

Questions from members of the public (tabled)

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)



DATE: 16 NOVEMBER 2016
LEAD OFFICER: SARAH J SMITH, COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AND COMMITTEE OFFICER

SUBJECT: QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

DIVISION: ALL DIVISIONS

Questions from District Councillor Harper

Question 1: A24 Leatherhead Road new Downsend School.

The 'ponding' around the Downsend dip on A24 forces cars into the middle of the road and makes the road single lane when it rains - even when that rain is quite moderate. From my personal experience of soakaways on Leatherhead Road (at Warren Court side opposite The Warren), the overflow soakaway was actually uphill from the first soakaway. Once identified, it was repaired and performs very satisfactorily now, with no ponding at the mouth to The Warren ever since. Perhaps the same issue is at Downsend? Please could SCC investigate what maintenance can be offered that would solve it? Drainage is normally planned to cope with a 1 in 100 year event and so this should be maintainable. But if not maintainable- then please assess capital costs to clear this important main A route.

Response:

We are aware that there was significant flooding here during a very heavy and somewhat exceptional downpour. The gullies have since been cleaned together with the outlet pipes which connect to a large soakaway in the Downsend school grounds.

The soakaway has also been checked and is in working order with no particular problems noted i.e. the soakaway was empty with no build-up of silt that would affect its operation.

We would suggest that the most recent flooding was caused by a large amount of debris being washed into the gullies causing a partial blockage which took time to seep away. The gullies and the soakaway do have a limit to capacity as it relies on soakage within the soakaway to remove the volume of water entering the system. It may have been overwhelmed for a while under what were quite exceptional local conditions that could have exceeded its design capacity. The natural low spot just here further exacerbates the situation of debris washed down into the system. Debris

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on the highway is also linked to the frequency of street cleansing activities and this is a matter for the District Council to consider.

There are no issues with the "fall" of the pipework in this system at this location. The system in this area is being monitored along with the usual silt level checks to the road gullies but if flooding does occur it should be reported to Highways on 0300 200 1003 to enable a swift response to be made in the interest of highway safety.

Question 2: Drainage in Barnett Wood Lane in the vicinity of the shops.

Regarding the road humps on Barnett Wood Lane around the shops area and going towards Leatherhead, the humps form dams in wet weather, making the road impassable for cyclists, and risking pedestrians getting a soaking. This was raised recently at Ashted Residents Association meeting on 26th October. Please quantify and inspect the problem, and investigate the cost of releasing this dam past the hump(s).

Response:

Following site investigations and jetting work we identified a blocked/broken pipe outside the shops. We were unable to attend to this initially due to a clash with other utility work, such as Sutton and East Surrey Water who installed temporary traffic signals in order to carry out their work along Barnett Wood Lane in July.

We have since returned and repaired the damaged outlet pipe during w/c 8th August. We are currently monitoring the situation but have had no reports of flooding since that repair was completed that we are aware of. It would not be possible to remove part of the road tables to allow water flow as the resultant channel would prove to be a hazard for pedestrians crossing at the road table. Should further flooding occur please contact highways on 0300 200 1003 as soon as possible to report the matter.

The area near the shops and towards Leatherhead remains an area of interest for further drainage investigation as resources permit as we believe that parts of the drainage system here is not mapped or recorded. We also believe that Thames Water have surface water sewers that they may be unaware of. These are likely to be linked to the road gully connection pipes (which are SCC's responsibility) and carry away the surface water from the road through the Thames Water surface water system (in most cases).

Question 3: Drainage in Barnett Wood Lane towards Leatherhead

Further along from there towards Leatherhead (still on Barnett Wood Lane), the surface water goes down one gully, and then comes up at the next one, before forming a river flowing down the road towards West Farm Avenue. It maybe deduced

that the pipe is blocked after the gully that offers up the water. Or perhaps at that gully the surface water is meant to go to a soakaway or a surface water drain to the stream, and these are blocked. Please investigate maintenance of this gully.

Response:

Where road tables have been installed and if there is no nearby surface water outlet it is practice to install a "bubble drain" that allows water to pass the obstruction by entering a road gully and pipe to emerge in another gully in the channel line (on the downhill side) to allow the water to continue flowing down the channel of the road to the next available positive drainage gully.

The gullies and linking pipes are periodically checked and cleaned although on the surface they may appear to be blocked because after rain they would be full. There are no soakaways in this area of Barnett Wood Lane, and there are sections that have no positive drainage systems that are mapped by Thames water or SCC.

Question 4: Drainage in Woodfield Lane

On Woodfield Lane, again the humps form dams and hold water back into ponds. The progress of cyclists and pedestrians are again impaired. Especially this appears between the Cricket pitch and the mini roundabout before Craddocks Avenue. Please quantify and inspect the problem, and investigate the cost of releasing this dam past the hump(s).

Response:

This area of Woodfield Lane has been the subject of drainage investigations in the recent past. Clearly with the position of the road tables it is important to maintain the flow of surface water off the carriageway adjacent to the road tables. Road gullies are positioned strategically to effect the removal of surface water and these are connected to the Thames Water surface water sewer (on the cricket pitch side).

Previously issues were reported to Thames Water and they attended to carry out pipe cleaning work and to clear roots from the surface water sewer (carrier pipe) along that side of Woodfield Lane. We understand that there may be a capacity issue at times due to the existing surface water sewer. This should be reported to Thames Water should this occur again.

The road gullies in Woodfield lane are regularly cleaned however leaf debris can also cause water to pond by preventing the water from entering the road gully. Please contact Highways on 0300 200 1003 as soon as possible to report the issue should this occur.

Question from Mr John Moyer:

Question 1: A245 Randalls Road adjacent Oaks Close and Mole Valley District Council car park 9 November after heavy overnight rain

What can be done perhaps in conjunction with Network Rail, and MVDC about the drains and sewers overflowing, on the one-way section of A245 Randalls Road and the Mole Valley District Council car park adjacent Leatherhead Station. Whenever there is persistent rain as was the case on the morning of 9 November – is it SCC's view that it's all attributable to run-off from the Network Rail Station approach road?

Response

The incident of foul water flooding on Randalls Road on 9th November has been passed to colleagues at Thames Water who are the appropriate authority for foul waste water issues. At the time of writing the results of their investigations have not been made available to Highway officers and it is unclear what caused the issue within their system. Therefore it would be inappropriate at this time to make suggestions regarding what work can be carried out to prevent this in the future. Customers can contact Thames Water direct for updates regarding their operations or for issues with their apparatus information can be found at the following location on their website <http://www.thameswater.co.uk/help-and-advice/9782.htm> .