

Mole Valley Local Committee – 10 November 2021

Written Member Questions

Question 1

From County Councillor Hazel Watson (Dorking Hills)

The “Publicly Maintainable Highway” along Boxhill Road from Hill Cottage to Ashurst Drive has been confirmed by the Highways Information and Business Support Team as Boxhill Road itself, the pavement along the north side of the road, and the planted area between the pavement and residents garden fences. As this whole area is part of the “Publicly Maintainable Highway”, can confirmation be given under which contract the planted area between the pavement and the residents’ garden fences is maintained and can the terms of the contract which cover the maintenance of this area be provided. Furthermore, if this land is not included in any current maintenance contract, can confirmation that it will be included in a maintenance contract for next year and can the level of maintenance that will be provided be set out so that residents will be aware of the level of maintenance that will be undertaken.

Response

Some sections of the verges of Box Hill Road between Hill Cottage and Ashurst Drive are on the County Council’s flail cutting schedule. These sections of verge will be flailed twice a year, usually around May/June and September/October. They are shown in red on the plan below.



Any work to clear vegetation within the highway boundary outside of the areas marked in red on the plan is classed as reactive maintenance. The Divisional Member for Dorking Hills has an allocation of funding for revenue maintenance works that she can use to fund works on the highway network in her division. This funding has been committed to other schemes in the Dorking Hills division in the 2021/22 financial year, mainly vegetation clearance and footway widening. Should such funding be made available to Divisional Members in the 2022/23 financial year the Divisional Member could choose to prioritise work to maintain this vegetation on Box Hill Road.

It should be noted that there may well be privately owned vegetation growing out into the public highway in places along this stretch of Box Hill Road. The responsibility for clearing this vegetation lies with the property owners.

ITEM 5

Surrey County Council runs a Community Highways Volunteering scheme which allows community groups to carry out certain maintenance works on the public highway. Residents' groups in Box Hill could carry out this type of work if that is their priority. Further information about the scheme can be found on the Surrey County Council website at the following address:

[Community Highways Volunteering - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk)

If any of the overgrown vegetation requires an urgent response information on how to do this can be found on the Surrey County Council website at the following address:

[Possible emergency - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Philippa Gates, Traffic Engineer

Question 2

From County Councillor Stephen Cooksey (Dorking South and the Holmwoods)

Following a request from a resident to fill an empty local County grit bin I contacted Highways and received the following response:

'Our policy is to only fill each bin once a year, ahead of the winter season. This is to ensure that we can prioritise our funding and resources for other winter maintenance activities. We have added the empty grit bin you have requested to be filled to our filling programme however we cannot guarantee that this will take place before the end of winter.'

Could I have an explanation about why there can be no guarantee that grit bins will be filled 'before the end of winter'. What is the value of a grit bin to the local community if the County is unable to fill it in time for it to be of use at the time of year when it is needed.?

Response

Grit bins are provided in locations where there would not normally be immediate help during severe cold weather or snow. Our policy is to only fill each bin once a year, ahead of the winter season. This is to ensure that we can prioritise our funding and resources for other winter maintenance activities. Further details about grit bins can be found on our website here: [Grit bins - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk).

It is currently expected that all the grit bins will have been filled by the end of November. Sometimes, grit bins could have an additional fill if there are resources available at higher risk locations. However, there is no guarantee that this could be possible before the end of the winter season. It appears that in this case that the grit could have already been used ahead of the winter season.

It would be appreciated if the reference number of the enquiry and the location could be shared with us, and this will have some further investigation.

Contact officer: Zena Curry, Highway Engagement & Commissioning Manager