

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

DATE: 6 November 2020

SUBJECT: Public Question: Whyteleafe Hill

DIVISION: Caterham Valley



Background

On Thursday, 15th October, at around 11.45 pm, there was a traffic accident on Whyteleafe Hill involving a car hitting a degraded and poorly maintained speed bump, losing control, leaving the carriageway, colliding with and destroying a lamp post, complete with bus stop sign and the nearby bench, damaging two parked vans and coming to rest in a hedge on the other side of the road.

This is the latest in a sequence of accidents that have taken place at this site. The most recent previous one occurred in February 2019 and also resulted in the destruction of the bus stop, bench, other vehicles and - on this occasion - a resident's front wall.

These repeated incidents are caused by the poor quality of the road surface around the speed bumps and, particularly, by the sunken patch before the bump near 146, Whyteleafe Hill. Surrey Highways has been asked to review the situation, and inspected the road on 19th October. The response noted the defects around the speed humps but said that `current repair criteria` were not met.

I believe that this response is extremely complacent given the potential for very serious consequences if further accidents were to take place here.

Question

Given the unacceptably high chance of serious injury or fatality should further accidents occur at this site, will the highways authority reconsider its response and undertake to act urgently to repair the surface of the road at this location on Whyteleafe Hill?

Response:

The C227 Whyteleafe Hill, Whyteleafe is a 30mph speed limit road with existing traffic calming that includes speed cushions.

It is understood that there had been an accident that damaged the light column, that has the bus stop located on it near to No. 130 Whyteleafe Hill, in February 2019 and again in October this year. The most recent accident was reported to our contractor Skanska, who are our street lighting contractor, on 16th October.

C227 Whyteleafe Hill receives monthly driven and annual walked highway safety inspections, and any safety defects that meet the intervention level set out in our Highway Safety Inspection Policy are repaired. Further details of this Policy can be found on our

ITEM 6

website here: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/policies-plans-consultations/policies-and-plans/highway-safety-inspections-standards-and-procedures>

There had been only one defect since January 2020 and this was on the speed cushion near to No. 130 Whyteleafe Hill. This defect was reported on 1st October 2020 and repaired on 8th October 2020. Residents may find it useful to report any issues that they could have with roads on our website here: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks-and-maintenance/report-a-highway-problem>.

Further details about this accident on 16th October are not known, although there have been no reports that this resulted in personal injury. There also does not appear to be a history of personal injury accidents on the road in the last three years.

Surrey County Council does take concerns about road safety seriously and road collisions across the County are continually monitored using information provided by Surrey Police. This includes information regarding the factors that have caused the collision. Unfortunately, there are many reasons that collisions occur including distraction in vehicles when drivers are using mobile phones or sat-navs, drivers not looking properly when exiting junctions, drivers making inappropriate turns or manoeuvres, lack of concentration, drivers exceeding the speed limit etc.

However, as there have been two damage only accidents at the same location, this matter is being referred to the relevant Road Safety Working Group for any action to be determined. This group consists of Road Safety experts from both Surrey Police and the County Council as well as engineers from Surrey Highways.

In the meantime, the road will continue to have highway safety inspections and any highway defects that meet the intervention level will be repaired.

Contact Officer: highways@surreycc.gov.uk