



SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN ELMBRIDGE – 7 December 2015

AGENDA ITEM 7

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Question 1: Cllr Barry Fairbank (Elmbridge Borough Council (Long Ditton))

Graffiti Removal from Railway Bridges in Long Ditton

It is now over a year since I reported to Elmbridge BC that the crossover on railway bridge (2/BMLI) in Ewell Road Long Ditton had been subject to a considerable amount of graffiti. Since reporting the Ewell Road bridge other railway bridges (see below) in the area have also been subject to graffiti.

2/48 BMLI St Mary's Road

2/49 BMLI Windmill Lane

2/51 BMLI Angel Road

14/2 HAM Portsmouth Road

Since first reporting the graffiti, Elmbridge has kept me informed of the correspondence between themselves, Network Rail, and Surrey County Council from which it is clear that 'negotiations' between Network Rail and Surrey County Council on clearing the graffiti have reached an impasse.

In summary:-

For safety reasons bridge cleaning can only take place if the adjacent roads are closed for the purpose. SCC is asking Network Rail for c.£4,000 for each such closure. Network Rail is of the opinion that as the victim of criminal damage the charge is unreasonable.

Can Surrey County Council please review this issue with a view to resolving it in agreement with Network Rail and enable them to remove this blight from Long Ditton?

Response:

If any third party, including Network Rail, wishes to undertake maintenance of their asset, including graffiti removal, the third party is expected to pay the full cost of the works. The cost is made up of two elements: fees payable to Surrey County Council to cover the legal and advertisement costs of making the necessary road closure traffic regulation order, and also the cost of providing the necessary road closure and diversion route to manage traffic during the works. Surrey County Council's Streetworks Team is open to discussion with Network Rail to see if there is any way to manage these works without a road closure, which may reduce the costs for Network Rail. Even in this case Network Rail would still need to provide temporary traffic lights, or whatever other traffic management might be appropriate. If the Local Committee wished to pay the cost of road closures and diversion routes, to enable

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ITEM 7

Network Rail to maintain their own infrastructure, that would be the prerogative of the Local Committee.

Question 2: Mark Sugden (Chairman Claygate Parish Council)

The Operation Horizon road repair project has successfully completed a number of roads in Claygate. Could the Local Committee provide more definitive timings, for concerned residents of Rythe Road and Elm Road, Claygate, as to when their roads will be repaired?

Response:

Elm Road and Rythe Road, both in Claygate, are currently on the Operation Horizon programme for Year 4 or Year 5 - sometime between April 2016 to March 2018. At the present time the programme detail for these two years has not been decided, and so it is not possible to give a more precise time frame. The Operation Horizon team are assessing all the roads in Years 4 and 5, and designing a programme to take into account the condition of each road, and also the logistics of delivering the programme to ensure the programme is as efficient as possible.