

**SURREY****SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN ELMBRIDGE – 3 October 2016****AGENDA ITEM 8****MEMBER QUESTION****1. Question from Councillor Graham Woolgar**

Would the consultation process for Elmbridge Parking Reviews be improved if an informal public consultation period of at least one month was allowed once the proposed scheme details are known, and before the scheme is brought to the local committee?

Officer's response:

The current process that we have been using since the new strategy was adopted back in February 2015 involves a preliminary consultation whereby any interested stakeholders are able to put forward problems with parking, and any suggestions they may have to help resolve them. We also consider any issues that have been raised with us directly, outside of that process too.

We then assess these requests, using our professional judgement to decide what is advantageous and feasible to go forward with.

After discussions with the parking task group, and borough members, we then create a final report of recommendations to the local committee, and if approved, the proposals therein are then advertised. The advertisement gives another opportunity for comment before the final decisions are made.

The preliminary consultation / survey process is an additional stage compared with the previous process, already enabling additional engagement and consultation to take place. By adding another consultation stage, this could risk bloating the process as a whole, and would require considerable additional resources which would mean adding at least three months to the timeline of each review.

With our experience, it is the case that we are usually able to anticipate comments that people are likely to make about proposals before they are put forward, so it is questionable exactly how much value would be derived from introducing an additional consultation phase.

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