ECS PDS—25th January 2023

Oral Questions from the Public

1) Question from Kyle Sewell:

(27 December 2022).

I am a resident of Tylney Road, and for years, cars have been driving too fast down the road. There have been several times where I've nearly been hit by speeding cars due to lack of visibility. Will the Council commit to reducing speed on Tylney Road, and how?

Response to Question 1:

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety:

The Council has installed traffic calming measures on Tylney Road, including a raised table and school-time 20mph flashing signs. Parked cars in Tylney Road also help reduce the speed of traffic.

Speeding motorists are a police responsibility.

Supplementary Question from Kyle Sewell:

What action has the Council taken to protect school children in the vicinity if Tylney Road. If no action has been taken, what action will be taken in the future?

Response to the Supplementary Question from Kyle Sewell:

I can only repeat what I have just said. We have put in a raised table, we have also put in 20mph flashing signs. I drive down Tylney Road all the time. The fact that there are parked cars on both sides and by the junction of the mini roundabout does actually mean that traffic slows down. If there are problems on occasion with speeding traffic, I suggest that you talk to your Ward Councillors who will be members of your local Safer Neighbourhood Team Committee and they will raise the matter directly with the police.

Question from Councillor Alisa Igoe:

Can you advise if the 20 mph flashing signs are advisory and not enforceable, which means that traffic could still travel down the road at 29mph?

Response to the Question from Cllr Alisa Igoe:

Yes, the signs are advisory and not enforceable by Law. The fact that they are used at the end of the school day makes usage more appropriate and they tend to work.

Question from Cllr Alisa Igoe:

Do you not think that it's dangerous to have small, very young children emerging from parked cars and trying to cross the road?

Response to Cllr Alisa Igoe

I would hope that a young very small child would be with its parents, but clearly what we have done is to ensure that there are warning signs there. There is little more that we can do—we have put in appropriate measures. It is a busy road, but my experience is that its difficult to go fast down that road, particularly at the bottom end as you have to stop for cars coming the other way.

2) Question from Tim Webb.

(11 January 2023)

There are two blocked drains or gullies in the High Street outside number 172, the site of the old Harvest Moon Pub.

These are continually blocked and cause severe flooding in the road and pavement after it rains. How often are these gullies and drains cleared and when was such cleaning last carried out?

Here is a link to a recent YouTube video highlighting the issue.

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Response to Question 2:

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces

All 35,000 roadside gullies in the borough are scheduled for cleaning at least every other year. Some gullies including the ones on the High Street need traffic management to carry out safely the work. The two gullies are on our work programme planned for overnight on 23rd January 2023, when the problem will be investigated.

Supplementary Question from Tim Webb:

The two drains opposite 172 High Street are often blocked. How often are drains cleared? When were they last cleared? I would like to thank Cllr Kim Botting for escalating the matter.

Response to the Supplementary Question.

The drains have been cleared out. If there continues to be an issue with flooding then please report it again. This can be reported to your Ward Councillor or to myself.

(It was noted that the Neighbourhood Manager for Waste Services—in attendance at the meeting, would investigate further).

Supplementary Question from Cllr Simon Fawthrop:

What is the frequency of drain cleaning in High Streets?

Response to the Question from Cllr Fawthrop:

The drains are normally cleaned every two years. If there is an incident where flooding occurs we will always investigate.

3) Question from Kyle Sewell:

(27 December 2022).

Following the snow in mid-December, I found it difficult as a pedestrian to walk to school due to ice on the pavements, and slipped over once due to it. This was also dangerous for elderly people, who find it difficult to keep their balance. Why didn't the Council grit pavements?

Response to Question 3:

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety:

The Council are unable to treat all footways following snowfall. Priority treatments are based on the following criteria

- Transport interchanges e.g. railway stations, bus terminals and routes to them;
- Town centres
- Outside schools and safer routes to schools (walking bus routes)

We have a 'Snow Friends' programme, where residents are able to assist in snow clearing and spreading salt on local footways

Supplementary Question from Kyle Sewell:

I have been told that there are not enough volunteers for 'snow friends' and some of those who are volunteers did not receive their supplies on time. Why was this? When we have very cold weather, will the Council not commit to gritting pavements and shop fronts to ensure safety?

Response to the Supplementary Question from Kyle Sewell:

We cant afford to grit every road in the borough. The priorities have been set over many years and they are the right ones.

Comment from Cllr Simon Fawthrop:

Is the Portfolio Holder aware that an event for 'Snow Friends was held last night? Councillor Turrell hosted and it was well attended.

(At this point Councillor Turrell expressed his thanks to 'Snow Friends' volunteers.