

**WOKING JOINT COMMITTEE**

DATE: 11 NOV 2020
SUBJECT: WRITTEN MEMBER QUESTIONS
DIVISION: WOKING

Question 1: Will Forster, Surrey County Councillor

Following a discussion with the Principle of Woking College, please would the County Council to consider consulting on returning the area outside the college on Rydens Way to a one-way system?

Answer from Highways Office

As Councillor Forster will be aware, the changes to the road layout outside the entrance to Woking College were made as part of the nearby housing development, with the changes having been proposed by the developer and approved by SCC's Transport Development Planning and Woking Borough Council in its capacity as the Planning Authority.

It is not clear why the road layout should be returned to a one-way system and although the development has only been completed for about a year, our personal injury collision database, which now contains details of incidents as recent as September 2020, does not show any such incidents in this vicinity or any justification revert back to a one-way system.

We do not propose to consult on returning the layout to a one-way system but should the residents wish to submit a petition, it could be added to our overall scheme list for consideration in a future year's work programme.

Question 2: Will Forster, Surrey County Councillor

Surrey County Council was due to resurface Granville Road in Westfield on 27th October, however this was postponed due to covid.

Please can the County Council confirm when this resurfacing will be reorganised?

Answer from Highways Office

Our colleagues in our Network & Asset Management Group, who oversee this resurfacing programme have advised that the new programme date is Wednesday 6th January 2021. The works are expected to last for one day. As always, these works will be weather dependent to a large degree and so could be subject to further postponement.

Question 3 – Ann-Marie Barker, Woking Borough Councillor

Please can an update be provided on the current state of, and future plans for the Lakers building and site, specifically:

- i) Was the whole building destroyed beyond repair as a result of the fire in January 2018?
- ii) Is the building now beyond repair?
- iii) Has a final decision been made to demolish the existing building?
- iv) Has any interest been expressed in running a youth facility at the Lakers site as a result of the recent youth centre consultation?
- v) What are the county council's alternative plans for the site?

Answer from Nigel Denning, Early Help Transformation Lead

The Lakers Youth Centre was destroyed by fire in early 2018. SCC has subsequently undertaken a public consultation regarding the future of all the SCC Youth Centres and the provision of open access universal youth work across the County.

The consultation has informed the strategy decisions that were published at the beginning of September:

1. Surrey County Council enables the community, voluntary and faith sector (CVFS) to use the youth centres for the benefit of young people at little or no cost.
2. Surrey County Council (SCC) acts as an enabler and facilitator of open access universal youth work rather than providing the service directly. The SCC expertise that is valued by residents and in particular young people can then be remodelled to continue to support specific vulnerable groups. The learning from Covid-19 should be used to inform the service design to ensure SCC is able to respond to the needs of young people who would otherwise be vulnerable to poor outcomes.

During the consultation, expressions of interest were invited and received from a wide range of organisations seeking to take on the running of services at youth centres. Whilst there are viable arrangements being progressed for other youth centres in Woking at Sheerwater and the Woking Youth Arts Centre there has not been any expression of interest for the Lakers Youth Centre that would warrant it being rebuilt as a youth centre.

As part of the Council's Asset & Place Strategy and the Corporate Landlord model the site is now being reviewed for alternative service use. This process will determine whether the asset has an identified use which enables service delivery in line with corporate and service strategies. If no alternative service use is identified Land & Property will then undertake an options appraisal to identify 'best value'; this will include disposal of for a capital receipt; redevelopment for revenue generation or a strategic hold.

Supplementary Question from Cllr Ann-Marie Barker

It is unclear whether the damage to the building occurred was from the fire or the failure to protect the building from the elements after the incident. It is also unclear whether the Centre was included in the County's consultation.

Answer

SCC Councillors confirmed that that this was included in the consultation - but it was clear that County was looking for a provider to take over and run the facility and none were forthcoming for this.

It was also confirmed that Woking Borough Council had no plans to develop the site as this belonged to Surrey County Council.

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