

Tabled item – Officer Amendment to response provided for Written Public Question

Written Public Question – Mole Valley Local Committee – 4 September 2019

Question from Tim Waller, Fetcham Residents' Association

Do Councillors agree that persistent pigeon fouling on the pavements and highway beneath the railway bridge on the B2122 Guildford Road Fetcham represents a serious hazard to public health, and what enforcement action does SCC/MVDC propose to take against Network Rail to urgently resolve this matter?

Response

In order to demonstrate that pigeon fouling on the pavements beneath the Guildford Road Railway Bridge is serious enough to represent an actionable health hazard it would be necessary to collect robust and credible evidence.

Mole Valley District Council does however recognise and appreciate that the pigeon fouling is a matter of public concern, a potential nuisance and poses a risk to pedestrians slipping on the pavements.

As a result, the District Council has been working with Network Rail to find a sustainable solution to the problem of pigeons fouling the pavements below the railway bridge.

Network Rail has accepted its liability to abate a statutory nuisance caused by the pigeons to areas beneath the bridge with public access. They have now agreed to instruct their contractors to repair, replace and improve the current pigeon deterrent measures within twelve months. The District Council is pressing Network Rail for a speedier resolution.

It has also been agreed through Network Rail that the pigeon deterrent measures on the top of the advertisement hoardings that are fixed to the bridge abutments will be refurbished and the hoardings cleaned.

In the meantime, the District Council will continue to arrange for the pavements below the railway bridge to be jet washed once a week and will be pressing Network Rail for payment to cover the costs.

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