

Question, Answers and Actions - Crawley County Local Forum –22 June 2022

County Councillors in attendance

Zack Ali, Brenda Burgess, Richard Burrett, Alison Cornell, Duncan Crow, Bob Lanzer, Brian Quinn.

Apologies: Chris Oxlade, Natalie Pudaloff

Question 1 from Iain Millar:

After several years of discussion on how to solve the problem of flooding and the horrendous state of Maxwell Way a solution is in sight, but we really need the help of yourself and West Sussex county Council.

At a recent meeting of the Manor Royal BID group, they announced that funding could be made available to design out the "Grot spots" including landscaping Maxwell Way and the installation of new street furniture but all this would be in vane if we cannot solve the flooding problem. A solution to this could be the WSCC flood alleviation grant for which you recently sent me details.

I was informed that Tinsley Lane Residents' Association could be eligible to apply for this grant but that **we** would be responsible for managing the project. Unfortunately, nobody in the Residents' Association has the qualifications or experience to do this. I have discussed the problem with Cllr Peter Smith who has served many years with planning in Crawley Borough Council and he advised that Highways projects can only be carried out with the help of WSCC and that I should thus refer back to you.

So, if the TLRA can apply for the funding could WSCC Highways manage the project? Richard Speller of WSCC Highways is fully aware of the problem so could the flood alleviation grant be allocated to WSCC Highways if the request is made by Tinsley Lane Residents' Association?

If we can get the flooding problem solved, then Manor Royal BID group could go ahead with their landscaping project, and we could eventually remove Maxwell Way from the list of "Grot spots" in Crawley

Response to Question 1 (local member Brenda Burgess):

The localised flooding issue impacting the community in principle appears to be suitable to be considered for Operation Watershed Active Communities Fund application and it is understood that the Residents Association have had early discussions with a contractor to assist in identifying a potential scheme that would alleviate the flooding at this location.

As part of Operation Watershed Active Communities Fund due diligence process this has been reviewed by highway's & drainage colleagues and fed back to the Chairman, including information on next steps.

The principle of Operation Watershed Active Communities Fund is to provide funding to empower community groups to implement schemes that are important to them locally, where the highway authority or other similar agencies

may not prioritise such work, or indeed have resources and or the finance for implementation.

Operation Watershed Active Communities Fund is not able to award funding if the community group is unable to support the project in its delivery as this forms part of the grant fund and evaluation criteria.

If funding is awarded it is provided directly to the applicant group, where the group has a bank account and formal constitution. Or in some cases where this isn't an option then groups have worked in partnership with a nearby fully constituted group who act as "banker" to hold funds on their behalf. This is usually acceptable to Operation Watershed.

Operation Watershed has provided support around the next steps to the Residents Association, providing supporting information including FAQ's plus guidance on what role as an applicant the Residence Association would play and will be available to assist the group if they decide to progress its application. Officers have spoken to the Chair of the Residents Association about how they plan to organise a working group to progress things forward.

Mr Millar asked for the Councillors support for the application, which they all gave.

Cllr Duncan Crow explained the process for Operation Watershed applications stating that the relevant Cabinet Member will review the applications twice a year and make a formal decision about which ones to grant funding too. Cllr Brenda Burgess asked Mr Millar to keep her informed-on progress.

Question 2 from Karl Fox:

The parking in Camber Close is not good enough and the small poorly maintained green would solve all the issues to the road included drives constantly getting blocked double/triple parking Would like to discuss this please?

Response to Question 2 (local member Brenda Burgess):

This was raised at the last Forum and Cllr Brenda Burgess undertook to speak to Richard Speller about it again. Cllr Bob Lanzer stated that Camber Close had previously had a scheme to convert grass areas to parking spaces. He stated that another option could involve extending the Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ). Cllr Lanzer agreed to work with Cllr Burgess to look into these options again.

Information from Miles Davy (Parking Manager):

There is a review of parking in Crawley on our long term radar (currently scheduled to start March 2024) but this dependent upon progress of other proposals such as Manor Royal. But technically, yes, we could consider other areas in Crawley. In line with the new policy though, there would need to be support for a CPZ in at least 5 roads in this vicinity as we would not consider a scheme in just one road.

I would urge caution about considering a CPZ in this area however – traditionally, this has always been residential parking here rather than non-residential such as commuters. It seems to me to be a case of simply too many

cars for the amount of road space we have. A CPZ would potentially further restrict parking opportunities in areas such as this as we would need to restrict junctions etc and prevent verge parking etc – so a CPZ could actually do more harm than good.

If the issue here is a lack of parking capacity, then I would suggest the best course of action would be to consider creating a new hardstanding on the grass area, and this would classify as a community highways scheme rather than anything CPZ related. You can apply for a [Community Highway Scheme online](#)

Mr Fox confirmed that he had drafted a new application for a Community Highways Scheme after a previous one did not meet the minimum score. Cllr Bob Lanzer had reviewed the new application and suggested some changes which he hoped would be beneficial.

It was explained that applications must be submitted by 31 July 2022. After this all applications are accessed, scored and put forward to the relevant Cabinet Member for decision and if successful would be implemented in the next financial year (from April 2023).

Cllr Bob Lanzer did also suggest when they submit the application that the residents request an in-person assessment/site visit.

Question 3 from C.N.Navaratnarajah (unable to attend , written response will be provided):

I am sorry i am unable to attend the "talk to us " meeting on the 22nd of June at the library. It is because I am disabled with mobility issues. I live at Hanover close, Tilgate senior citizens apartment . We are living in 33 flats on a monthly rent either with or without their spouses. Some of us travel by bus to the hospital & town centre & some own vehicles. Those who travel by bus face lot of difficulties when boarding a bus as in the event of rain there is no place to take cover as we get wet soaked with rainwater.

There is no bus stop shelter cover to sit or take cover from rain. I appeal to the councillors to request the Metro bus station to provide us with bus halt shelter seats with overhead cover on either side of this "LOPPETS ROAD " bus halt. When number 2 bus to leaves the Crawley bus station to K2 its first stop before reaching Furnace green is located near the children's nursery school adjoining the playground. I believe the councillors will do the needful as every one of us are either disabled or suffer from some form of sickness. Expecting a favourable reply

Response to Question 3 (local member Duncan Crow):

Installation of bus shelters is usually co-ordinated by the local Borough or Parish Council who then take on the responsibility to ensure it is maintained. We will ensure your request is therefore passed to officers at Crawley Borough Council. Cllr Duncan Crow hoped that the request would be looked at carefully due to the resident's needs.

Question 4 from John Cooban:

Mr Cooban explained that he was a tree warden in a scheme supported by West Sussex County Council but that currently not in partnership with Crawley Borough Council. He explained in other areas of West Sussex the District and Borough Councils did support these schemes. He asked Councillors to help persuade Crawley Borough Council to join the scheme.

Response to Question 4:

The Chairman agreed that the Forum would write to the Leader of Crawley Borough Council to ask them to support the scheme

Question 5 from John Coobhan:

A sign stating that Hazelwick Road would be resurfaced by 6 June was put up. When the resurfacing did not happen by that date Mr Coobhan called to query it and was told the sign was put up in error.

Response to Question 5 (local member Brenda Burgess):

Cllr Brenda Burgess stated she would follow this up with Highways but undertook it was placed in error.

Question 6 from Dave Hathaway:

Mr Hattaway asked if any members had followed up on his question at a previous meeting about LED signage.

Response to Question 6:

Cllr Richard Burrett stated that following the last meeting he did follow this up with planning officers at Crawley Borough Council. Regarding enforcement it has been found that the levels of illumination at the football club are greater than the permission allows. They have been asked to reduce it, which they did, but after a short time it was found to be higher again. Cllr Burrett agreed to follow this up with planning officers in the next few weeks.

Cllr Zack Ali suggested that residents should formally complain to Crawley Borough Council.

A resident suggested that technology should allow light sensors to auto adjust. Cllr Burrett stated he would mention this to officers.

Question 7 from Neil Stallard

Mr Stallard referred to some trees on Pound Hill Junior School site that are overgrowing onto nearby pavements. He has approached the school and written to the County Councils School Maintenance Team but has had no response.

Response to Question 7 (local member Brenda Burgess)

Cllr Brenda Burgess agreed to speak to Mr Stallard after the meeting and follow this up with the appropriate officer at WSCC.

Question 8 from Peter Smith

Mr Smith welcomed the walking and cycling improvements and the consultation to link this up with Northgate Avenue. However, he stated that in Northgate Avenue there was a bus stop with a narrow path and railings that has failed to be addressed. He asked if Cllr Ali was aware of this and asked if it could be improved? He also asked if the section between Southgate Avenue between the railway bridge and Telford Place could be completed?

Response to Question 8

Cllr Ali stated he would visit the site Mr Smith refers to near the bus stop and feedback to officers.

It was noted that the second section referred to by Mr Smith was in Cllr Burgess division and it was noted these needs connecting. All points would be passed onto officers dealing with the proposals.

Question 9 from Ellie

The Crawley Bee Wild project would like to thank Cllr Bob Lanzer for his support and action following the recent nature verge being cut down by mistake. They hoped the actions put in place will mean this does not happen again. Ellie also asked that some issues regarding the Community Road Verge Scheme need to be addressed with a gap between the training provided by WSCC to communities and to other Councils. She wanted members to be aware of the challenges she had faced and help improve the process, so others do not have the same issues.

Response to Question 9

Cllr Bob Lanzer responded thanking Ellie for all her work in relation to the project. He also stated that thanks were due to Crawley Borough Councils Neighbourhood Services Team for their prompt action and support. Cllr Lanzer was aware of the challenges and would take those issues raised forward.

Question 10 from Sylvia Handy

Asked for an update on the Crawley Road Space Audit.

Response to Question 10:

The Road Space Audit (RSA) programme/principle has now been replaced by the new [CPZ Policy](#). The need to investigate parking in Crawley remains a high priority for us and so Crawley does still form part of the forward CPZ programme as detailed in the Policy. At the moment, we need to complete a project in Manor Royal before we can really assess what/where to include in a potential Crawley CPZ study. Hypothetically, if a scheme in Manor Royal did go ahead, we would need to consider the arrangements in surrounding residential areas such as Langley Green. If a scheme didn't go ahead in Manor Royal or was scaled back in some way, we might need to reconsider the other areas of Crawley we looked at. As a minimum though, I would think that we will be looking at residential areas surrounding the existing CPZ in Crawley – so there will be project still.

I would advise anyone concerned over parking in their part of Crawley to contact parking@westsussex.gov.uk and we can then build up some evidence to support where we will be investigating.