizon be brought forward to be implemented at the earliest opportunity?

Response from SCC Highways:

It is appreciated that the divisional Member considers the condition of Lyefield Lane to be poor. Engineering assessments of roads are carried out in accordance with asset prioritisation criteria which include condition, usage, etc. There are around 300 roads still to be resurfaced under Operation Horizon, and the Major Maintenance team are currently carrying out these assessments, with a provisional programme for Year 4 (April 2016 - March 2017) of Operation Horizon expected in February 2016. A programme date for Lyefield Lane will be known at that time.

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5. I requested a row of 4 blocked gullies in Tot Hill in Headley to be unblocked and cleared to help prevent ice on the carriageway, which is on a slope near a sharp bend, to reduce the risk of accidents. The response I received from Highways was that the lids of these gullies were jammed but that the jammed lid program is currently suspended pending an internal investigation. When will the jammed lid program be resumed so that the 4 gullies on Tot Hill in Headley can be unblocked as a matter of urgency?

Response from SCC Highways:

A new computer based system has been introduced which enables the drainage asset to be logged, including jammed gully lids, missing assets and dates of cleaning. A search of the system has identified two jammed lids in Tot Hill. There is also one gully that has been logged as missing from the original asset register and so has not been cleaned. All the other gullies in Tot Hill were cleaned on 19 October 2015.

Officers are currently in discussion with Kier and Conway regarding raising a works order which will set out a programme of un-jamming and cleaning as many of the gullies which have been identified as having jammed lids as possible before the end of this financial year.

Questions received from Mr Stephen Cooksey (Dorking and the Holmwoods)

1. At the September meeting of the Local Committee, following a question that I raised about dealing with traffic congestion in Dorking, it was agreed that a meeting to discuss traffic signal phasing would be organised and in addition the Chairman was asked to facilitate a 'summit' meeting involving both Surrey County Councillors and officers and Mole Valley District Council members and officers, as a matter of urgency, to address the general issue of traffic congestion in Dorking. The traffic signals' meeting has been held and is reported on the agenda. Could members be informed about why the 'urgent' summit meeting has not yet been organised and when it will take place?

Response from SCC Highways:

The congestion in Dorking is a large and complex issue that would require substantial funding to address, and beyond the budget for the Local Committee. Historic traffic models would require updating, in order to inform collective discussions on feasible options. A potential Expression of Interest for the required funding could be part of the Growth Fund 3 bids to the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership. It is, unfortunately, too soon in the process to hold a meeting of the nature described. However, the Local Committee will be kept updated, as part of the update on the traffic signals in Dorking town centre, at the February 2016 informal meeting.

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2. At the September meeting of the Local Committee members were informed that plans for the proposed trial one-way system for the narrow part of Dene Street, Dorking leading to the High Street, were expected to be made available shortly and that the scheme was expected to come into operation in February 2016. Since no plans have yet been made available could members be informed about when this will happen and whether the delay will affect the implementation of the scheme, which is reported as being late January/ early February in the report set out under item 10 on the agenda.

Response from SCC Highways:

As advised at the September meeting, details of the scheme were to be shared with the divisional Member once finalised. Copies of the drawing have now been provided to both the divisional Member and the Local Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The proposal is currently being priced and officers are working with the contractor to programme the works for early February, once the Christmas and January sales period is over. Officers will also be liaising with Members to agree the most appropriate method of informing and consulting with local residents and businesses.

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3. Could a progress report be made on the cleaning of the numerous tar footprints from the yorkstone paving in West Street, Dorking, left by the contractors undertaking the road resurfacing work in September and October?

Response from SCC Highways:

A specialist contractor is organising remedial work to remove the tar from the yorkstone paving in West Street. The process that will be used was trialled last week, and assuming it produced the required result, officers will be updated with potential dates for the remedial work to be carried out.

Officers will update the divisional Member once the outcome of the trial and programme dates are known.

