



SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY) 27 Sept 2019

Minutes Annex A: OPEN FORUM - PUBLIC QUESTIONS

One question was received from a Waverley resident:

1. *Barry Hartop, Farnham Resident*

“20 is plenty for us

I have held a number of Private Sector appointments and have also been a senior civil servant in both Conservative and Labour Administrations

I understand that most of the request to Surrey County Council asking for some speed reduction measures (41 petitions countywide received by the Council in the last 5 years) have failed to materialise in any results on the ground.

Surrey County Council’s own policy – Setting Local Speed Limits – dated 2014 states “within the latest central government guidance issued by the Department of Transport (Circular 01 – 2013) there is greater encouragement for local authorities to introduce more 20mph schemes (limits and zones) in urban areas and built up village streets that are primary residential, to ensure greater safety for pedestrians and cyclists”.

It would seem that policy and practice are not aligned.

In the light of this apparent failure to adequately respond to the concerns of residents across the County, are Surrey County Councillors worried that they may be voted out of office at the next election, as evidenced by the recent changes in the political makeup of both Guildford and Waverley Borough Councils?

I am reluctant to gain a greater understanding by asking for a Freedom of Information analysis of these 41 petitions as this would take up valuable Officer time and resource.

I do ask for firm reassurance that in future in this area that practice is aligned with Policy. Also to understand the actions that will be taken and the Officials responsible for fully implementing the SCC Policy.

Should the reason for the non-alignment be obstructive officials rather than an informal move by the Council to sideline its own policy, then they should be instructed to properly implement Council Policy.”

It was noted that there have been some speed reductions implemented. The policy is the backbone which is used in consultation with the Police, who are responsible for

speed enforcement. The Committee decides these on a case by case basis, based on justification, impact and funding implications.

The Chairman replied that she would consider 20mph speed limits as a future agenda item.