

## PUBLIC QUESTIONS & RESPONSES



**SURREY**

**SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN ELMBRIDGE 19 December 2016**

### **AGENDA ITEM 8**

#### **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

##### **1. Question from Mr Ken Huddart, Claygate Parish Council**

The on street parking review covering Claygate is underway. Preliminary consultation was completed in October. Can the Local Committee outline the next steps in the process and whether key stakeholders such as Claygate Parish Council will be further consulted prior to formal recommendations being put to the Local Committee?

##### **Officer's response:**

Thank you for your question.

The next stage in the process is for officers in the parking team to carry out site assessments to assess the suggestions put forward as part of the consultation, and also to consider any requests received directly from members of the public outside of the consultation process.

Our assessments will make a judgement based on a number of factors, including:

- road safety
- accessibility
- congestion
- the possibility of just displacing a problem and
- how many people support the request.

We will draw up proposals where considered necessary / beneficial, and then present these ideas to the parking task group, as well as at a meeting in January 2017 with borough councillors and parish councils (where applicable) to explain the proposals and take on any suggestions for improvements to the proposed schemes.

Having made any forthcoming amendments, we will then prepare a report for the local committee in February, which will consider whether to go ahead and formally advertise the proposals contained therein. It is not possible to include any further schemes within the parking review after the committee date.

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Subject to the committee's approval, the proposals will then be advertised, which will provide another opportunity for public input, by way of objections or comments on the proposed schemes. These comments will be considered prior to a final decision being made about each scheme, which could include cancellation, minor modification, or introduction 'as advertised'.

### **2. Question from Mr Mike Beaty-Pownall**

In July 2014 the residents of Fir Close, W-o-T, made an application for parking control measures to counter an irrefutable threat to safety.

This application was subsequently rejected by the Parking Task Group at a meeting the date of which is unknown as are the reasons for such rejection.

We regularly have to deal with obstructive parking which forces us to drive over our neighbours' driveways (the police have confirmed that this is unacceptable) and with obstructive parking which prevents us from being able to get out of our road. If the residents cannot get in or out of the road then neither can emergency vehicles. In addition, we have to deal with threats of physical violence and verbal abuse (the police are aware that this happens).

Can you please explain why the Parking Task Group rejected this application and give assurance that this will have the highest priority in the forthcoming review for Walton.

#### **Officer's response:**

Thank you for your question.

As per the response given by our Customer Relations department in response to your complaint (reference CO23917), Fir Close was discussed at a Parking Task Group meeting earlier in 2016. The Parking Team's policy is to look at all requests for new or amended parking restrictions within a scheduled parking review programme. This allows us to make most efficient use of our resources, and to effectively manage the assessment, prioritisation, and introduction of new parking controls, on an area by area basis.

Only locations where an irrefutable road safety issue exists is there scope for restrictions to be introduced outside of the parking review process. In this context, an irrefutable serious road safety implication is defined as a site 'where there is evidence of accidents, in relation, in part at least, to parking, either from the council's own database or the police, or a direct request has been made by the emergency services or our road safety team based on their safety concerns'.

Given as there are no accidents recorded for this section of highway, and no concerns have been raised by our internal highway safety team, or indeed by the emergency services, Fir Close does not meet the criteria for consideration ahead of the standard review process, which is why the application was rejected by the task group.

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As mentioned in the response to your complaint, we will give due consideration to your request for new parking controls within Fir Close as part of the Walton on Thames parking review. This is due to begin in April 2017, leading to a report of recommendations currently anticipated to be presented to the local committee for initial approval in June 2017.

We should like to advise you that, in the meantime, the police have the power to issue fixed penalty notices, or even remove vehicles parked in an obstructive manner, without the need for formal parking restrictions.

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