

Report to WPC, August 2019
From County Councillor Keith Witham

1. Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Worplesdon.

SCC has agreed to invest over £1million for a new “SEND” unit at Worplesdon Primary School, Fairlands through the creation of a new Special Educational Needs & Disabilities specialist centre. The centre is proposed within Worplesdon Primary School, to provide places for 21 pupils with high communication and interaction needs, and run in conjunction with Freemantles School, Woking.

Local residents will be reassured regarding any effect on local traffic as regarding transport the school is looking at staggered start and finish times, thus reducing traffic at peak times, and allocating space on the school site for the vehicles attached to the centre (i.e. taxis and staff cars)

The plan is subject to a planning application see

<http://planning.surreycc.gov.uk/planappdisp.aspx?AppNo=SCC%20Ref%202019/0109>

Subject to that approval it is hoped to construct the unit in the next year, aiming to open in September 2020. More information about the SEND centre is also available in the documents at <https://www.surreysays.co.uk/csf/worplesdon-coin-sc/>

2. More Environmental news.

Surrey County Council’s commitment to recycling has taken another step forward with an innovative trial for recycled plastic being used in pavements. Recycled waste plastic from bottles, bags and packaging has been used in the reconstruction of pavements for the first time in Surrey. The trial has seen materials that would otherwise have gone to landfill used in asphalt to resurface pavements after roadworks, cutting carbon emissions and potentially costs.

The bitumen is replaced by plastic collected from household waste such as bottles, bags and packaging, to make asphalt. It’s creators say it can cope better with contraction and expansion caused by changes in the weather, reducing cracks and potholes, while benefiting the environment.

The trial is being carried out with U.K. Power Networks and if tests prove successful, this could pave the way for wider use by other utilities. Any other environmental implications will also be considered and other trials elsewhere taken into account. Since September last year SCC operational staff using reusable water bottles have used 150,000 fewer single-use plastic water bottles than the same period the year before.

3. Reduction in the number of deaths in Surrey road traffic accidents.

Recent figures show a welcome reduction in the number of fatalities on Surrey’s Roads. While it’s positive that the number of people killed on Surrey’s roads dropped from 36 in 2017 to 27 in 2018 there is always more to do. I know from the regular feedback I get from residents that local Road safety, speeding, and anti-social driving remain prime concerns of residents. SCC follows a road safety policy referring to the “three E’s” - Engineering, Education and Enforcement.

ENGINEERING – Surrey County Council invests money at collision hotspots and addresses safety issues in road traffic safety schemes

EDUCATION – Road safety education services are offered to all Surrey's Schools. For example the "Bikeability" cycle training (to nearly 19,000 young people across Surrey in the last school year; (and are looking to do the same for pedestrian training) and the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service provide the "Safe Drive Stay Alive" performance to 12,000 young college and sixth form students - as new young drivers are a high risk group. See: <https://safedrivesurrey.org/>

ENFORCEMENT – SCC has developed a speed management plan for each borough in conjunction with Surrey Police. These identify the worst locations for speeding and casualties, so the police can target enforcement. The Council has also invested in average speed cameras at major locations.

Decisions about speed limits are made by the Guildford Joint SCC/GBC committee who can also implement 20 mph speed limits on residential road and shopping areas if they choose to. But any 20 mph schemes have to be effective, so the policy requires that additional road "engineering" might be needed if the existing speeds are much greater than 20mph. Otherwise research has shown that signs just on their own will not be effective.

4. Roadworks. I am asked about roadworks by residents, and will point out that only a minority of Highways works are run by Surrey County Council Highways; most are carried out by the utilities, Gas, Electricity, Water, Telecommunications, who have the legal right to access their facilities.

Some years ago SCC adopted a permit system whereby access is needed for routine maintenance nance is needed, the utility will apply in advance to SCC for a time limited permit for work on a specific stretch of road. But if it's an emergency situation the utility has the right to just get on with what they need to do.

I would advise that a very useful reference for all such works is: www.roadworks.org

4. Parking for Disabled residents. There is new Blue Badge legislation coming into force on 30th August 2019. This will extend the eligibility criteria for the scheme to include 'non-visible' (hidden) disabilities. (currently only physical disabilities) .
More information in due course.

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