



**LOCAL COMMITTEE
(WOKING)**

WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS

5 DECEMBER 2012

1. Question from Mr Cuckow

The road surface in Dean Close is in a dreadful state and needs to have some attention as soon as possible. Please advise when Dean Close is due to be resurfaced.

Answer from Chairman on behalf of the committee:

Dean Close has been identified for repair by the local Highways team, and was proposed to form part of the secondary Localised Structural Repair (LSR) programme this financial year, in the event of there being an underspend on the capital ITS budget.

As an underspend is now unlikely, this location has also been nominated for inclusion in the five year capital maintenance resurfacing programme. As this programme is in the process of being drawn up, information about when the resurfacing might take place is not presently available.

The Maintenance Engineer for Woking, Chris Higgs, has inspected Dean Close, and noted that the first 75m of the surface is in a poor state, but that there are presently no safety defects. Chris will continue to monitor the condition of Dean Close, and will continue to address any safety defects that do arise, to ensure that the road is kept in a safe condition prior to any surfacing work taking place.

2. Question from Mr Stubbs

At the June meeting of the SCC Local Committee (WOKING) it was stated that SCC were looking for suitable site for a new school in the Knaphill/Brookwood area.

On 23 November we were notified by WBC that land had been allocated on Brookwood Farm for a new school.

Given the above information I would like to know:

- 1) What kind of school is being planned, an LEA Primary School, an Academy or a 'Free School'?
- 2) If the LEA are to finance the new school have funds been set aside for the project?
- 3) What is the age range of the children the proposed school will take?
- 4) What is the timescale for submitting an application for planning permission and target date to commence building?

Answer from Chairman on behalf of the committee:

1) The Local Authority is proposing to expand Brookwood Primary School (Community School) from a one form entry school (capacity of 210) pupils to a two form entry school (capacity of 420 pupils) split on two sites and linked to the Brookwood Farm Housing Development. Under the current plans, the existing Brookwood Primary School site on Connaught Road would become the infant base (Reception to Year 2 (ages 4-6), with capacity for 180 pupils) plus the Sure Start Children's Centre. A brand new building would go on the Brookwood Farm site as the junior base for the school (Years 3 to 6 (ages 7-11), with capacity for 240 pupils). Assuming the housing development takes place and properties are completed in a timely fashion, the new school building is planned to be operational from September 2014.

2) There is no agreement at this stage on how the school will be funded, however the Local Authority (SCC) will seek developer contributions to support the funding of the new school site. Any other costs would have to be met from the basic need capital programme managed by Surrey County Council.

3) See answer above

4) An outline planning application will be submitted by the end of this week. Pending the outcome of this, a full planning application will be submitted next year. We will not be able to give a start date for some time as it will depend on

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the process of obtaining detailed planning permission and funding decisions. The target date for school opening is the key one.

3. Question from Cllr Barker

I asked a question about flooding at the last Local Committee but don't believe the matter was fully addressed. Improvement has been seen on Arthur's Bridge Road because I believe this was a drain clearance issue but in the last couple of months I have noticed that there are several roads which have been resurfaced or re-laid as part of road improvements in recent years that now have large puddles when it rains heavily. Locations are:

- the lower part of Church Hill where the pavement was widened and dropped kerbs added several years ago
- the junction of Brewery Road with the Arthur's Bridge Road roundabout which was created in the last few years
- Brewery Road outside the entrance to the WWF building site (this has improved a little I think from drain clearance) but there is still a large puddle. This part of Brewery Road was resurfaced earlier this year and the problem has been there since that time
- the pedestrian crossings over Chobham Road and then Victoria Way into Woking town centre
- the pedestrian crossing over Victoria Way by the Lightbox into Woking Town Centre

Would you agree that there does appear to be a problem when Surrey Highways contractors resurface or create new road structures?

What will be done to remove this puddling in the short term?

What can change in future so that these problems do not continue?

Answer from Chairman on behalf of the committee:

It is not the case that resurfacing work, or making amendments to the highways network, generally causes drainage problems. The opposite is usually the case.

During the design and implementation of major maintenance schemes on the highway, the site will be inspected, and if there are any existing drainage problems, an effort is made to address these as part of the resurfacing work, both by making minor adjustments to the profile of the new surface, and also by making minor or significant improvements to the drainage system. Where schemes on the highway involve changes to kerblines, or the introduction of features such as dropped crossings, the design process takes levels into account to ensure effective drainage.

It is not possible or practical to ensure that there is never any ponding on the public highway, and it is evident that after heavy rain, ponding will occur. What is critical is the scale of ponding, and the length of time water remains on the public highway for. Resources are prioritised towards those instances

of ponding that affect public safety, or the ability to reasonably enjoy the use of the highway.

To ensure that problems of this nature do not continue, it is important that instances of concern are reported to Surrey Highways as soon as possible through the existing reporting systems (including the Surrey website), so that individual sites can be assessed by local Highways staff and appropriate action taken.

4. Question from Mrs Marshall

"GARIBALDI LAND, PART OF BISLEY COMMON

What is the position regarding the Garibaldi land? A BT post was erected near the Limecroft Road track entrance which I understood the Council objected to. A BT/Openreach fibre optic box was installed just before the entrance to the field.

- a) Has a wayleave been negotiated for these, and if not, why not?
- b) Why have these been allowed when the engineers who designed the Garibaldi crossroads traffic lights were unable to put their control box on the land?
- c) What is to stop BT/ Openreach operatives putting their van on the area and causing damage there?

There are other wayleaves covering this piece of land.

The track has been widened and the bunds decreased in height, cars for sale park in the Limecroft Road end and there are numerous vehicles parked on the other end of the track which has no drainage as it slopes away from the ditch, so it is impossible to walk on the track in bad weather. Why is there no supervision on the area?"

Answer from Chairman on behalf of the committee:

Officers are not aware of any agreement with BT, but are investigating and will provide a written response to Mrs Marshall, copied to the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Local member following the meeting.