

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)****DATE: 20 APRIL 2018****SUBJECT: Public Question: Layby on A25 Nutfield outside cemetery****DIVISION: GODSTONE**

Nutfield Parish Council owns and runs both the historic cemetery and the woodland burial site off the A25 in Nutfield. This site is served by a Surrey County Council lay-by which enables visitors to park safely away from the A25 and also, at times of burials, for the funeral cortage to park at the cemetery gates. The lay-by has limited capacity so Parish Council staff have a procedure of placing cones and signage at the lay-by to alert drivers on burial days.

The number of large HGVs using the lay-by has gradually increased over the years. This has led to continued damage of the grass verge, kerbs and roadway. There have also been reports, and evidence, of the Cemetery hedge-line being used as a urinal/ toilet area. The lay-by itself is now very unsightly, uninviting and due to fallen kerbs and potholes becoming a risk to visitors (including pall-bearers).

Added to this, since the lay-by between Bletchingley and Godstone has been blocked off (concrete blocks have been installed), the Parish Council in Nutfield has seen a noticeable jump in the number of HGVs using the cemetery lay-by which has compounded the amount of noise, nuisance and damage.

Question:

Nutfield Parish Council would like Surrey County Council to acknowledge the poor state of repair of this lay-by and the damage being caused by HGVs and we ask that SCC:

- a) urgently repair the lay-by to make it 'fit for purpose' and to support Nutfield Parish Council's investment in these burial grounds which serve many local communities.
- b) review and apply appropriate measures to prevent future use (and damage) by HGVs.

Response:

The lay-by outside Nutfield cemetery forms part of the A25 Nutfield Road between Redhill and Godstone, and is available for use for all traffic. There are no restrictions to prohibit lorries from parking in the lay-by.

- a) The lay-by is inspected as part of the routine highway safety inspections of the A25. Any defects that meet the intervention level of a highway safety defect will be programmed for repair in accordance with the matrix in the Highway Safety Inspection Policy.

It is acknowledged that Nutfield Parish Council has made a substantial investment in the cemetery to the benefit of the local community. Officers would be happy to work

with Nutfield Parish Council should they wish to make any improvements to the aesthetics of the lay-by, including the verge between the lay-by and the carriageway.

- b) It is appreciated that in March 2013 it was hoped to be able to investigate the restriction of access to HGVs into the lay-by, subject to funding availability. Unfortunately funding was not prioritised for this investigation at that time.

Officers can confirm that there are no parking restrictions on the A25 lay-by outside Nutfield Cemetery. Therefore vehicles, including HGVs, can park in the lay-by.

Businesses wishing to operate goods vehicles over 3.5 tonnes gross weight on the public highway in connection with a trade or business must obtain an Operators' Licence from the Vehicle Operating Service Agency (VOSA). Every operator must have an operating centre where the vehicles are kept when not in use. The operating centre needs to meet certain conditions, one of which is where and how vehicles will park.

England, Scotland and Wales are divided into eight areas, each with a Traffic Commissioner appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport. The Traffic Commissioners determine applications for licences in their area and take action against operators' who break the law. Surrey is in the South Eastern and Metropolitan Traffic Area.

Surrey County Council's role in this process is commenting on and/or objecting to Operator Licence applications. It does not have a role in enforcement of conditions relating to licences.

Any restriction on parking of HGVs in this lay-by will displace vehicles onto less suitable locations on the A25, and for this reason this proposal would not be progressed.

Officers will investigate improvements to the road markings in the lay-by in relation to the "Keep Clear" road marking outside the gate into the cemetery.

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