

CABINET MEMBER OF THE MONTH: Matt Furniss, Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure

SPOTLIGHT: Highways

- The three bidders Amey, Kier and Ringway were keen to come and join us in Surrey and bring their expertise and new ideas for the future contract which has now been awarded. This information will be released at this meeting.
- Surrey County Council's new Lane Rental Scheme commenced on 1st April, whereby daily charges of up to £2500 can be applied for any works adversely affecting traffic flow on our busiest streets at the busiest times. Whilst still at an early stage, we have already seen some promising changes to the planning and execution of some works types in order to avoid or minimise Lane Rental Charges.
- Building on the launch in 2020 of our new Highway Tree Planting & Verge enhancement guidance, the County Council remains committed to increasing the number of trees on the network. In the last 12 months the team have installed over 300 street trees and a further 3000 whips (smaller trees).
- In June, Cabinet gave approval to consult on our new Surrey Transport Plan. The new Surrey Transport Plan sets out our future transport vision, objectives and desired outcomes. It advocates the principles of 'Avoid, Shift and Improve' in terms of the approach to, and the need to travel. It also proposes a sustainable travel hierarchy, prioritising walking, cycling and public transport above other modes.
- To prioritise sustainable travel, we are developing a 'Surrey Streets Family Framework'. This allocates streets and places to categories based on local community needs and traffic movement. The framework will help determine the types of sustainable transport measures that can be implemented to help achieve net zero emissions and encourage economic regeneration. The consultation went live on 5 July and runs to 24 October.
- Hydrorock is a smart solution for ecological water management. Surrey County Council have installed the product in a major flooding wet spot, Tilford St in Farnham in one of the first projects in the UK to use this innovative solution. The result is a significantly reduced chance of flooding. Rainwater is separated from the drainage system, buffers under the existing infrastructure and infiltrates into the surrounding soil. The blocks ensure gradual infiltration to the surrounding soil and a water buffer is created that considerably reduces the risk of flooding.
- In terms of pothole repairs, we are trialling the use of some "cold lay" materials. These materials can be used in all weathers and could provide a number of benefits when compared to traditional materials. Potential benefits include; increased safety, more environmentally sustainable material and processes, increased efficiency and more first-time permanent repairs.

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