



LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND
RESPONSES**

5 JULY 2013

1. From Elstead Parish Council

You are no doubt aware that Cllr Bryn Morgan of Waverley BC has asked SCC to carry out later this year a parking survey of three areas in Elstead: around the village green; outside St James School; and in Springfield, particularly the area adjacent to the doctors' surgery. In relation to this last area, the Parish Council established a working group involving local residents to look at possible solutions to a problem directly affecting patients attending the surgery. The working group's conclusions, which were endorsed at the PC meeting, are as follows:

- A short term, low cost but only partial solution would be to identify and allocate three additional roadside parking bays next to the current identified roadside disabled parking bay. These three additional bays to be identified either for surgery use between the surgery hours of 8.00am – 6.30pm, or if this is not practicable to be limited to 1-hour parking during these hours.
- A longer term and preferred solution would be to create a parking lay-by on the western side of Springfield, running from Back Lane to Hillcrest, which would be capable of accommodating up to 10 vehicles. Four of these vehicle spaces would be marked off as above, 1 for disabled use and 3 for surgery/1-hour parking use. The grass verge here between the highway and footpath (owned we understand by Waverley BC) would be wide enough to accommodate the lay-by.

We ask that these proposals should be considered in the context of the parking survey. The Parish Council agreed at this meeting that it would be prepared to contribute to the cost of solutions along these lines, in the light of the high level of public concern about access to the village surgery.

Response

As part of the next Waverley Parking Review, which is being presented to this committee in December, we will be assessing all parking requests for the Elstead area. During this review, in the autumn, the parking team will arrange a meeting with the Parish Council and any other representatives that wish to attend in order to discuss what can and can't be done in terms of new parking restrictions and arrangements. The comments above have been added to the review for future reference.

2. From Mr Jeremy Ricketts (Farnham)

Farnham Town Council welcomes Surrey County Council's 'Surrey Future' project focusing on tackling congestion in our county. In particular we are greatly pleased to see that money is being set aside to improve Farnham's air quality.

Surrey County Council has taken many highway measures to improve our air quality with unloading restrictions, etc. but with little result. Your new responsibility for public health brings great opportunities to tackle this long standing health issue through other means. With the cooperation of Waverley Borough Council, we have produced a 'ready to go' awareness campaign that will bring immediate and quantifiable benefits to our residents particularly our vulnerable. By using successful community engagement formula we employ to deliver Farnham in Bloom, we will employ the energies and commitment of our people to tackle these health issues for ourselves.

Would Surrey County Council consider funding this awareness initiative through the Surrey Future's initiative please?. If you feel that you are unable to support this at this time, would you attend an open workshop in Farnham please, where the merits of genuinely including people in public health decision making can be explored with you ?

Response

Surrey Future is a long-term, strategic partnership project and does not have specific funds associated with it. The County Council would, however, be prepared to collaborate with partners locally on the details of an air quality/public health campaign in the Farnham area.

3. From Mr David Beaman (Farnham)

I regularly man Farnham Town Council's Information Tent at local events and, since the introduction of on-street parking charges, complaints are received at virtually every event from both residents of Farnham and from those living outside Farnham regarding the loss of free short-term parking and stating that they now go elsewhere. Despite the cost of driving elsewhere being almost certainly higher than the level of parking charges in Farnham it does appear that the introduction on-street parking charges has resulted in some people deciding to no longer visit Farnham. Against this background are there any proposals to review the consequences of introducing on-street car parking charges, including any assessment of the effect on Farnham's local economy ? Could any review also include an evaluation proposal to restore a small area of free parking in one specific location (e.g. Castle Street), provided that any parking should not exceed 30 minutes with no return allowed within a period of two hours ?

Response

Our initial observations following the introduction of on-street pay and display in Farnham is that the parking bays 'turn over' more frequently and that they are very well used, particularly in Castle Street. We routinely review parking restrictions following their implementation and, as part of the next Waverley Parking Review being presented to this committee in December, we will look to see if any changes to parking arrangements in Farnham are necessary including Castle Street.

4. From Mr Paul Megson (Haslemere)

It is my understanding – I have not had time to search the previous minutes and agenda papers to confirm this – that the residents' parking schemes to be implemented following the January meeting of the Local Committee were to be given at least six months of operation before any review were to be undertaken.

I note that it is proposed (in the forward programme shown in the July meeting papers) to commence this review with the December meeting. This is actually less than five months before the schemes are implemented, which I understand is to be around the middle of July.

Can the Committee reassure residents that no review will be made until a fair passage of time, at least six months, has occurred to give them a chance to prove themselves? For example, to date I have had no opportunity at all to make my own assessment of whether the proposed restrictions in Bunch Lane are beneficial to me, as so far there has been no evidence of implementation.

Can the Committee also reassure residents that, if the schemes are found on review to have some imperfections, that the schemes will continue in operation until improvements are identified, approved and implemented, and that the imminent schemes will not simply be abandoned?

Response

We routinely review any parking restrictions following their implementation. The next Waverley Parking Review, being presented to this committee in December, will include an assessment of the Haslemere parking schemes. Whilst this is within the six-month time scale initially agreed it will prevent any further delay to the borough-wide review, which has already been put back to allow the Haslemere schemes to be introduced. Most resident parking schemes and permit arrangements settle down within the first few months and any benefits or disadvantages become apparent. Therefore it should be possible to accurately assess the parking schemes during the next review.

5. From Mr Graeme Spratley (Haslemere)

I have heard that parking in Haslemere could be discussed as early as the December Local Committee meeting. It has been previously stated by the Local Committee that the impact of Phase 1 will be assessed as part of this discussion. Given that the scheme isn't meant to come into operation in Phase 1 until July 15th I believe that this is premature. At the time of writing there are no lines on the road in zone J (Popes Mead, etc.) nor have parking permits been confirmed and paid for and possibly other zones are in the same situation. I believe that the

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committee originally agreed to allow a minimum of at least six months operation, as an initial period, before there was any discussion or analysis of the scheme's effectiveness. Can I have the Committee's assurance that they will adhere to this earlier proposal and let Phase 1 operate for at least six months, suggesting a discussion at the March meeting of the Local Committee at the earliest ?

Expanding on the theme of this discussion and review what form of consultation or questionnaire will be used to determine how Phase 1 has been received by residents ? Will the wishes of the majority of residents in the Phase 1 roads be put before any organised block objection from known opponents which could be numerically superior ?

Response

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