

Annex A

Surrey Heath Local Area Committee Open Public Question Time

1. Cllr Tim Dodds, Surrey Heath Borough Council

What plans do you have for the improvement of the length of Red Road, Camberley?

Reply from Andrew Milne, Highways Area Manager (NW)

The Red Road is of key concern due to the number of accidents along the stretch. This has been partly addressed with the introduction of a 50mph speed limit and vehicle activated speed signs. A meeting has been held to look at options for further improvements and a number are being investigated. We will, of course, consult extensively on available options.

Reply from Mike Goodman, SCC

Red Road is a major issue for residents and we have been working with the Cabinet Member, John Furey, to ensure that options are considered. One scenario that we are looking at is to have no right turn from Macdonald Road and a roundabout installed at Lightwater Road, but we mustn't shut off other potential solutions.

Reply from Andrew Milne, Highways Area Manager (NW)

The above is a conceptual idea and we would need to look at modelling and costs as we need to ensure that it would resolve issues and not create further problems. To give a very indicative idea as to costs, this could be in the region of £300,000 to £600,000, depending on work required and underground utility services.

2. Mr K Malcolm, Cedar Lane, Frimley

My wife was injured in an accident at Cedar Lane Car Park on Saturday evening. There is no lighting by the ticket machine as the lights do not come on until 9pm, she tripped on a post in the darkness and suffered a fractured wrist. We are concerned for safety in this area, but cannot find out who owns the car park.

Reply from Denis Fuller, SCC

This is a private car park – I will link with you over who owns it and how to contact them to make a complaint.

3. Tina Carney, Bagshot resident

There is a real issue with College Ride, by Pennyhill Park Hotel as HGVs and delivery vehicles use the footpath / bridleway as a roadway. Parked vehicles make access very difficult in this narrow road.

Reply from the Chair

I know the area in question and this is the second time that this has been brought to my attention. I will write to the Managing Director of

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Pennyhill Park. I believe that this is a public Right of Way, so should not be used for traffic / parking in this way.

Reply from Valerie White, SHBC

I know that residents have tried to deter vehicle access by closing the gate, but they just open it. College Ride is a narrow road and this gate should not be used for deliveries as they have a separate delivery entrance.

4. Carol Gregorious, Chobham Parish Councillor

There are problems with Chobham car park. This used to offer free parking but is now charged by the Borough Council. Workers cannot afford the daily charges, so now park on residential roads instead, leaving the car park half empty and our roads congested! This must only bring in a low revenue, with high operational costs – but with a high impact locally.

Reply from Vivienne Chapman, SHBC

The Executive are reviewing the out of town car parks and I will take this up with them as an issue.

5. Cllr Tim Dodds, Surrey Heath Borough Council

Surrey Heath is a green Borough, but what can we do about trees and shrubs that block sightlines on junctions? What are the standards for cutting back and what should we report?

Reply from Andrew Milne, Highways Area Manager (NW)

We are very lucky to have such a green Borough, but vegetation can grow quickly. Please do report all concerns to the Highways team. Most cuts are programmed in, but we do have capacity to address safety issues. However, some junctions historically have poor sightlines and we do not want to have to cut down trees unnecessarily.

6. Murray Rowlands, Camberley Resident

I know from the Citizens Advice Bureaus in the area that there are difficulties with crisis loans from SCC. CAB's can help with food and furniture but no longer have funds to hand out. Does the new crisis loan system give the same assistance to residents as before?

Reply from Vivienne Chapman, SHBC

The Borough Council gives grants to the CAB to aid residents.

Reply from the Chair

We will need to look at this issue of crisis loans and come back to you outside of the meeting.

7. Jeremy Wilson, The Avenue, Camberley

The Avenue in Camberley is increasingly being used as a high speed rat run, to and from the town centre, which is making life a misery for residents and posing a significant danger to children attending Lyndhurst School and Camberley Infants.

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In March this year, 57 residents of The Avenue petitioned that they had had enough of the increasing volume and speed of traffic, with 65% of those petitioned, favouring 'speed platforms' similar to those in Southwell Park Road, to police speed along the entirety of The Avenue.

In the last two years, The Avenue has had one fatality, in the tragic case of Monica (Paolo) Hart, one child hit by a van and both incidents were attended by helicopter ambulance.

Do we really have to wait for another fatality and after six months, aren't the residents due a response to their petition and their demands for speed platforms?

Reply from Denis Fuller, SCC

This road is of concern and I have taken this up with Officers on behalf of residents. I am not convinced that speed humps are the answer and I would prefer a 20mph speed limit, but these are not supported by Central Government.

Jeremy Wilson, The Avenue, Camberley

There are a number of different problems in different areas along the Avenue, with parked cars and a bad camber on a corner. The speed needs to be policed. However, residents are not keen to see flashing signs or chicanes but want speed humps like those in Southall Park Road.

Reply from Andrew Milne, Highways Area Manager (NW)

I am aware of this issue and residents concerns, but was not aware that this was subject to a petition. We would normally try to work with residents over a range of potential traffic calming solutions. There is an ongoing access and movement study for the Town and this area falls under this. Traffic modelling will be used to look at different restrictions and options. The Avenue is one of a number of roads with issues. It can be difficult for even experienced highways officers to accurately measure speeds and speeding can sometimes be a perception issue – the last two surveys recorded speed as 30mph along this road. Physical measures can be used as limits are sometimes not upheld by motorists – but residents limit this by cutting back on what they want. Speed tables on such a long stretch of road would take the entire capital budget of this Committee – removing funding from elsewhere.

Reply from the Chair

We will have a further look at this situation and report back.

8. Cyril Pavey, Local resident

The A30 is a nightmare already – Do County Councillors have any early thoughts on the proposed Camberley Town Centre development and the impact this might have on traffic? The plans shown at the

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exhibition just covered the retail offer and not traffic and traffic flows around the Town.

Reply from Vivienne Chapman, SHBC

The Town Centre Plan will involve a series of consultations – the first being the retail offer, with roads following in a second consultation.

Reply from the Chair

The County Council has statutory processes for consulting over any major road changes. In this case, there is currently not a specific highways issue to consult on yet. The County Council is also asked to comment on every planning application.

9. Question read by the clerk on behalf of Denise Taylor, Keswick Drive, Lightwater

I would like a speed restriction to 30mph be discussed for Lightwater Road (Lightwater). The speed limit is too high (40mph) in a residential area – many cars exceed this. My daughter was knocked over on this road and I know she has not been the only one. Several school buses collect children here. Lightwater Road is also very narrow. Two lorries cannot pass each other without one resorting to the curb/pavement unless they wait to pass each other using Colville Gardens/Derwent Road or Lightwater Meadow as a 'pass by'. I have had two near misses where I have been slowing to turn right into Derwent Road only to have cars approaching too fast from behind, around the blind bend coming out of the village, and needing to overtake me on the wrong side to avoid a collision with my car. I am only grateful nothing was coming in the opposite direction at the same time!!

Reply from Valerie White, SHBC

As a regular user of this road, I agree that 40mph is too high. We have also discussed this at a Parish level and would support a reduction in speed limit.

Reply from Andrew Milne, Highways Area Manager (NW)

Highways can review this in consultation with safety management and the Police and bring a report. This road does connect with Red Road and could be considered as part of a package scheme for the area or can be considered on its own.

10. Tina Carney, Bagshot resident

Some areas have 20mph in villages – especially outside schools. What are Councillors thoughts on this?

Reply from the Chair

Reduced limits can work in some areas – but enforcement can be an issue. Statistics show that there are very few accidents outside schools, so a blanket policy of introducing them throughout Surrey would not be the most effective use of limited resources.

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11. Carol Gregorious, Chobham Parish Councillor

Is the junction at the High Street and Chertsey Road in Chobham on the list of priority roads?

Reply from Andrew Milne, Highways Area Manager (NW)

I will investigate and let you know.

Further Public Questions and Comments were raised during the meeting under specific items on the agenda:-

Item 7 - Highways Update

Katia Malcaus Cooper, Lightwater

The recent census caused chaos on the Red Road and the A31 – nobody seemed to know it was happening or why.

Reply from the Chair

This was a Police initiative that aimed to gather data on journeys being travelled.

Item 9 - Surrey Fire and Rescue Service Report

8. Murray Rowlands, Camberley Resident

The report does not mention the recent strike action and the cover that was arranged. I would have liked to ask a question about the Fire Service bringing in cover – which was not done anywhere else.

Rodney Bates, SHBC

The report mentions Junior Citizens, but states that this did not take place this year. I would like to know the reasons and whether this will be undertaken in future.

Item 11 - Forward Plan / Date of the next meeting

Cyril Pavey, Local resident

Would the Committee consider holding meetings during the daytime?

Reply from the Chair

I am willing to discuss this, but we did decide that evenings were best for community engagement.

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