

Agenda item 5



LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)

PUBLIC QUESTION & RESPONSE 3

DATE: 24 March 2017

A question has been submitted by Ms Jo McGrory

I write regarding traffic and safety in Farnham. There was recently an accident at the bottom of Sumner Road going onto Dogflud Way (towards the swimming pool). A child has reportedly been knocked down. It was only a matter of time. I walk everywhere in town with my three young children. There are several crossings in town that I find it is impossible to cross safely. The corners are blind, the cars are going too fast and it is very slow to cross with children and pushchairs.

They are:

1. The crossing across Dogflud Way towards the swimming pool.
2. The crossing from Gostrey Meadow to central car park.
3. The crossing from Fat Face to Argos.
4. The crossing from Hoops Velo into town (again Dogflud Way).
5. The crossing from Gostrey Meadow to the Maltings near the William Cobbett pub.
6. The crossing at Hinckley's corner

These are clearly indicated crossings but without the supported infrastructure to make them safe. They need traffic lights, pelican crossings, barriers, lower speed limits or other traffic calming methods.

My question to the Local Committee is: **Can the Local Committee review and improve these crossings and advise if and when Farnham may become a 20 mile zone town like Alton and Godalming?**

All requests for highway improvements are discussed and prioritised by the Farnham Task Group. This is one of the 4 groups established by the Local Committee to specifically consider highway improvements in their respective areas. The task group normally meets in the autumn to look at the following financial year's programme of highway works. In this case, we would be looking at 2017/18.

Pelican crossings can cost £150,000 each so their use is generally limited to areas of high pedestrian usage and where there has been incidences of pedestrian casualties' over a number of years. In this instance we can add the requests to the Farnham Task Group for discussion later in the year but the likelihood of success will depend on available budget.

A change in speed limit could also be considered at this time however, it is felt that this is unlikely to have an effect based on the current congestion which by its nature impedes the speed at which vehicles can travel through the town centre.

It is also worth considering that officers from the Transport Studies Team are currently looking at a proposal to pedestrianise the town centre which will contribute to the overall safety of visitors in the long term should this be implemented. A 20 mph speed limit could be incorporated as a result of this.

Surrey's current policy on setting speed limits is available on the website. The Committee Officer would be happy to supply a link on request.