

Questions from Local Committee Members

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)

DATE: 12 JUNE 2019

LEAD

OFFICER: JESS EDMUNDSON, PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE OFFICER

SUBJECT: QUESTIONS FROM LOCAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

DIVISION: ALL



Questions submitted by Cllr Claire Malcomson

1. There are rare flowers along the A24 in Holmwood, Beare Green and all over the place. It is well known now that we need our wildflowers to protect bees and other pollinators. Why has Surrey County Council not put a stop to the mowing of the areas that do not obstruct sight lines? Of course safety is paramount but many of the residents are in uproar about this. According to experts flowers should not be cut before August 1st. Please can the right department make sure that this is honoured in future?

Response:

It is appreciated that residents would like to see some verges not mowed in order to provide pollinators for bees and other insects. However highway grass verges are cut two times per year for safety reasons to ensure that road users have good visibility. This is not only important near junctions and crossing points but equally important where there are sweeping bends in the road to allow for as good forward visibility as possible. It is also important to ensure that road users have good sight lines of existing traffic signs, and that such signs are not obstructed by vegetation, because these signs provide information to road users of possible hazards ahead as well as existing speed limits. Other highway assets also needs to be kept clear to ensure they function and to aid maintenance. This is important for parts of the highway drainage system where there are considerable lengths of French drain within roadside verges.

However the Local Maintenance Engineer would be happy to look at specific locations if there are species of particular importance such as certain types of orchids, because these could be protected in some way to avoid the grass cutting operation.

2. The Average Speed Camera along the A24 in Mickleham has proved a great success for Surrey County Council, both by stopping accidents and financially. When will it be agreed that the next installation of cameras should be further south along the A24, between the North Holmwood round about and the Beare Green roundabout? And when would these be installed?

Response:

The county council have been working with the police to identify opportunities for implementation of average speed cameras on roads across the county where there

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have been a high number of collisions and where speeds have been confirmed as excessive. Analysis has shown that a number of other roads have suffered a greater number of collisions and casualties per km in recent years compared with the A24 between the North Holmwood Roundabout and the Beare Green Roundabout. Therefore the county council, in partnership with the police, are prioritising the introduction of average speed cameras on a portion of the A31 Hogs Back between the Hogs Back Hotel and Puttenham Hill (5.2 personal injury collisions per km, of these 2.1 per km killed or serious), the A320 St Peter's Way between the M25 and Guildford Road (15.2 personal injury collisions per km, of these 0.9 per km killed or serious), and B3012 Gapemouth Road/D3045 Mytchett Place Road (5.3 personal injury collisions per km, of these 1.3 per km killed or serious). This data is based upon the three year period from 2016 to 2018 inclusive. This compares with the A24 Horsham Road between the North Holmwood Roundabout and the Beare Green Roundabout having 2.4 personal injury collisions per km, of these 0.6 per km killed or serious. Therefore the county council and police do not have any immediate plans to introduce average speed cameras on the A24 Horsham Road. Instead enforcement will be provided from time to time by police mobile enforcement vans that will position at the side of the road at different times.

Question submitted by Cllr Nancy Goodacre:

Could the County Council please provide a detailed update on plans to replace the Bookham Youth and Community Centre? Due to the imminent closure of the premises the Youth Club has to move to an alternative, temporary location on 24th July. These premises are in no way comparable to the facilities at the current youth centre in terms of both indoor and outdoor space and it will be difficult for BYouth team to provide and then grow the service it has been working so hard on in recent years. The situation is now urgent to meet the needs of young people in Bookham.

Response:

Surrey County Council is currently reviewing options in relation to Bookham Youth and Community Centre and working with stakeholders including the District Council to achieve the best solution. This review aims to ensure that local need is met and the solution is in line with County's Asset and Place strategy. The review will include consultation with user groups and local stakeholders and this is scheduled for this summer.

The consultation will be used to inform detailed planning for the site. This is likely to be completed by Autumn 2019.