



SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY) 13 December 2019

Minutes Annex A: OPEN FORUM - PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Questions were received from:

1. Barry Hartop, Farnham Castle Street Resident

Mr Hartop read from a statement that he brought with him and then asked:

- i) "What has the Highway expenditure been in central Guildford since 2010, compared with Highway expenditure in central Farnham? Which officials and councillors signed off the spend?"
- ii) "Can central Farnham now have its fair and democratic share of funding to compensate for all these years of inexplicably little Highways spend?"

Answer

The Chairman said that Mr Hartop's description of Farnham is not one that she recognises, nor did she recognise Guildford being 'paved in gold'.

The Area Highway Manager said that funding for Highways has been ever reducing over a number of years and Highways tries to prioritize works based on safety. In Farnham specifically, Highways has been working with the Town Council, Waverley Council and Surrey County Council on the Farnham Strategic Plan, looking at Farnham holistically and what the centre of Farnham will look like. Once they have that understanding, they can better maintain the area. However, in locations where they feel work needs to be done more immediately, they have done so.

Regarding spend in Guildford, Guildford Borough Council funded many of the schemes itself and invested considerably in the town centre.

Surrey County Councillors Mr MacLeod, Mr Spence and Mr Ramsdale responded to Mr Hartop and said that they recognised the frustrations of residents and they had been working on Farnham plans which have achieved results and they hope to achieve more in the next 18 months and drive issues forward. For example, it was helpful to have Jeremy Hunt's Air Pollution Summit and he has asked the three councils to come back with an answer in January.

2. Cllr Paul Follows, Deputy Leader, Waverley Borough Council

- i) "I would like an update of the status of a meeting with Mary Lewis?"
- ii) "In the light of the review of Waverley Council conducted by Cllr Merryweather, finance portfolio holder, will Surrey County Council be

- conducting a similar review as to the status of the finances regarding Brightwells investment?
- iii) I am pleased to see the petition under point 5 and hope it will be considered favourably.

Answer

- i) The Chairman has received a statement from Mary Lewis, SCC Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families:

“As per my email to Cllr Follows on 2nd October 2019, I would be very happy to meet with all Waverley councillors to discuss the new family centre model and the implications for Waverley BC. I would also be happy to discuss partnership working. I was awaiting some suggestions from you around dates and times for this session. I have asked my support team to contact you to take this forward and organise a convenient date and time for us to meet. I could not attend today as I am hosting a Scrutiny Committee visit to the c-Spa and Members are supporting me in doing a Recommendation 41 visit there.”

The Chairman confirmed that Mrs Lewis will be attending the Local Committee Informal meeting on 31 January and all Waverley Members will be invited to attend.

- ii) Regarding Cllr Merryweather’s review, Members present were not aware of any such Surrey County Council review. Mr David Harmer said that there was a meeting planned in SCC to discuss investments in general, but this would be as an overview.