Parish Council Reports

June 2023

Highways

The majority of my postbag, relates to issues here and they are as usual seasonal, with potholes now taking a smaller part.

Increasing in frequency, are comments about the cutting of verges with the challenges of the cutting contracts taken over from the boroughs being a key point of focus. The cutting of sightlines at junctions has become a priority for the contractors and despite the late start to the cutting season they are now catching up.

An additional cut has been booked for later in the year to make sure we don’t enter next year with very high growth as we did this year when we took over.

Having had perfect weather for growth the hedges have really taken off this year and I am involved with encouraging residents adjacent to the highways to cut their hedges back now the bird nesting season is over.

The resurfacing of Bagshot Road Chobham has been very well received with several residents taking the trouble to write to me. The St. Lawrence School crossing, with the attendant traffic calming and reduction of speed limits has been slightly delayed but is eagerly awaited.

In Bagshot following pressure from local Parish and Borough Councillors I used a major part of my main Highways pot to get this resurfaced. The rest of this pot has been allocated for work on the A30 at Bagshot which is really suffering from wear. The introduction of a 30mph limit through Bagshot is expected in the not too distant future.

The rest of my other allocation has been directed to the new post, lights and camera in Broadway Road Windlesham, an important safety feature. I’m looking forward to supporting both Windlesham and Bagshot in their desire to improve safety in their village centres and to meeting with Councillors as these initiatives gain more momentum.

For next year I will be talking to officers about how my allocation may be used to alleviate flooding particularly in Philpot Lane and in Scots Grove Close.

Your Fund Surrey

I have encouraged applications from Chobham Parish Council and St.Lawrence School, The Windlesham Field of Remembrance as well as many other organisations to apply for funds and have supported these applications. Further applications are invited from organisations in Bagshot and Windlesham.

The Solar Together Scheme

Once again County is encouraging residents who are interested in having solar panel to use this scheme to save money.

Cost of living support

We continue to support individuals and families who need help in this area. Surrey has been allocated a further £10.6 million to help achieve this.

School Transport

This year many of the issues that beset us last year have been resolved and my work on the audit committee tells me that there are far fewer complaints than last year. There continues to be misunderstanding about what the policy means for residents and whilst I welcome views being sought from parents it may be that we have to press for a policy change. Residents can appeal against a decision of they feel they do not have the right support in place.

Additional Needs Support

Whilst I was delighted to approve planning permissions for sheltered housing to be provided by County it’s becoming clearer to me to me that the system is under enormous pressure and I really wish that I could be of more support when individual cases that need help arise.

Parking Enforcement

The new parking enforcement regime from County is in place and a typical month shows that there were 22,458 vehicle observations and 6122 PCN notices issued.

Richard Tear

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