

Question, Answers and Actions - Crawley County Local Forum –11 November

In Attendance: County Councillors

Zack Ali, Brenda Burgess, Richard Burrett, Alison Cornell, Duncan Crow, Bob Lanzer, Chris Oxlade, Brian Quinn.
Apologies from Natalie Pudaloff.

Residents:

John Cooban, Karl Fox, Bob Burgess, Peter Smith, Sylvia Handy, Richard Handy, Mary Grace.

Question 1 from Margaret of Three Bridges:

Relating to hygiene products and soiled nappies. Could these be collected separately please?

Response to Question 1, provided by officers:

Waste Collection is a District & Borough (D&B) Council function, and it will be for Crawley Borough Council to determine their policy in this area. Government will shortly, through new powers set out in the Environment Bill, make it a statutory duty for local authorities to collect a consistent range of recyclable materials from households (paper, card, glass, plastic and metal packaging and food waste). All these are already collected in West Sussex except food waste. The date from which local authorities must have this in place is not yet confirmed.

West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) has responsibility for processing or disposing of waste collected by D&Bs. We are working with the D&Bs to ensure we co-ordinate the commencement of food waste collections with the capacity to separately process this material. The list of materials does not include nappies and other absorbent hygiene products ("AHP"), although this is an area of interest to us. We are currently supporting a trial collection of AHP in the Arun district as part of a "1-2-3" system whereby food waste and AHP are collected weekly, recycled materials fortnightly and residual waste (of which there should be very little) on three weekly cycle. The scheme is proving popular with most users.

We will be evaluating and sharing the results of the trial with all West Sussex District and Borough partners in order to help inform future policy making.

Question 2 from Dave Glazebrook:

I would like to advise the councillors of the ongoing issue of cars parking on the verge in The Birches, Three Bridges. I have been in contact with Cllr Burgess, and I have sent her many photographs of the problem.

Each day there are an increasing number of cars that are choosing to park on the grass outside of their house, instead of the parking bays. There are plenty of

parking spaces available, but the cars will not receive parking tickets for not having a permit for the RPZ. So, they choose to park on the grass. This has gone unchallenged and so the numbers choosing to park here is increasing.

I am concerned that if no action is taken it will become custom and practice for cars to park in this way. We have limited green space and I believe that this location should be protected to prevent cars parking here. It is unsightly, and with the winter approaching very soon this area will resemble the Somme. This then dries out and after being churned up leaves huge deep ruts in which nothing will grow. I believe that this ultimately starts to cause a decline in standards in the area. I would urge the council to place bollards, or a small fence to protect this verge which ultimately belongs to WSCC.

Response to Question 2 provide by officers:

Parking enforcement of existing restrictions covered by a Traffic Regulation Order should be directed to Crawley Borough Council.

Accommodating verge parking by adopting the half on/ half off approach has been successful in some towns. West Sussex County Council (WSCC) as the Highway Authority currently do not install bollards to prevent verge parking. They are a maintenance liability and adversely affect grass cutting operations.

We are expecting the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to approve a new parking strategy shortly, after which we will have a better understand of what can be suggested in Crawley.

Other residents present stated that the small green was being used to both park and drive across. It was agreed this information would be passed to the Area Highways Manager.

Question 3 from John Cooban:

Can WSCC's Crawley Local Forum work as 'go-between' for Crawley Borough Council and WSCC with regard to a WSCC position statement that CBC could welcome as a supportive reference in time for inclusion in its Platinum Jubilee Civic Honours Competition entry? Or is County really a 'lost cause' as far as Crawley's aspirations for city status are concerned?

Response to Question 3 provided by Cllr Duncan Crow:

Government have asked Towns to submit bids for the Queens Platinum Jubilee and that Crawley Borough Council have submitted a bid.

Cllr Crow understood that the Chief Executive of Crawley Borough Council had approached the Chief Executive of West Sussex County Council asking for support but that not much detail is known at this stage. Although no formal

political approach has been made Cllr Crow has spoken to the Leader of WSCC and can confirm that he supports the bid in principle and hopes it is successful. Another resident present asked what city status would mean for Crawley and Cllr Crow responded stating it would be a commercial boost and help attract investment.

Question 4 from John Browning:

I would appreciate it if you would raise the issue of the condition of the Gatwick Road and the A2011 roundabout and approach from the M23 and the Gatwick Road / Manor Royal roundabout. These roads are a disgrace given they are the major approaches to one of the counties prime business districts with the road surface breaking up and rutted surfaces in previous repairs.

Additionally, although WSCC have recently filled in a deep subsidence hole outside the Harris L3 facility there is now another subsidence cavity developing further to the south (where the bus lane starts) which needs repair.

Also, the drainage outside the Honda garage and further north at the Flemming Way roundabout pedestrian crossing needs sorting out as during and after heavy rainfall heavy pooling of water is a feature with pedestrians risking a soaking. There are also drainage issues in Maxwell Way.

It is a mystery to me why WSCC in conjunction with the relevant water authorities are incapable of getting ground water drains at the lowest points in the roadways.

Response to Question 4 provided by the local member Brenda Burgess:

The local Councillor Brenda Burgess confirmed she had reported these concerns but would follow them up again with the Area Highways Manager.

It was understood that some resurfacing works had taken place recently but acknowledged that more was needed. Cllr Crow asked for confirmation as to whether the approach from the motorway was WSCC or National Highways, if National Highways could this concern be forwarded on.

Cllr Chris Oxlade confirmed that the Crawley Growth Plan would take forward many of these issues. He suggested some signage and communications would be useful to inform residents when this would be happening.

Question 5 from Karl Fox:

I'm once again emailing you to try and get your help over the terrible parking in camber close we are struggling to park in our road in evenings and weekends and people in our close are blocking spaces with items like trailers and holding on to them also people that have driveways are taking up to 30-50% of the spaces I know I have contacted you a lot about this but this is something that is a big problem and would be easily solved with the removal of the small green at

the end of the close which is never used and poorly maintained will solve all the problems in this road. I appreciate your ongoing help with this matter.

Response to Question 5 provided by officers:

We are expecting the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to approve a new parking strategy shortly, after which we will have a better understand of what can be suggested in Crawley.

Cllr Richard Burrett stated that many such greens had been removed but Crawley Borough Council had ceased the funding for this some time ago. The local member Brenda Burgess stated that she had discussed this with the Area Highways Manager and some suggestions had been made such as grasscrete or amending the Controlled Parking Zone.

The Crawley Road Space Audit was mentioned, and residents asked if this was available to view. The Chairman confirmed it was a draft document and therefore not published but that the soon to be published parking strategy may include details of it.