

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)



DATE: 01 MARCH 2017
LEAD OFFICER: SARAH J SMITH, COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AND COMMITTEE OFFICER
SUBJECT: QUESTIONS FROM LOCAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DIVISION: ALL

Questions from Mr Stephen Cooksey (Dorking South and the Holmwoods)

1. Dene Street

The trial one-way scheme for Dene Street, Dorking, has now been in place for almost 6 months and it is surprising that no final recommendations have come forward for the 1st March Committee to consider. Would the appropriate officers please indicate why it has taken so long to produce the feasibility report relating to cycles and mobility scooters, when this report is expected, what is the process for making a final decision, what the final cost of the scheme is likely to be, how much of this is not covered by present allocations and whether any additional funding required to complete the scheme can be allocated from developer funds?

Response:

Following the installation of the trial one-way working in Dene Street on 21st April 2016, consultation was carried out with residents and businesses in June 2016 to ask them whether or not they wanted the one-way system to remain in place. Traffic surveys were also carried out before and after the one-way system was installed in order to have a clear understanding of the affect that the trial one-way working had on traffic movements and speeds in the area.

The results of the questionnaires and traffic surveys were presented to the Local Committee in September 2016, and recommendations were made to make the one-way system permanent. However, a member of the public raised concerns at the Local Committee, that there were no contra-flow facilities on the one-way system for mobility scooter users and cyclists. Therefore Local Committee resolved that a feasibility report should be produced to look at the possibility of providing such contra-flow facilities before a decision was made on making the one-way permanent. It was made clear by officers at the Local Committee that funding was available in this financial year to make the trial one-way working permanent and that allocating this funding to a feasibility report would mean that funding may not be available for this in the 2017/18 financial year.

The design team have been commissioned to produce a feasibility report and this report including costs for installing contra-flow facilities will be complete by the end of March. The outcome of the feasibility report will be presented at the June meeting of the Local Committee.

There is currently £10,000 allocated within the Integrated Transport Scheme list for the 2017/18 financial year for the one-way system to be made permanent. However this is subject to change as the budget for the 2017/18 financial year has not yet been confirmed. There is currently no funding available from developer contributions.

2. Punchbowl Lane

What arrangements are being made to conduct a survey to define the success of the measures introduced earlier in this financial year to encourage speed reduction in Punchbowl Lane, Dorking?

Response:

A speed survey is to be carried out in July/August 2017 in order to assess the effectiveness of the lining/signing works that were carried out in Punchbowl Lane.

3. Blackbrook Road

In September 2016, almost 6 months ago, it was agreed to undertake design work on measures to reduce speeds on Blackbrook Road. When will the design work be completed and when is implementation scheduled to begin?

Response:

Funding has been allocated in this current financial year for feasibility design to be carried out on a scheme to reduce vehicle speeds on Blackbrook Road. The feasibility design will be completed before the end of March 2017, and £10,000 is currently allocated within the Integrated Transport Scheme list for the 2017/18 financial year for works to construct the scheme. However this is subject to change as the budget for the 2017/18 financial year has not yet been confirmed.

4. Spook Hill – Beare Green cycle path

Can a detailed list of the spending allocated to the various phases associated with the establishment of the Spook Hill to Beare Green cycle path be provided for the years that the project has been ongoing together with a projected list for future spending on the project?

Response:

Financial Year	Budget (£)	Spend (£)
2013/14	20,000	25,177.10
2014/15	20,000	24,812
2015/16	20,000	4,094.56
2016/17	20,000	7,979.78

There is £20,000 currently allocated within the Integrated Transport Scheme list for the 2017/18 financial year phase 5 of this scheme, however this is subject to change as the budget for the 2017/18 financial year has not yet been confirmed.

5. Grit bins

Provision was made and funding approved in 2015 and again in 2016 for 2 grit bins to be installed at agreed locations in my Division but despite consistent reminders these have not been installed. Could I be informed why this has not happened?

Response:

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The Maintenance Engineer apologises that this work has not been carried out to date but will endeavour to have them installed as soon as staff resource allows.

Questions from Mrs Hazel Watson (Dorking Hills)

1. A25 Footpath between Westcott and Abinger Hammer

The issues with the grass cutting on either side of the footpath alongside the A25 from Westcott to Abinger Hammer over the last two years has been well documented, not least in answers to questions provided to the Local Committee.

Can the amended instructions that have been given to the contractors for 2017 be provided to the Local Committee and can confirmation be given as to whether these amended instructions are contractual or simply informative? Furthermore, can the schedule for cutting the grass on either side of the pavement please be provided?

Response:

Mole Valley District Council is responsible for the grass cutting. Information regarding the schedule of grass cutting will be provided to Surrey County Council and Mole Valley District Council Members, Parishes and Residents Associations when finalised

2. Highway Amenity Areas

In recent years many amenity areas by the side of roads have been tidied through the use of Community Enhancement and Localism funding, including the area between Chapel Lane and the footpath in Westhumble, the area behind the car parking area on the A24 in Mickleham (near the Frascati), the end of Leslie Road backing onto Betchworth Place, the bushes in the grass area near the Post Box in Pixham Lane, the two roundabouts in Fairfield Drive, the area on the corner of North Street and Church Street in Dorking, and the land on the corner of Broomfield Park and Guildford Road, Westcott opposite The Lodge.

Which Council is responsible for these areas under the grass cutting / grounds maintenance contracts that are currently in place and what work is scheduled for these areas in 2017 to keep them tidy and for the new growth to be cut back so as not to waste the investment that has been made in improving these areas in recent years?

Response:

The areas in question form part of the public highway and the vegetation falls to the highway authority (Surrey County Council) to maintain. The areas mentioned do not form a part of any formal contract or on-going maintenance schedule. Works instructions are therefore raised on a reactive basis to deal with any Highway safety issues along with many other similar highway verge areas. Sites are prioritised to deal with the safety issues such as overhanging vegetation, obstructed sight lines or other obstructions rather than for aesthetic reasons alone. General vegetation maintenance throughout the district is a considerable task, particularly during the growing season and there is unfortunately only a limited revenue budget available to deal with these issues. To improve the level of service to include non-priority (not

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safety issue) areas on a regular basis would require a significant increase in revenue budget to accommodate the additional work involved.

Members will be able to use Community Enhancement and Localism funding for tidying amenity areas as in previous years, subject to funding being available

3. Pavement Horizon

The pavement on the south side of Ashcombe Road from Chalkpit Lane to the Ashcombe School is listed in the Project Pavement Horizon Plan for resurfacing before 31 March 2017. This work is badly needed as the number and depth of puddles that form in wet weather mean that children are forced to walk in the road – the A2003, an “A” road – on their way to and from school.

Can an update please be given on this work and can it be reconfirmed that the planned and promised work will be completed before 31 March 2017?

Response:

Ashcombe Road has been prioritised as a needs based maintenance scheme and is included in the Pavement Horizon project for reconstruction.

It was intended to design & build within the 2016/17 financial year but there is a requirement within the design phase to consult with stakeholders over the verge maintenance proposals to remove puddles. As soon as this has been concluded then the construction phase will be programmed to commence as early as possible in the 2017/18 financial year.