

Mole Valley Local Committee – 10 November 2021

Written Member Questions

Question 1

From District Councillor Paul Kennedy (Fetcham West)

What formal arrangements does Surrey County Council have for coordinating its activities, such as tree and verge cutting, with partners including local district and parish councils, health, schools, police and other service providers here in Mole Valley?

Response

The Council has started on a transformation programme to develop new engagement methods and tools as part of our Empowering Communities work, to help encourage and empower more residents to participate in and influence the area in which they live, particularly those from whom the Council does not usually hear. To do this we are using a variety of more informal engagement methods focussed on conversations and Making it Happen.

This is a collaborative and open approach, and there is a commitment from the County Council to work closely with partners to deliver projects together with and for the benefit of residents.

The Community Partnerships and Engagement team has started the work in a few communities over the last 9 months and are looking to expand this approach across the county over the next year. We are creating Link roles to engage and act as a liaison between residents, partners, the County Council and the Districts and Boroughs, listening to concerns or asks of residents and signposting or supporting residents by bringing the right people together to solve problems or develop new projects.

One of the conversations we have started is regarding tree and verge cutting in Bookham with the aim of understanding the problem, the ambition, sharing information and improving our processes to let the community do more of what they want and to make it simpler for others to do the same.

In terms of formal collaboration, the county works closely with health and wellbeing, and community safety colleagues through formal partnership arrangements such as the Community Safety Partnership (hosted by Mole Valley District Council), Surrey Sports Development Officers Forum, Surrey Senior Leisure Officers' Forum, Surrey Health and Wellbeing Board Prevention sub-group, Surrey Leisure Operators Forum, Schools Physical Activity Network and a number of project specific working groups.

Officers work with Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) on education themes in a number of ways. MVDC provide annual housing data to inform SCC's projections and in turn pupil place projection data has informed Local Plan development.

With regards to highways arrangements, the Council has recently established a new Highways Engagement and Commissioning Team to focus on the benefits of working with our stakeholders, which will be active very soon.

The Highway Maintenance Manager and the Principal Maintenance Engineers within the new Maintenance Team will continue to have responsibility for countywide functions such as gully cleansing, tree works and grass cutting. The high-speed traffic management programme for grass cutting, which in Mole Valley covers the dual carriageway sections of

the A24 and A243, provides such an opportunity for coordination of maintenance activities. In addition to grass cutting, gully cleaning, road sweeping litter-picking and sign maintenance is carried out under the twice-yearly lane closures.

The planned works programme e.g. major maintenance, is published on Surrey's website via the link here [Roadworks - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roadworks). A weekly Highways Bulletin for Mole Valley is also available on the website at the link here [Weekly highways bulletin - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/highways-bulletin). District and Parish councils are welcome to engage where they have specific works that they consider could be coordinated with these works. Other service providers can also contact Surrey through the reporting system on the website or by e-mailing [highways@surreyccgov.uk](mailto:highways@surreycc.gov.uk) and where possible, coordination of works would be considered.