

**SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN EPSOM & EWELL – 12 March 2018****OPEN FORUM IN ADVANCE OF FORMAL MEETING
VERBAL PUBLIC QUESTIONS****Question 1: Margaret Hollins, Chairman of Epsom Civic Society**

Ms Hollins had been in correspondence with both the County Council, the Borough Council and the police around the traffic issues in Chalk Lane. While the Civic Society has found these responses informative, and to a degree helpful, she was interested in exploring opportunities to facilitate further constructive engagement with relevant stakeholders to build support for a sustainable solution.

Response:

The Area Highways Manager outlined some of the history of the issues at this site. A number of solutions have been tried but for a variety of reasons it has not been possible to provide a permanent and sustainable solution. He would welcome any suggestions that had not been tried previously. The local member reported that she had asked for the large signs to be removed and replaced with access only signs. There was also discussion on whether a Joint Enforcement Team might be able to help if one were to be established in Epsom & Ewell. It was suggested that Ms Hollins should write to the Borough Council Chief Executive and ask for a meeting of interested parties to work towards a solution.

Question 2: Simon Alford

Mr Alford is a member of the Epsom & Ewell Tree Advisory Board. He asked why, when street trees are felled, Surrey appears to have a policy of leaving stumps of up to a metre high in grass verges in perpetuity, rather than grinding them out? Such stumps are, the Epsom & Ewell Tree Advisory Board believes, not just a permanent blot on the street scene when left to rot slowly in residential roads - rubbing salt into the wounds of tree-loving residents who were sad to see the trees lost and not replaced in the first place - but also a hazard to road users, who are less likely to spot them than a fully fledged street tree. They also represent a barrier to the efforts of local groups, such as the Tree Advisory Board, which are trying to privately fund the replacement of lost street trees to prevent our local environment from going into decline. Can this policy please be reconsidered?

Response:

The Highways Area Manager reported that an operational instruction had been issued not to grind out stumps until the back log of dead and dying trees across the county is addressed. He agreed that it would be desirable, but with limited budgets it is important to address safety issues before this can be carried out and it could be several more years before the County Council is in a position to do so. Anyone who wishes to help is welcome to enter into discussions. In addition the County Council is seeking compensation when trees are damaged in accidents etc and that fund will be used to do additional work. However, re planting in the same space is not recommended. Members asked if they could use their member funding to do this work, in conservation areas for example. The Cabinet member agreed to take this away for consideration. He agreed that the funding could be used to plant new trees of selected types. The Area Highways Manager asked to be notified as soon as possible if there is a request to plant trees in order for arrangements to be made to meet the planting season. Mr Alford reported that the Tree Advisory Board has secured funding for a number of trees but so far only four have been approved for planting. In the future they hope to plant around 100 per year in order to maintain the current stock of trees within the Borough. The Area Highways Manager was unaware of any requests for planting from this area and offered to put Mr Alford in touch with the SCC Arbicultural Officer.

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