



**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL
LOCAL COMMITTEE IN EPSOM & EWELL
6 March 2017**

MEMBER QUESTIONS

**Question 1: Cllr Jan Mason
Re: Banstead Road Pavement Resurfacing**

Since August 2016, I have watched in horror at the Banstead Road pavements being resurfaced. Today work was still going on some five months after this start date. During this time drivers have been subjected to holdups due to temporary traffic lights, today 10th January work is still going on and at 3pm traffic from A24, the Cheam Road and Banstead road was at a standstill with three way lights in operation.

Who decides which pavements are chosen? I was under impression that pavements close to schools, shopping Centres, railway stations, hospitals and highly populated area would be chosen. However in the case of Banstead Road and now Cheam Road there is no school or shopping parade. There are only 26 houses in Banstead Road and I have seen very few people using the road. With money and budgets tight it seems nonsensical to spend it on roads little used by pedestrians, when there are roads with poor pavements like Ruxley Lane (where there is heavy footfall due to Epsom and Ewell High School and West Ewell Infants) and Hollymoor Lane close to Blenheim School and the Longmead Centre. Can you please confirm that when making decisions you liaise with the members who do have knowledge of what is needed in their Division and ensure monies will be wisely spent?

Officer Response:

With regards to Banstead Road, this scheme was prioritised primarily due to poor condition scores. As you are aware the pavement programme is significantly larger than we had originally envisaged and as part of the larger programme we have been asked to prioritise town and village centres and areas around schools, health centres etc. A number of schemes had already been designed and resource identified prior to the instruction re: town and village centres etc. and therefore John Furey, the Cabinet member responsible, agreed that a small number of schemes, which did not meet that criteria, would still go ahead to avoid breaks in the programme and consequent costs. Banstead Road is one of those schemes from the original programme that was already designed and had resource allocated, hence why it went ahead. Due to various issues it has taken longer than envisaged and these issues will form part of the lessons learnt when we review the programme.

There are no pavement works being undertaken in Cheam Road, however traffic management on Cheam Road was required to complete the works on Banstead Road to ensure the safety of the work force and pedestrians.

Question 2: Cllrs Jan Mason, Eber Kington and John Beckett
Re: Part-night lighting

The introduction of part-night street lighting has caused concern amongst residents in regard to the potential for an increase in anti-social behaviour and night crime. In addition there is a belief that switching off street lights at midnight fails to take account of the concerns of commuters and late night travellers who use public transport, including trains, and who now face a walk home along unlit residential streets after 12.00am.

Will SCC agree to adopt a revised part-night schedule of 1am to 5am to address this specific issue?

Officer response:

As a result of the need to make significant savings in the Council's budget, the Cabinet has taken the decision to implement part night lighting in residential areas to contribute to this. The timings (from midnight to 0500) not only reflect the reduced vehicle and pedestrian traffic on the Council's roads during this time but also policies in place or being introduced elsewhere in the UK.

Any decision to change this either to exclude a specific group of lights or to start later will inevitably reduce the amount of savings and require even greater savings to be made elsewhere in the Council's budget. For example, amending the policy to commence switch off at 0100 would reduce the expected savings by around £40000-50000 per year across the County. There are 3641 lights included in the part night lighting programme of a total of 6784 street lights in Epsom and Ewell, which would equate to a loss of saving of approximately £5578 for this Borough. However, it is unlikely that any change in timings would be applied to one area in isolation.

Where trains or buses arrive close to or later than midnight or before 0500, lights that would otherwise be switched off in the near vicinity will be left on later or turned off earlier to accommodate this. Generally speaking, in the case of trains, this will provide a route from the station to a primary traffic route which will remain lit all night. However beyond that, it is impossible to accommodate all roads to allow for possible journeys that might be made on foot or by car from the station to the ultimate destination without amending the overall policy and impacting on the planned savings as described above.

In regards to the concerns raised relating to anti-social behaviour and crime, these are addressed at length of both the Cabinet report and the Council's supporting web pages. <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/road-maintenance-and-cleaning/street-lights-traffic-signals-and-signs/part-night-street-lighting>