



**Surrey Heath Local Area Committee**  
**13 July 2017**

**Annex B**  
**Written Public Questions & Responses – 4 received**

**Q1. Written question from Paul Chapman, local resident re Members Allocations**

I read recently that the County Council has changed the rules relating to what Members' Allocations can be spent on, limiting the sorts of schemes that might benefit from this money.

*Can the committee please confirm what has changed, what sorts of things that were previously acceptable are now forbidden and explain what the Council hope to gain by this change?*

**A1. Response from Chairman on behalf of the Committee:**

There have been some changes made this financial year, the most significant being the amount of money each councillor has to spend in their local area. Due to the enormous financial challenges faced by Surrey Council this figure has been reduced from £10,395 to £6,000 for 2017/18.

Members' Allocation (MA) funding must prioritise projects that help achieve the county council's three corporate goals:

- Wellbeing – Everyone in Surrey has a great start to life and can live and age well
- Economic Prosperity – Surrey's economy remains strong and sustainable
- Resident Experience – Residents in Surrey experience public services that are easy to use, responsive and value for money.

The other changes made are as follows:

- We can no longer accept application for street lighting, grit bins or highways schemes including speed limit assessments.
- No retrospective bids will be accepted. In previous years there was scope for slight flexibility here if the Community Partnerships Leader was made aware of the project ahead of the project being completed and the bid being received. This is no longer the case.
- Any group who have received funding for a project will need to demonstrate that they have fully spent the money previously received prior to any new application being approved.
- County-wide bids can no longer be contributed to, with the exception of the Looked After Children's Bursary Fund.
- Local authorities and other statutory bodies can no longer apply for funding to deliver core services or functions

The intention of these changes is to ensure that the use of this public money is fully accountable and maximises the positive impact in each local area.

There will be Members' Allocation Fund leaflets available at the meeting.

**Q2. Written question from Graham O'Connell, Frimley Green resident re traffic lights**

Frimley Green residents presented their e-petition about proposed traffic lights to this committee on 10th Dec 2015. Following several meetings we were advised to submit a formal request for a review. This was submitted on 13th Sept 2016. Ten months on we have not had any form of substantive reply and we have still not even managed to meet with representatives from the two councils to discuss this despite efforts from local councillors. Meanwhile the developer has been working up detailed plans which may be submitted for approval any time soon. Residents are understandably concerned that work on the traffic lights may go ahead without the issues they have raised even being discussed. Consequently we are calling for SCC Highways to suspend any approval of plans or any other actions that might progress the implementation of traffic lights.

*Does the committee agree that the delays in responding to the concerns of residents regarding Frimley Green traffic lights is unacceptable and will they ensure that SCC Highways will not approve any plans for traffic lights in Frimley Green unless and until there has been a full and proper review?*

**A2. Response from Chairman on behalf of the Committee:**

Frimley Green residents submitted a petition to the Surrey Heath Local Committee on 10 December 2015 requesting that the proposed traffic light installation at the junctions of Wharf Road and Frimley Green Road and Guildford Road and Sturt Road with Frimley Green Road, be deferred until after the completion of the Deepcut Development is complete. The petition was accompanied by a supporting note setting out in more depth the concerns of residents. A response to the residents' petition was presented to the Local Area Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

The Committee agreed that a separate meeting would be convened between the County Council, the Borough Council, representatives for the Developer and the authors of the petition to discuss and understand residents' concerns. That meeting took place on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2016 and whilst productive, a subsequent meeting was requested by residents to include the Defence Infrastructure Organisation. That meeting took place in September 2016. The resolution of that meeting concluded that residents would write formally to both Surrey Heath Borough Council and the Defence Infrastructure Organisation, expressing their concerns.

A subsequent meeting was arranged by Borough Councillor Max Nelson to take place on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2017 to include all parties and Michael Gove MP. The meeting was cancelled at short notice due to purdah on the run up to the General Election. County Councillor Paul Deach is currently looking to reconvene the meeting for which a date remains to be set.

Officers have been available to attend all meetings to date and subject to prior commitments, will continue to make themselves available for any further meetings sought. Preliminary discussions have been held with the developer and their consultants regarding the detailed design of the junction in advance of a S278 Agreement submission over the coming months. This detailed design will accurately identify the impact upon the common land enabling Surrey Heath Borough Council to process a Commons Land application.

It would be unlawful for the County Council to unreasonably withhold or delay the approval of any technical drawings which would in turn prevent the developer from being able to fulfil its planning obligations.

**Q3. Written question from Trefor Hogg, local resident re Old Dean**

As several of the Local Committee members will know, several of the roads in Old Dean are in a very poor state of repair. A major contributor to the need for repairs is the impact the Stagecoach buses are having. The roads in Old Dean were clearly not built to take twenty tons of vehicle (18 tons ULW + fuel + a few passengers) travelling over them around 90 times per day. While the buses are a vital community resource, they are causing damage that results in an increased need for maintenance against a background of very limited resources.

*Can the Local Committee please ensure that action is taken to work with Stagecoach and take any other steps they can, to both reduce the level of damage and improve the level of maintenance?*

**A3. Response from Chairman on behalf of the Committee:**

The Old Dean bus service is part of the prime strategic “Gold Route 1 corridor” from Old Dean, through Camberley, Frimley and Farnborough to Aldershot. It is the most heavily-used service in the Blackwater Valley area and contributes much to reducing local car usage, enabling many residents to access work, education, medical appointments and other key services by public transport. It is operated by Stagecoach on a wholly-commercial basis. As such, the type of vehicle (in the absence of any restrictions along the route) and the service frequency are set by Stagecoach. Indeed, the company has invested in high quality new double deck buses with the latest low emission standards, to improve air quality and to enhance journey experience, as the previous single deck vehicles were no longer able to cope with passenger demand at various times of the day along much of the route. The route itself gives Old Dean residents attractive public transport travel options to reach key destinations without having to change buses in Camberley. To include Old Dean within route 1 is the most cost-effective way for Stagecoach to provide the estate with a bus service.

Turning to the highway, all roads within the Surrey highway network are regularly inspected by a team of qualified inspectors to help keep them in a safe condition. The County Council’s highway safety inspection procedure sets out the frequency of inspection (which is based on the nature of the road), standards and response times for repairs. When defects (including potholes) meeting the intervention criteria are identified through these inspections, an order is placed and repairs are carried out within the prescribed timescale depending on the severity of the defect. Where reports are received of defects developing between inspections then these are inspected and repairs ordered where appropriate.

More significant road maintenance works (resurfacing schemes) are prioritised using a number of criteria including traffic volumes, types of usage, condition of the roads (determined from inspections, surveys and known defects), customer complaints and insurance claims. All schemes are held on rolling programmes and an annual priority list is created from this. This rating system ensures that the available funding is used on the roads and pavements that are in greatest need of treatment in a fair and consistent manner across the county.

**Q4. Written question from Murray Rowlands, local resident re Adult Education**

*Could the Local Committee welcome moves by Surrey Adult Learning to begin offering training and apprenticeship courses at France Hill Adult Education Centre for the first time in many years and look for ways in which both the Borough and County Council might support and promote these courses?*

**A4. Response from Chairman on behalf of the Committee:**

From September, France Hill Adult Education Centre will be offering a range of apprenticeship courses in areas such as business skills, customer care and teaching assistance. Working with Camberley Job Club, an English as a Second Language Course will be available to students seeking English support who miss enrolment at the start of each term. A course in basic IT skills will be offered for anyone receiving benefits for only £5 and following the renovation of the Adult Learning Institute's kitchen cookery courses for those on benefits will be available for the same fee. Discussions are taking place about possible teaching and education courses for anyone contemplating working in the care services. The possibility of using any spare capacity at Collingwood College workshops is also being explored for the teaching of craft skills. It is hoped that this modest beginning will usher in a whole range of training courses in Surrey Heath to commence with 40,000 leaflets to be distributed throughout the Borough.

Councillors cannot use Members Allocations to support an SCC service, but SCC / SHBC and partners can help with publicity via Social Media accounts.