



SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN ELMBRIDGE – 25 February 2013

AGENDA ITEM 6

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Question 1 : Mrs Caroline Stevenson, Resident

I would like to ask if the Members of the Elmbridge Local Committee are aware of the current dangers to children, pedestrians, horses and riders from fast traffic exiting the A309 Esher slip road and encountering these vulnerable road users, as well as the unexpected two-way traffic on Woodstock Lane South.

Vehicles leave the 50 mph A309 dual carriageway taking a wide left-curving slip road, and suddenly confront four major hazards.

1 There are children from The Oaks who often play between the site driveways, but with no pavement on either side, they are inevitably in the road. A child has been hit by a car here in the recent past. Pedestrians have no safe footway due to the irregularly-cut overgrowth from trees into the verges, pushing walkers onto the road.

2 There are horses and riders from three separate large stables along this short stretch of road.

Visibility is obscured by the bend in the road, and riders face oncoming traffic on the wrong side of the road, as they ride home. As lorries swerve back to the correct side of the road their loads can shift noisily, upsetting the horses. Horses have frequently been spooked, as well as hit, in this vicinity.

3 There is regular fly-tipping on this road, the amount often requiring Elmbridge to remove it by the truck load.

4 In addition, there is an on-going road surface problem, with water constantly leaking into pot holes which vehicles try to dodge around, (adjacent to The Oaks). After heavy rain this is a flood point too.

The current speed limit of 40 mph is sign-posted from the bottom of the slip road bend.

For the above reasons, I am requesting as a matter of urgency, a speed reduction to 30 mph. To improve visibility and reaction time I suggest the signs are attached from nearer the top of the off-slip road, where there are already lampposts to take them.

The request is only for this particularly hazardous stretch of Woodstock Lane South, to its T junction with Clayton Road.

The Chairman will give the following response:

There are a number of concerns raised in this question that will need time to respond to fully. Therefore a response will be provided to Mrs Stevenson as soon as possible, and this response will be provided formally to the next meeting of the Local Committee. This would provide Mrs Stevenson the opportunity to pose any supplementary question that arises out of the response.

**SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN ELMBRIDGE – 25 February 2013****AGENDA ITEM 7****MEMBER QUESTIONS****Question 1 : Cllr Barry Fairbank, Elmbridge Borough Council**

As a result of Surrey County Council's failure to carry out regular maintenance to the hedges on the highway verge at the top of Rectory Lane Long Ditton (adjacent to St Mary's Church and Long Ditton Cemetery) Surrey CC deemed it necessary to severely cut back the vegetation to just above ground level in this location with work being carried out early in 2013.

Can you please advise me as to what plans there are to re-plant this area?

The Chairman will give the following response:

In short there are currently no plans to replant this part of Rectory Lane, although this statement is not intended to rule out replanting as an option.

The hedgerow in Rectory Lane consisted mainly of Elm and brambles. Some of the Elms had Dutch Elm disease; some had already died. On the advice of Surrey County Council's Arboriculturalist all the Elms susceptible to Dutch Elm disease were removed. There was a group of Elms of a slightly different species at the northern end of the row of trees, which we were able to leave as they are not so susceptible to the disease.

At the same time as removing the diseased and susceptible Elms, we also reduced the brambles to ground level. In doing this we discovered several years' accumulation of rubbish, including tin cans and concrete blocks. The result is a very different appearance of this part of Rectory Lane.

We are open to suggestions as to what to do with this area now. Some residents have enquired about Vehicle Crossovers (VCOs) that were previously unfeasible as the hedgerow was in the way. Other residents have enquired about replanting. From a technical point of view it is easier and more economical to maintain this area as verge in the long term, rather than hedgerow or trees. Therefore if the area were to be replanted, funding would have to be identified apart from the regular Highways budgets.

Question 2 : Mr Mike Bennison, Surrey County Council

At the last SCC Local Committee meeting it was noted that the annual plan to check gullies in Elmbridge was behind schedule. Is this now back on schedule and specifically has it been undertaken in Claygate? If not, why not and when will it be undertaken?

The Chairman will give the following response:

Whilst cleaning in some areas has been behind Elmbridge is on programme and Claygate will be completed during March. There are about 10 more days work required to complete the area.

Question 3 : Mr Mike Bennison, Surrey County Council

A resident reported on line in December 2012, 2 apparently seriously blocked gullies in Claygate and got tracking numbers. He checked the status in January. The only status history provided was the date opened and the date closed. There is no indication if any investigation occurred, whether a problem was identified and/or a solution put in hand. If residents are encouraged to report it on line is it not possible to have clear, explicit answers to those issues reported on line, instead of having to make follow up calls to the SCC call centre to try to find out what 'closed' means ?

The Chairman will give the following response:

These reports were investigated by the Community Highways Officer and the problem gullies have been added to the list of works for the jetting crew for attention by the end of March 2013. However there was an error made in the updating of the online tracking system, which mean that the customer was not updated as they should have been. On investigation this turned out to be a training issue with new Community Highways Officers, and we are grateful for this matter being brought to our attention. It should not have been necessary to contact the Contact Centre in order to obtain additional information.

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