

**SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN ELMBRIDGE – 5 March 2018****AGENDA ITEM 04****WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS****Question 1: Heidi Tolchard**

I have raised concerns to the council about the street safety outside Hurst Park School in West Molesey but unfortunately my request has been turned down due to funding issues.

As the pavement outside the school runs right next to the busy, dangerous road I asked if a barrier could be put up for the safety of the very young children walking on the pavement. In addition I asked for a pedestrian crossing to be put in place for safe crossing of the road.

The road outside the school is busy and leads out towards Walton with a 40 mile/hour sign within sight and the cars do drive very fast.

It only takes one child to step/fall out on the road and there will be an accident, potentially with a fatal outcome.

Surrey council has turned down my request and I would be very grateful if you can kindly review the safety outside Hurst Park School and make any appropriate safety changes which may be required. I am truly worried about the children's safety.

Officer Response:

Surrey County Council has an agreed policy for investigating concerns relating to school safety. Details are available on the council website at

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/road-safety-and-emergencies/school-road-safety>

Surrey's Safer Travel Team work with schools to improve education and lead the process to assess road safety to and from schools. In line with the policy a Road Safety Outside Schools assessment will be undertaken at Hurst Park Primary. The assessment is undertaken by the council's Safer Travel Team and road safety and highways officers. Representatives from Surrey Police's Road Safety and Traffic Management Team also attend. The assessment observes the driver and pedestrian behaviour in the vicinity of the schools, leading to recommendations on safety improvement measures.

An update on the findings of the assessment will be provided at the next meeting.

ITEM 4

Question 2: Jon Fray

Last year I contacted Surrey County Council with my concerns regarding the junction of Portsmouth Road and Angel Road at Thames Ditton. I asked that the kerb at the eastern corner, that nearest The Angel Public House, simply be built out in order that drivers turning left into Angel Road have to slow down more than they do currently and that drivers emerging from Angel Road can better assess what other drivers are doing. At the moment there is a long flare to the junction which I would estimate to be twenty yards or more. The geometry of the junction makes it more difficult than it should be for drivers emerging from Angel Road to assess the speed of southbound vehicles which may be following vehicles turning into Angel Road. The speed of approaching vehicles also makes it more difficult for pedestrians to cross Angel Road.



Officer Response:

Surrey County Council (SCC) currently receives funding to be used specifically to reduce road casualties. We monitor casualties in partnership with Surrey Police across the county and there are thousands of road traffic collisions every year that result in an injury, the vast majority of which are caused by human error. We focus our road safety resources on those sites where there are patterns of casualties, because we can then be reasonably confident of identifying whether an engineering intervention might help reduce the frequency of casualties at a particular site. We then prioritise investment in those sites with the highest frequency of casualties, where we believe an engineering intervention would be beneficial. Given the number of existing sites where there are patterns of casualties, when considering investment in road safety we are obliged to prioritise those sites with the greatest frequency of casualties, ahead of those sites with a lesser frequency of casualties.

In the last three years at this location there have been three recorded collisions where injuries were sustained. The road layout at the access to Angel Road has not been recorded as a contributory factor in any of the collisions.

Should funding be available to specifically address safety issues, it is recommended that other sites would be of higher priority. However, the concerns will be raised to the Road Safety Working Group of Surrey County Council and Surrey Police for inclusion at their next review.

As well as schemes to specifically address problems evidenced by a history of injuries, Surrey County Council does introduce other local highways improvement schemes. For example, these may be to improve traffic flow, relieve congestion, provide facilities such as pedestrian crossings, or to address locations where residents have highlighted areas of concern. As the question to Committee has highlighted, measures may provide improvements in terms of safety, reducing risks and improving the quality of life. These types of schemes are promoted via the Elmbridge Local Committee. The local committee maintains a list of potential schemes to be considered for funding. Details are available at (December 2017, Item 50/17 Highways Update):

<https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=156&MId=5555&Ver=4>

It has been well-publicised that the County Council is facing financial challenges, and across the organisation budgets have been affected due to the pressures that it is facing, such as the demand for adult social care and changes to the central government funding formula. A consequence of this is that the level of funding available for highways schemes has been significantly reduced. At the current time there is no funding available to the local committee to progress additional highway improvement schemes.

It is recommended that the list of potential schemes is maintained, and reviewed by local committee with consideration of funding and priorities when funding becomes available. The investigation of measures at the junction of Angel Road and Portsmouth Road may also be considered.

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