

**Mole Valley Local Committee meeting 12.12.2018****Open Forum questions:**

1. Question from Mrs Carrie Desmond, Dorking Children's Centre: Regarding the proposals for children's centres - what do you feel the impact will be on local families, particularly those with mental health problems and isolation. How will the proposed changes affect them?

In response, members requested an additional briefing on the emerging family resilience strategy for the local committee. The previous briefing covered all 5 consultations, and they need a more in-depth briefing on family resilience. Members urged the public to respond to the consultation and make their views known. There is space within the survey for 'free text' comments. The decision will be taken by Cabinet, and not the Local Committee. The Leader of the District Council noted that the District Council had unanimously agreed to oppose the closure, citing flawed statistics and confusing consultation material.

2. Question from Mr Roger Troughton, Secretary, Mole Valley Cycling Forum: With regards to a question put by Mr Ron Billard at the local committee meeting in March, Mr Troughton asked for the response given to be answered more clearly, specifically, what work was left incomplete, and should funding be found, what would be prioritised? Whilst the Mole Valley Cycling Forum appreciates the offer of Surrey Highways to consult with the Mole Valley Cycling Forum regarding improvements/extensions to the existing cycle route, they would hope the existing scheme would be completed first. Is there scope within the Integrated Transport Scheme budget, brought to the committee as Annex 1 to Item 8, or through additional funding as reported in the Dorking Advertiser from the Local Highway Maintenance and Integrated Transport block. Can SCC not put in for money from these funds to complete the scheme, in which case the list of outstanding work will be needed to allow the bid to be submitted?

In response, the Area Highway Manager noted that there is not revenue funding available for investigating everything that is outstanding. She noted that the cycling forum have already done some work, and agreed to provide a response following the meeting. The chairman noted that a previous site visit with Mr Troughton had been very helpful, and it would be good to do this again to try and resolve the issues.

3. Question from Mr Alexander Baines-Buttery: Regarding school travel plans. What provision is being made to make pavements safe and pleasant for children to walk to school? Specifically with regards to Powell Corderoy and St Johns schools in Dorking. Could Pixham Lane and Falkland Road have bollards to make them cul-de-sacs and stop rat-running. Could filtering be looked at in a town-wide way?

In response, the Road Safety and Active Travel Team Manager acknowledged the importance of looking at the infrastructure as well as encouraging parents and schools to walk. There are examples of investment, such as the shared cycle path between Leatherhead and Ashted. Officers do look at infrastructure outside schools where they receive a request with concerns over accessibility or road safety. There are funding limitations, but officers can look to design schemes for future funding, or to look at more modest improvements such as parking controls, or bollards. Officers are also working on a cycling and walking investment strategy, which will contain a wish list of infrastructure schemes. This is something the government are encouraging local authorities to do, but there is no funding associated with it. There is a map on the website of existing cycling infrastructure, and schemes that officers would like to do in future.

The Area Highway Manager agreed to take the suggestion of a town-wide review back and review in terms of prioritisation. There is a very limited budget for those types of measures. There is not the revenue funding for a full assessment.

4. Question from Mrs Judith Lovett: Concerning the children's centres proposals, why is there no proposed satellite centre in Leatherhead? Why is all the proposed provision in Dorking?

In response, the chairman declared a personal interest as Vice-Chairman of Trinity School, and agreed to provide a response to Mrs Lovett following the meeting.

5. Question from Mrs Kathy Bondmini: A recent Instagram post from the county council indicated that where no children's centres services will be offered in future, the services could be offered by other organisations? Can there be more clarification of what this means. What services will be provided if not provided by the county council?

In response, the chairman said the council is hoping other organisations like the Citizens Advice Bureau will be able to use it, but agreed to provide a response following the meeting.

6. Question from Mrs Diana Hutchinson: Which services will be offered in the children's centre if there will be a 58% cut, and there will no longer be a universal service. Universal services are vital to pick up families who are struggling in early stages before they escalate. Who will pick up those families? Who will deal with consequences?

In response, the chairman agreed to provide a response following the meeting.