

Questions from Local Committee Members

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)

DATE: 13 MARCH 2019

LEAD OFFICER: JESS EDMUNDSON, PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE OFFICER

SUBJECT: QUESTIONS FROM LOCAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

DIVISION: ALL



1. Questions submitted by Tim Hall (Leatherhead and Fetcham East):

1. Kingston Road Railway Bridge.

The Kingston Road Railway Bridge is a vital crossing point between North Leatherhead and the rest of the Town for both motorists and pedestrians. It is suffering quite serious deterioration and was to be investigated under Operation Horizon Bridge Works.

We now have no sign of it on the Operation Horizon List.

- a) A road which has subsidence and has dropped in places.
- b) A Footpath which equally is sloping and has dropped in places.
- c) The barriers at the top of embankment have gaps in them that allow access to the embankment.

Can we know when the investigation will start and when an action plan will be drawn up and implemented?

Response:

The sheet pile retaining wall on the north-west corner of the Kingston Road railway bridge is within the programme to have an assessment, feasibility and design during the 2019/20 financial year. It is appreciated that this was not previously shown on the 2019/20 Horizon programme on Surrey County Council's website. This is because the 2019/20 Horizon programme on Surrey County Council's website only includes actual construction works, not assessment, feasibility and design works. However, a decision has been taken that on this occasion the Horizon programme on the website will be updated to show the assessment, feasibility and design works that are programmed to be carried out in the 2019/20 financial year on the Kingston Road railway bridge. Subject to the assessment identifying that works on this bridge should be prioritised above several other structures across the county, work on this works on this bridge will be scheduled from the 2020/21 financial year. These works will be coordinated with resurfacing works which have also been identified as a scheme for consideration in a future year.

The wall is currently being inspected at 6 monthly intervals to monitor its alignment and these inspections have shown that there is no immediate need for works to be carried out on this bridge. Surrey highways inspectors are also monitoring this area

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and will continue to carry out repairs as required until any permanent works are formalised.

2. Drainage

In the Mole Valley District:

- a) How many drainage assets have been cleaned since 1st April 2018?

Response:

Of the 12,266 drainage assets in the Mole Valley District, 8,780 have been cleaned in since 1st April, 2018, a total of 72%.

- b) How many drainage assets have been added since 1st April 2018?

Response:

218 drainage assets within the Mole Valley District have been added to the asset register since 1st April 2018.

- c) How many drainage assets await cleaning

Response:

3,486 drainage assets await cleaning.

- d) How many are in need of further work to unblock them?

Response:

731 assets need further work to unblock them.

2. Question submitted by Mrs Hazel Watson (Dorking Hills):

The wooden footbridge alongside the bridge where Westcott Street and Balchins Lane join in Westcott and which was a Highways bridge (as opposed to a Countryside Access bridge) was removed and I was informed by Highways that it would be replaced as a matter of urgency. Can an update be given on the timetable for replacing the footbridge and a confirmed date be given when it will be installed?

Response:

A safety inspection was undertaken following a public report that the bridge was in a poor condition and the inspection identified the bridge was not safe to use and was therefore dismantled. This was during October 2018.

The bridge is to be replaced with a composite bridge which has a longer life than timber. The composite material is manufactured to look like timber and has been used successfully in other areas of the County

Unfortunately some technical difficulties have occurred whilst excavating for the foundations, next to a private brick wall which has delayed the works however; I am however, expecting the foundations to be completed before the end of March. Each

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bridge is made to measure so when the foundations are installed the bridge can be measured and manufactured. The process normally takes about 6 weeks from measuring to installation so the bridge should be installed and available for use by late April early May.

3. Questions submitted by Cllr Paul Kennedy:

- a) Recently published NHS statistics indicate that just 30.78% of eligible residents have been invited to receive free health checks over the last 5 years in the Surrey County Council area compared with an average of 85% across England. How does the position for eligible Mole Valley residents compare with the rest of Surrey, and what steps is the Council taking in conjunction with Mole Valley District Council, Surrey Downs CCG and local GPs to improve this percentage in our area?

Response:

Surrey CC has not achieved the quota of NHS HCs that should be delivered for its population for a number of years. This is due to a combination of historical patterns of NHS HC delivery prior to public health moving into local government and also due to needing to meet financial pressures on the public health grant.

These funding pressures have meant an overall decrease in the number of Health Checks and also necessitated a revised delivery strategy that incentivises provision to those most at risk of Cardiovascular Disease and those living in areas of deprivation. The revised delivery strategy should result in provision of the service to those more likely to benefit, and as such improves the overall value of the programme for the local population and local health needs.

Surrey CC pay per NHS Health Check delivered through via a Public Health Agreement contract. This has been offered to GPs, pharmacies and a small number of leisure related providers. Not all GPs have elected to take up the contract and the cut to Public Health funding has also been a factor in the number of providers across Surrey. GP practices offering the NHS HC will invite their eligible patients. Pharmacies and other providers will promote the service to their eligible clients and service users.

In addition to the NHS Health Check programme, Surrey Public Health team are a key part of plans to prevent cardiovascular disease within the three local Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships. This includes the ambition of improving identification, diagnosis and management of hypertension. The Public Health team are developing implementation frameworks for a number of elements of the hypertension pathway including community awareness campaigns and community testing opportunities. The NHS HC programme is seen as a key element of these developing STP prevention programmes and this provides an exciting opportunity to make improvements to the detection and management of CVD

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- b) Given the problems caused with ice during the cold snap at the end of January, including an accident in Bell Lane, does the Council have any plans to improve the way blocked drains and other minor flooding concerns are routinely addressed in Fetcham and Bookham?

Response:

Bell Lane, Fetcham is a priority 1 on Surrey County Council's salting network, and is therefore salted along with all other priority 1 roads during times of frost/ice/snow. However, even if routes are salted it does not guarantee that ice will not form, therefore drivers should always drive according to the conditions. Any concerns regarding ice forming as a result of surface water flooding should be raised with Surrey County Council highways who can carry out additional salting to try to address this issue.

Highway gullies are cleaned and jetted as part of the cyclic gully cleanse, if further cleaning is required a high powered gully jetting machine could be added to the ad hoc list to carry out further cleaning work. Cllr Tim Hall has raised the issue regarding the highway drainage outside The Bell public house previously and an inspection and further cleaning work has been carried out.

Any blocked drainage and other minor flood issues will continue to be assessed and prioritised through the existing enquiries, defect and wetspot processes. However Surrey County Council as both Highways Authority and Lead Local Flood Authority recognise the impacts that broken or blocked drainage and surface water floods can have locally. In both Fetcham and Bookham we are looking at the known defects in the drainage system and what additional works could be carried out to reduce the frequency and impact of localised flooding.

In Bookham, working with Thames Water, we have recently surveyed the shared drainage system along Church Road and Lower Road and have identified some defects. We are waiting for the data provided by the contractor to be analysed before we can identify any possible solutions. In Fetcham we are working with the Environment Agency on addressing the flood risk to properties in the area and we will be seeking ways to reduce the amount and the speed of surface water entering the drainage system. We are also investigating ways to address the flooding problem along the footpaths from Cannon Grove towards Leatherhead.