

PETITION RESPONSE – QUEENS ROAD

ITEM 6

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)

DATE: 27 February 2017

SUBJECT: PETITION – QUEENS ROAD HERSHAM

DIVISION: HERSHAM



PETITION DETAILS:

Petition to: Resurface Queens Road, Hersham, KT12

We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to resurface – Queens Road, Hersham, from Westcar Lane roundabout to Roundabout o/s Watermans Arms - KT12

Additional information

The road surface along Queens Road, Hersham, a major and very busy 'artery' to the village with no fewer than 9 other roads feeding into it along a 750m stretch, is in a deplorable state. The surface is extremely pot-holed, made worse and more hazardous by a crisscross maze of inadequate patch-ups over the years by utility companies, and therefore makes the road dangerous for both motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.

Surrey County Council engineers have recognized and acknowledged its poor condition and agree that this should be rectified. We contend that the time for action is now and so respectfully request the Council to approve the full resurfacing of the road.

OFFICER COMMENT:

Surrey County Council has four main strands to its strategy for road maintenance:

1) Safety Defect repairs. We inspect all roads on a regular schedule, and arrange repairs for Safety Defects as defined by our "Safety Defect Matrix". There is more information on our highway inspection standards and procedures on our website here: <http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads-and-transport-policies-plans-and-consultations/roads-and-transport-policies-and-plans/highway-safety-inspections-standards-and-procedures>

Basically any defect less than 40mm deep is not considered to be a Safety Defect, regardless of the area of the defect.

However we are not saying that a road is in good condition just because it has no Safety Defects – only that we do not consider it to be unsafe. A road may be in terrible condition, with extensive crazing and lesser defects, but still be considered safe. We would agree with the petitioners that the subject section of Queens Road

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is in poor condition.

2) Major resurfacing programmes. At the present time we are in the fourth year of a year programme of major carriageway maintenance, called Operation Horizon.

Details of this programme can be found on our website here:

<http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highways-information-online/horizon-highway-maintenance-investment-programme>

Roads are chosen for our major resurfacing programmes based on their condition, and their importance in the network hierarchy, and also as a result of public consultation in the build up to the project. The total programme value is estimated to be approximately £100,000,000, and we anticipate that 10% of Surrey's roads (by length) will be treated under this programme.

While this is good news for those roads in the programme, it is bad news for roads like Queens Road, which are in poor condition, but are not on the Operation Horizon programme. Operation Horizon is due to finish in March 2017. Although it has not been published yet, I can confirm that the subject section of Queens Road does not feature in the provisional subsequent major resurfacing programme.

3) Preventative treatments. Every year we undertake a preventative maintenance programme, which typically involves surface dressing existing surfaces, to seal the surface, and extend its life before the surface begins to deteriorate rapidly. There is more information on our preventative programmes on our website here:

<http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/road-maintenance-and-cleaning/maintaining-our-roads-and-pavements/resurfacing-our-roads>

4) Local Committee programmes. Surrey County Council has formed Local Committees for each Borough and District area within Surrey, and delegated to these Committees budgets for Highways works. Each Local Committee is made up of all the County Councillors for the respective Borough and District, together with an equal number of Borough Councillors. This Committee is free to prioritise its Highways budgets according to local priorities. The Local Committee always has more demands on its budgets than it can possibly afford, and so the Councillors are obliged to prioritise.

The subject section of Queens Road is approximately 5,000m square metres in area. The cost of resurfacing the subject section of Queens Road would be in the range £150,000 to £200,000, subject to the required design specification. This would be a substantial proportion of the annual highways budgets that the Local Committee has been delegated over recent years. Committee should note that in the context of the Council's current financial situation, the Local Committees' budgets for next Financial Year have not yet been confirmed.

Subject to confirmation of the Local Committees' Highways budgets for next Financial Year 2017-18, the Local Committee may in theory be able to afford to

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resurface the subject section of Queens Road. However if Committee were to do this, it would mean that the lion's share of the budget would be spent in a single Division. The Local Committee planned for the coming Financial Year 2017-18 on the assumption of budgets totalling approximately £499,000, and in October 2016 allocated £150,000 for day to day Highway maintenance, £40,000 for Street Smart, and approximately £309,000 for Divisional Members to prioritise for schemes in their Divisions in consultation with Ward Members. If £200,000 were to be allocated for the resurfacing of the subject section of Queens Road, this would leave £109,000 to divide between the other eight Divisions (approximately £13,600) per Division, which would leave Committee unable to deliver the schemes prioritised by Divisional Members. In the current financial context there is no guarantee that the Local Committee's Highways budget for 2017-18 will be as much as £499,000.

RECOMMENDATION

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Contact Officer:

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