

MEMBER QUESTIONS & RESPONSES
SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN ELMBRIDGE 19 December 2016



AGENDA ITEM 9

MEMBER QUESTION

Questions from Councillor Roy Green

1. PEDESTRIAN CROSSING - MOLESEY ROAD, HERSHAM (CENTRE OF VILLAGE)

Could the officers please look into the safety aspects of this pedestrian crossing? I have received many complaints that pedestrians (on the left hand side facing north) and not been seen due to parked cars on a slight bend and the new street lights are not as bright as previously, therefore the crossing is not as well-lit at night as it should or could be.

Local councillors have been told via planning that Lidl are providing a new pelican crossing in the centre of Hersham, could this please be confirmed and local people kept in the picture as to when and how this will affect the current crossing.

OFFICER'S RESPONSE

The safety concerns at the location were raised by Members, earlier in 2016. Following the reported concerns, the following actions were undertaken:

- SCC's lighting contractor Skanska inspected the site to check the visibility and illumination at the crossing. No additional works were considered necessary.
- SCC's Parking Team visited the site to check the condition of the existing markings. No additional works were considered necessary. It was observed that vehicles were illegally parked on the approaches to the crossing. Elmbridge Borough Council's parking enforcement team was asked whether some additional enforcement could be undertaken. As there is a pay car park nearby, enforcement officers are regularly at the location and provide enforcement as appropriate. Additional enforcement is dependent on prioritisation and resources. The reported visibility issues due to the parked cars to the south of the crossing could be reviewed as part of the next scheduled parking review. It is noted that the existing provision allows short-term parking outside the shops, so any proposed alterations are likely to be met with mixed views.
- Surrey Police's Road Safety and Traffic Management Team were informed and the issues discussed. They were not aware of particular issues at the location but agreed to relay the concerns to local officers for review where practicable.

MEMBER QUESTIONS & RESPONSES

SCC's Road Safety Team has advised of the most recent collision data for the location, as provided by Surrey Police.

In the last three years, there have been five collisions causing injury near the zebra crossing. Of these, two involved pedestrians: one (in November 2015) involved a southbound car on Molesey Road hitting a pedestrian but no further details are available; one (in May 2016) involved a car turning into Thrupps Lane hitting a pedestrian who was crossing the mouth of the junction. Surrey Highways, in partnership with Surrey Police, identify locations with a poor safety record by analysing collision data and trends. Whilst there is no evidence of a pattern of poor behaviour, or a particular issue to be addressed when compared with locations with known problems, the Road Safety Team continue to monitor the network. This allows the small amount of funding for road safety improvements to be allocated to those locations which are known collision hotspots.

The planning application for the Lidl development is available on Elmbridge Borough Council's website, ref. 2015/3474. SCC's Transport Development Planning Team provided feedback as a consultee. The decision notice allows for realignment of the existing zebra crossing, to include beacons and road markings. There is no condition within the decision notice for the developer to provide a pelican, or other signalised, crossing. SCC's Transport Development Planning Team has confirmed that the agreement with the developers is still in progress so the date of works is not yet known.

2. HERSHAM LIBRARY

Could the officers please enlighten me as to what progress is being made to extending Hersham Library as mentioned by the Chairman of this committee in a recent publication?

OFFICER'S RESPONSE

The SCC Property Services have been examining options for Hersham Library building and looking to see if they can, with funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy, meet the community led ambition to provide an adults reading area and toilets for customer use.

One option could be an extension to the east of the building which could, with additional doors, provide access directly onto the garden which would also facilitate summer events and activities. This would be quite a costly scheme that would also disrupt the use of the library while the works were undertaken. A less expensive option, that would also be less disruptive on library operations and for library users while works were carried out, would be to reconfigure the current internal layout to make better use of the current space.

3. FLOODING: BURWOOD PARK ROAD, HERSHAM

Can the officers please look into the drainage problems in Burwood Park Road/Mayfield Road and Woodside Avenue, Hersham as follows:

MEMBER QUESTIONS & RESPONSES

A resident reports that all the gulleys for both sides of the Burwood Park Road stretch are full of debris up to the gratings and do not appear to have been cleaned for two years.

OFFICER'S RESPONSE

For a number of years there have been considerable problems with flooding in Mayfield Road. We believe this to be a result of an intermittent hydraulic overload in the Thames Water Surface water system. When there is prolonged or heavy rainfall the Thames system is unable to accommodate the volume of water. The pressure in the system builds up and displaces the manhole covers in the footway. The water then runs down the carriageway, crosses the road and eventually runs into gardens in Mayfield Road. We have adjusted the connections on our gullies such that they are now attached to separate Thames Water system which is not affected by the overload. These gullies take large amounts of water when the flooding is occurring but cannot catch all of the flow. Both residents and ourselves continue to report incidents to Thames Water, the last report being made on 10th November 2016.

The gullies in Mayfield Road are cleaned annually. The last programmed clean was undertaken on 11th November 2016. No defects in the gullies were reported.

The gullies in Burwood Park Road are cleaned once every 2 years and were last done by our cyclic cleaning contractors on 25th January 2016. The local area team arranged for some extra jetting on 28th July 2016. No defects were reported on either attendance. Woodside Avenue is cleaned every two years; the last cyclic cleaning took place 25th January 2016.

The local area Highway Team inspected all three roads on 14th December 2016 in response to this question being raised at the Local Committee meeting on 19th December 2016. All visible gullies were clear of silt and other debris. Some gullies may not have been available for inspection due to parked cars.

We have contacted Thames Water again in response to this question to and press for a resolution of the flooding problems in the area. Unfortunately Surrey County Council has no authority to instruct Thames Water to maintain, clear, or improve their system.

4. CYCLE PATH, QUEENS ROAD, HERSHAM

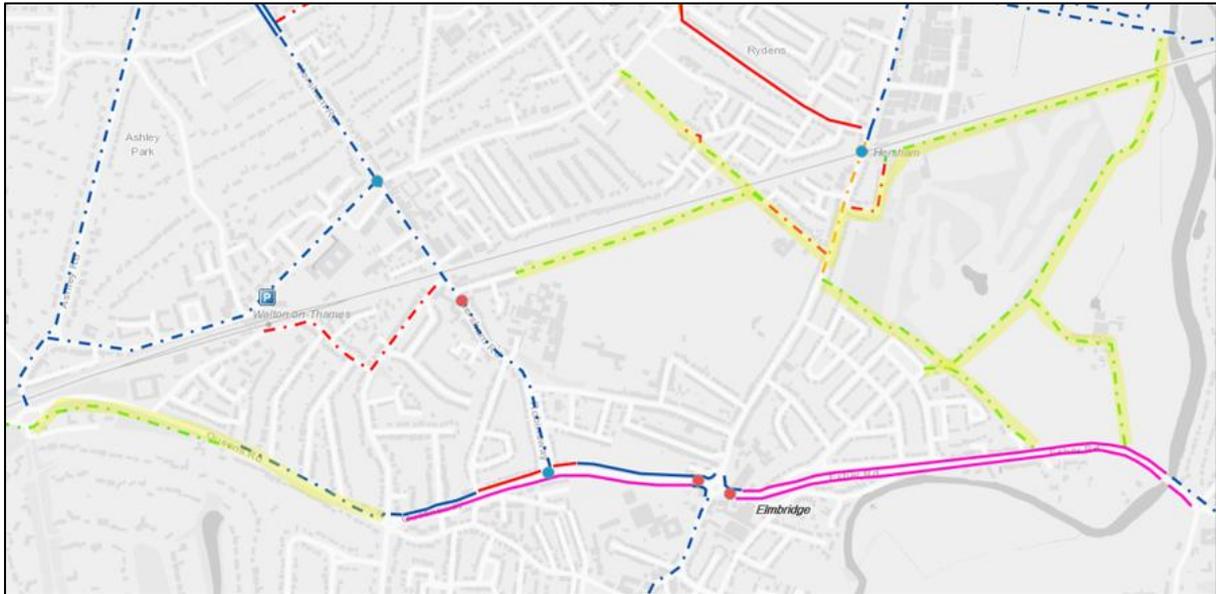
A local resident writing for the Hersham Residents Association has asked me to enquire what action is being taken to provide a cycle path on Queens Road and various other routes through Hersham following their letter to Mr Sharpington on the 27th June, 2016.

OFFICER'S RESPONSE

Extension of suggested routes

MEMBER QUESTIONS & RESPONSES

At its meeting of 27 June 2016, the Local Committee agreed to publishing the cycle plan online, including a map showing existing and suggested routes. One such suggested route on the map is between Queens Road / Ashley road junction and the A245 Byfleet Road. Subsequent to the Committee meeting, Hershams Residents Association requested that the 'suggested routes' on the map be extended to include the **routes highlighted in yellow** on the map below:



At its June meeting, the Committee resolved that “Agree to have an ongoing community engagement for the Plan, facilitated through the online resource, to be regularly reported back to the Local Committee via the task group”.

Therefore, the proposed extensions to the suggested route network were presented to the Cycling Task Group meeting on 3rd November 2016. The Cycling Task Group decided not add the proposals to the infrastructure plan at this time.

The routes suggested by the Hershams Residents' Association may form part of the Elmbridge Cycle Network at some stage in the future. However for each suggestion, the Cycling Task Group must take into account both the priority and the deliverability of suggested routes. Not every suggested route is added to the aspirational cycle network plan, so that residents are not given a false expectation that routes will be delivered when they are either low priorities, or difficult to deliver, or both. At the present time the Cycle Task Group has decided to prioritise routes linking Brooklands / Weybridge / Walton, recognising that it would not be feasible to deliver a cycle network across the whole Borough all at once. This means that suggested routes outside this area will be lower priorities.

Extension of existing cycle track on Queen's Road

A further suggestion received from the Hershams RA was to extend the current cycle track that runs from Beech Close on the north side of Queensway that finishes before it reaches West Grove. This suggestion is on the list of “Potential allocations of Local Committee

MEMBER QUESTIONS & RESPONSES

Cycling Fund” being presented to committee on 19th December 2016 but it is not being recommended as a priority scheme at this time.

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