



WOKING JOINT COMMITTEE

DATE: 7 DECEMBER 2016
SUBJECT: WRITTEN MEMBER QUESTIONS
DIVISION: WOKING

1. Question from Cllr Mohammed Ali , Woking Borough Council

A concern was raised regarding over speeding on the Omega - Courtney Road junction in Woking. The residents have also done a petition on the issue. The junction has seen many near misses and actual accidents. Is there any plan to implement traffic calming measures?

Answer from Chairman on behalf of the committee:

The priorities at the crossroads junction of Board School Road / Courtenay Road / North Road and Courtenay Road / Omega Road were changed many years ago and the changes were highlighted by short lengths of red surfacing on the through roads (ie North Road and Omega Road). This work was done at the time when Woking Borough Council undertook highway functions on behalf of Surrey County Council and the officer in charge of those changes has since left and it is not entirely clear if the red surfacing was anti-skid material or not. Even if it was, the extent was not sufficient to offer any great improvement for stopping if a vehicle emerged from Courtenay Road. Highly visible, yellow backed give way signs were also erected although we are aware that the one at the end of Board School Road is missing but both are in place at the Omega Road / Courtenay Road junction.

Despite the presence of yellow backed Give Way signs, some drivers still fail to give way and emerge into the path of traffic on Omega Road. During the last 5 year period, the accident data indicates that 2 personal injury collisions took place at the crossroads. One of these only just qualifies for being included in the 5 year period and a slight injury was sustained when a vehicle failed to give way. The most recent incident on record was in 2012 and although the details of this collision are not clear, a serious injury resulted. We do not have details of the incident that took place quite recently, photographs of which Councillor Ali sent to us, and it is not known if this resulted in injury or not.

The condition of the existing carriageway surface does not look good enough for anti-skid material to be successfully applied but Omega Road is on the list of roads from which members can choose 20% of the Horizon 2 programme. Resurfacing the road and applying anti-skid material would not prevent vehicles from failing to give

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way and there is an item on our ITS work programme for the possible installation of raised tables at both of the crossroads junctions. A raised table would compel vehicles on all approaches to slow down and should improve safety at the junctions but the item is about half-way down the work list and it is unclear when it might be progressed, particularly given the likelihood of reduced funding during the next financial year and, possibly, during subsequent years as well.

2. Question from Cllr Mohammed Ali , Woking Borough Council

Many parts of Woking saw flooding recently especially Walton Terrace, Eve Road and Woodham. This calls for a joint effort by different parties to address the specific problems that caused flooding in these areas e.g. lack of drains or blocked drains. Has the council identified the issues that caused flooding in these areas and is there a specific plan to address the causes (except pointing at extensive rainfall).

Answer from Chairman on behalf of the committee:

The Borough and County Council have conducted an investigation in to the 11th May flood incident in Woking and West Byfleet. The findings of these investigations can be found in the section 19 report on the following link:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/emergency-planning-and-community-safety/flooding-advice/more-about-flooding/surrey-s19-flood-investigations>

The findings set out a number of measures for the authorities to act upon going forward. Concurrently to the investigation the National Flood Forum have been working to look at the viability of establishing a Flood Action Group to assist the residents and facilitate a conduit for specific issues to be addressed with the Risk Management Authorities. This FAG could be supported by a multi-agency group which could provide feedback on the issues the FAG raise and also on the concurrent drainage schemes. Our aspiration for this group is that a robust emergency resilience plan is generated with the residents in the areas of the catchment that are vulnerable to flooding particularly flash flooding.

In the case of the recent flood events that have affected the Maybury area, the excessive rainfall was a significant factor and cannot be ignored. However moving forward the most significant piece of work being carried out, led by Surrey County Council in partnership with Woking Borough Council, Thames Water and the Environment Agency, is the Rive Ditch Flood Alleviation Scheme. The initial phase of this work was to carry out a detailed hydrological model of the drainage system and its interaction with the Rive Ditch. This model is nearing completion, this has been delayed as it was updated to take in to consideration the recent flood events. From this piece of work Flood Alleviation Options will be looked at to see if a suitable and viable solution can be implemented to reduce the existing flood risk and the cost of any suitable options established.

3. Question from Cllr Mohammed Ali , Woking Borough Council

Parking on the green has been a chronic issue. It just seems to get worse but there are some specific spots that suffer the most. Is there any long term plans to address the issue in those spots e.g. Oriental Road, Princess Road, Balmoral Drive Woking.

Answer from Chairman on behalf of the committee:

There is an item on the ITS work programme for the conversion of verges to parking areas in various roads in Maybury. Oriental Road is not included although a number of other locations in other wards / divisions are included. However, the scoring process that is used to rank the schemes on the work list means that items such as this will always be relatively low priorities since parking provision is not a duty of a highway authority and the conversion of verges does not satisfy many of the scoring criteria.

We do not have a programme of installing posts to prevent verge parking. Installing posts in a localised area could lead to requests for posts in many other, equally worn lengths of verge and we simply do not have sufficient budget to do this and they are often removed or knocked over which adds further to the burden of maintenance. We tend only to install posts in specific locations if the Divisional Member wishes to allocate some of their allowance for this purpose.

4. Question from Mr Ben Carasco , Surrey County Council

This committee has previously been briefed in relation to the surface water flooding that has occurred in 2016. This has caused significant hardship and distress to some residents and schools.

In Maybury and Sheerwater a number of areas were badly affected and residents are looking for solutions. Some 45 properties suffered internal flooding. Surrey County Council are the lead local flood authority and in this capacity and, as required by law, have worked closely with WBC and produced a investigatory report (known as Section 19) listing relevant authorities and any proposed actions by them. What the report does not set out to do is to propose a path to solutions. There appears to be some ambiguity about responsibilities thereafter. For many members of the public this is a disappointing state of affairs. As this is surface water flooding, it probably requires a lead from local authorities. This forum is therefore an appropriate place to raise it.

My question to the chairman consists of 2 parts.

Could she use the authority of this Joint Committee:

1. to request of the Chief Executives of the Borough and County to allocate resources to define practical solutions that should be considered
2. to request of the Woking MP that he actively support the local authorities in lobbying for government funds that will be required for solution implementation

Answer from Chairman on behalf of the committee:

1. Officers from both Surrey County and Woking Borough Council are developing a number of schemes to manage the risk of flooding in those areas affected. Bids for funding from a number of sources, including central government "Flood Defence Grant in Aid" (FDGiA) have been submitted through the Environment Agency.

The FDGiA funded Rive Ditch flood alleviation scheme is led by Surrey County Council in partnership with Woking Borough Council, Thames Water and the Environment Agency (EA). Hydrological modelling is nearing completion which will allow flood alleviation options to be considered.

There are two further schemes where FDGiA funding bids have been submitted:

- Vale Farm Road flood alleviation scheme
- Walton Terrace flood alleviation scheme

Woking Borough Council are currently investigating the use of Rainwater Gardens as a solution in urban areas which would assist to alleviate surface water flooding up to the 3.33% annual exceedance probability event. Officers from the Borough and County will continue to work together to identify and deliver any potential solutions to the flooding issues.

Therefore at the current time officers advise that enough resources have currently been allocated towards the development of practical solutions but additional resources from the authorities may be required further down the line to release funding for scheme construction.

2. Central Government Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) is allocated and prioritised to schemes nationally using the "Partnership Funding" approach. Each scheme will get a proportion of the total cost based on a number of outcomes including number of properties affected. The remainder of the funding would need to be found through contributions from other organisations or third parties. The funding is allocated on the condition that an economically and technically viable scheme is identified. This is the current focus for officers. Going forward support may be required in securing the necessary funding once a scheme is developed.

I will ask for an update to come back to a future meeting and officers will keep Jonathan Lord MP informed of progress on these schemes so that political support can assist in securing local contributions at the relevant time in the future.