



LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)

PUBLIC QUESTION & RESPONSE 2

DATE: 23 June 2017

A question has been received from Malcolm Carter, Mayor of Haslemere Town Council.

Haslemere continues to suffer from the lack of emergency planning by Highways England with regards to the closure of Hindhead Tunnel.

My question to the Committee is this:

Please will Surrey County Council consider taking this matter to the Secretary of State?

Surrey County Council's Highways team, Surrey Police, Thursley Parish Council, Haslemere Town Council and David Harmer (Surrey County Council, divisional member) have actively engaged with Highways England to try and improve the situation of planned and unplanned tunnel closures which causes disruption mainly to Thursley and Bowlhead Green villages. A list of proposed sign upgrades has been discussed along with traffic management improvements, to prevent HGVs entering the villages. The work is costly and is being phased in by Highways England over a number of years when funding is made available.

Although the area around the tunnel is the most regularly impacted by the closures, other areas of Waverley can be affected as vehicles seek to find alternative routes. Therefore the Local Committee may consider playing a role in monitoring Highways England's activities and holding them to account. The local MP has also been apprised of the situation and in addition, the committee may wish to consider escalating this to the Secretary of State via the council's Cabinet Member for Highways.