



SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN ELMBRIDGE – 14 July 2021

MEMBER QUESTION TIME

Question 1: Ernest Mallet
Re: Verge Parking

Areas concerned in West Molesey: Molesham Close; Molesham Way; First Close & Second Close; Down Street & Belvedere Gardens.

This matter has been mentioned to the Committee in the past but not in any resolution form. The problem still persists so it is now raised for a resolution to deal with it. The form of this is in summary so will lack some detail and background information.

PROBLEM: Car ownership today is normal for most households and particularly in older ex-council house areas, there is little or no off-street parking. In West Molesey, these older areas were often provided with green spaces and wide kerb areas. Therefore, these areas are today often used for car parking which is necessary anyway, due to the narrow roads which were often part of the design. Consequently, these green areas are mudbaths in Winter and can have hazardous surfaces in Summer.

SHORT HISTORY: Elmbridge Council was responsible for these areas under delegated Highway Agency terms until 2000. In 2000 Elmbridge sold off all these areas, except for some but not all, Highway verges, to the Elmbridge Housing Association, now P.A. Housing. In the sales contract the problem was recognised but not later contractually progressed. Later, SCC took back the Highway control.

PRESENT POSITION: There are three aspects needing resolution,

- i. Design of the provision of parking spaces----Responsibility of P.A. Housing.
- ii. Approval by SCC Highways where such design impinges on Highway land or entrance onto the Highway---Responsibility of SCC Highways.
- iii. Finance to cover the construction work.

In the past, providing finance has always been the sticking point. David Cameron regulated and legalised what is now known as the Community Infrastructure Levy, CIL, which is basically a high tax on developers on new house building. This tax is available for all sorts of improvement in local infrastructure which would normally fall outside a council's capital budget responsibilities.

ACTION SINCE: The possibility of this available CIL fund altered the position and made progress viable. Subsequently, P.A. Housing designed 2 schemes, one for Molesham Close and one for Belvedere Gardens. P.A. set aside the Molesham Close scheme due to a resident's objections and a lack of staff to continue. Later, P.A. designed an excellent scheme for Belvedere Gardens, which is the most urgent area needing attention. This was reviewed by P.A. management, SCC Highways and myself as local division member. Agreement in principle seemed to be the situation. SCC Highways took away the drawing for detailed analysis and hopefully approval, or for approved amendments. Nothing has progressed since.

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COMMITTEE RESOLUTION NOW NEEDED: Clearly, approval for SCC Highways to progress the Highway approval part of this scheme is needed, which may involve some staff time and therefore cost. Therefore, this is what is now requested.

Once SCC Highways approval is in place, the intention is for P.A. to cost the scheme and submit an application to Elmbridge Council for CIL funding. The objective is then, that these actions should be the start of achieving overall solutions for all of the areas listed in the heading to this item.

Can the Committee agree to allocate funding to this area of work?

Officer Response:

Discussions have taken place with councillor and the Area Highways Manager will comment further at the meeting.