



**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S
LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)**

MEMBER QUESTION

1 March 2013

On the subject of Grants Lane Bridge, Cllr Nick Skellett County Councillor for Oxted

Following the 7 September 2012 Extraordinary Meeting of the Local Committee, I am concerned about the inconvenience to residents with the permanent weight and width restrictions in place from the 1 March 2013. Please can an update be provided for Grants Lane Bridge?

Officer Response

At its meeting on 7 September 2012, the Committee agreed to a 6 month extension of the existing temporary weight and width restrictions on the bridge, changing the expiry date of the Order to 28 February 2013. It further agreed to the imposition of permanent weight and width restrictions following expiry of the temporary Order, giving the permanent Order a commencement date of 1 March 2013. The proposal to implement the permanent Order was advertised as required by legislation and by the closure date for receipt of objections none had been received.

In January 2013 the county council and Network Rail considered the possibility of a joint application to the Department for Transport for funding from the 'Local Pinch Point Fund', as announced in the 2012 Autumn Statement. The guidance notes on the application process stated the primary objective of the fund was to promote growth potential by addressing congestion constraints on the strategic road network and through the creation or expansion of large housing projects, enterprise zones etc, although applications for the strengthening / replacement of weak structures would also be considered. On investigation of the criteria and information required, together with the advice of other council Services, it was apparent the Pinch Point Fund was intended to accelerate schemes at an advanced stage of development to promote growth immediately. Consequently it was thought impractical to produce a submission of appropriate detail and quality to meet the application deadline of 21 February 2013.

In early February 2013 Network Rail advised the county council that it was considering accelerating the programme for strengthening Grants Lane bridge, together with the sub-standard road over rail bridge in Holland Lane, and enquired whether the council could allocate sufficient finances for its liabilities for the works, should they be brought forward. Following confirmation from the county that finances could and would be allocated to promote the early completion of these works, Network Rail are progressing their planning of the scheme, although there is no guarantee at this time of a works start date. The county will continue to liaise with Network Rail to assist and support where possible their current proposal to accelerate the works programme for Grants Lane bridge.