

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

DATE: 23 SEPTEMBER 2016

SUBJECT: Public Question: Gullies along the A22 in Whyteleafe



DIVISION: CATERHAM VALLEY

Whyteleafe Village Council ask:

Information given to us by John Furey and Highways Officers has confirmed our own evidence that many gullies along and adjoining the A22 in Whyteleafe have not been routinely cleared in over a year and that many remain full and blocked for months on end. The cleaning regime is governed by the categorisation given to each gully as follows:

- High risk: cleaned twice or more within the annual work programme
- Medium risk: cleaned once within the annual work programme
- Low risk: Cleaned once every 2 years

Whyteleafe Village Council would like to know how the categorisation ratings are assessed and assigned to individual gullies/ groups of gullies and how local knowledge is, or can be, part of this categorisation process and that once a risk rating has been assigned what measures are in place to enable the Council to know when a gully has actually been cleared (in accordance with its categorisation)?

Response:

The gully categorisations are assessed using data gained from previous gully cleansing and inspection data. This data was analysed to develop an optimised gully cleansing programme based on levels of risk determined by assessment of need.

Historic silt levels of each gully were added up and divided by the number of cleans to determine an average silt level per gully. These silt levels were then aggregated into their individual roads to calculate an overall silt level percentage per road and used to determine the risk factor of each road i.e. High, Medium or Low.

Every road within Surrey has an associated Surrey Priority Network (SPN) level. The current contractual requirements state that no gully on a road with a SPN level of 1, 2 or 3 (which are the roads within Surrey with the highest priority), shall ever exceed a maximum of 50% silt, at any given time, and any gullies with a SPN level 4 must not exceed 75% silt. Using a simple formula, schedules were built so any roads classified as High risk were scheduled to be cleaned twice per annum. Medium risk roads were scheduled to be cleaned once per annum and Low risk roads cleaned once every 24 months.

The formula analyses the SPN level and average silt percentages to work out each roads relevant risk levels. For roads with SPN4, Low risk is defined as average silt <38%, Medium risk is $\geq 38\%$ and $< 75\%$, and High risk is defined as average silt $\geq 75\%$. For roads with a SPN 1, 2 or 3, average silt levels of $< 25\%$ equates to Low risk, $\geq 25\%$ and $< 50\%$ is Medium risk, and $\geq 50\%$ is High risk.

A two year programme was developed using the above process, clearly showing the risk level cleaning frequencies and also showing the separation of low risk gullies in year one and year two.

Local knowledge can be fed into the above process by the Local Divisional Member submitting a request, with sufficient evidence to support the request for upgrading the risk of a road outside of the above optimisation process, to the Local Highway Officer.

Measures in place to enable the Council to know when a gully has been cleaned within their given risk factor timescales include a programme that is submitted by the contractor at the beginning of the year showing when each risk factor for each ward/parish will be cleaned. Data showing when gullies are cleaned is submitted by the Contractor using a program called Korec, which is a near live information (24Hrs behind at the most) all highways staff can have access to this program and are able to check cleaning progress, weekly meetings with the contractor are also held, and include progress updates giving the contractor the opportunity to flag up any problems/delays.

Also as part of the process to improve the gully cleansing programme, the Local Highway Officers have recently started a new auditing process that gives the Local Area Teams the ability to audit key roads within their own areas. In addition Surrey County Council will carry out joint audits with Contractors once a month, and ways to deter parked vehicles within roads which are scheduled to have their gullies cleaned are also being considered.

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