

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

DATE: 25 September 2015

SUBJECT: Public Question

DIVISION: GODSTONE



Questioner asks:

The Godstone estate area encompassing Ockleys Mead and surround is home to a lot of young families with children ranging from 0 to 17 years. There is currently no suitable play area in the vicinity, accessing the playground on Godstone Green involves a walk along the busy A25.

Surrey County council sold off some lockup garages from a lot of 15 situated at the bottom of Evelyn Gardens opposite the Oakleigh Care Home. I purchased 3 of them over 2 years ago. Since acquiring them I've had problems arising from the local children and teens having nowhere to play and therefore using the forecourt as a football pitch or playground whenever they feel like it; in wet weather the balls are kicked against the doors leaving them battered and stained with grit marks and paint damage. Other issues are the drains and the general upkeep of the area; it looks dilapidated. Some of these garages have had their doors opened attracting fly tippers with van loads of rubbish to deposit and only to be cleared by Tandridge council when called. That has now stopped. When it rains the water cannot escape through the drains - see photos.



Please could you advise me who is responsible for clearing the drains and ensuring that the communal areas still owned by SCC are maintained in good condition – something that will help discourage vandalism?

Please will you advise me of what provisions can be made for the children and teens on the estate to enjoy their physically active games in a safe environment?

Response:

Drains and Maintenance:

Surrey County Council owns the forecourt and as such is responsible for the repair. Costs can be recharged to the garage owners/ residents.

The council is not under any obligation to repair any of the garages other than two which it owns. Whilst the doors of the garages owned by the council are old, they are currently secure and as such there are no plans to replace these.

Evelyn Gardens is on a grounds maintenance contract with periodic inspections and works being undertaken to prevent weed growth and to litter pick. The Area Facilities Officer Paul McIntyre also inspects the area periodically and would arrange for repairs within the council's responsibility, if required from time to time. There is no obligation for the council to provide lighting to the garages or carry out other improvements.

An order was placed by the helpdesk to clear the drains shown in the photographs and a contractor attended on 5 September between 3-4 pm.

We have attended in the past to clear drains. To date we have not charged any of the garage owners for this service.

Safe area to play:

Surrey County Council has an internal commissioned service for Community Youth Work which started on the 1 April 2015. The service delivers targeted provision for local young people in specific areas of Tandridge. With regards to Ockleys Mead and the concerns you have raised, the Senior Practitioner has confirmed he is aware of the local issues and is meeting with residents and young people next week. This will include closely liaising with the new Local Prevention provider (Neighbourhood) YMCA East Surrey, who started their contract on the 1st September 2015 to try and move forward in this matter.

Contact Officers:

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