

Council
13 December 2023
Agenda Item 11 – Questions from Councillors

Procedure Rule 11 - Questions from Councillors

1. The following question has been submitted by Councillor Murray Rowlands under Procedure Rule 11:

To the Sustainable Transport & Planning Portfolio Holder:

"There were 2030 deaths and serious injuries in Surrey caused by road accidents between 2020 and 2022. A third of these were due to speeding. Can the Portfolio Holder confirm that he is prepared to campaign for 20 mph speed limits and further measures on residential roads where there is local support?"

Response from the Sustainable Transport & Planning Portfolio Holder:

"Although the determination of speed limits (with the exception of the larger Highways England roads) is a matter for Surrey County Council as the relevant Highways Authority, we will continue to champion the issues that are most important for local residents. Therefore where there is demonstrable evidence of local support for the introduction of 20 mph speed limits in particular locations, this Council will certainly campaign in support of those residents."

2. The following question has been submitted by Councillor Richard Wilson under Procedure Rule 11:

To the Net Zero, Well-being & Environment Portfolio Holder

"Fly-tipping has a devastating effect on the environment in the Borough, including in Bagshot and Windlesham. Data supplied by the Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors, from the year ending in 2022, shows that the last administration had a poor record for issuing Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) to fly-tippers. SHBC ranked only 236 out of 309 local authorities in England for the number of FPNs issued. Recently, anecdotally, the performance seems to have improved markedly under the new administration. It appears that this is due to the long-term vacancies in the Enforcement Team now being filled and the new LibDem administration's focus on protecting the environment. Residents really appreciate their efforts in deterring fly-tipping and punishing those responsible. What measures is the Council proposing to take in future to improve further and significantly increase the number of FPNs issued for this appalling offence?"

Response from the Net Zero, Well-being & Environment Portfolio Holder:

“I agree that fly-tipping has an incredibly negative impact on the environment and the communities where waste is fly-tipped, also there is a financial burden that this council has in clearing fly-tipping and I would encourage the public to dispose of their waste responsibly and correctly.

It is also important to note that levels of fly-tipping can often mirror wider economic conditions, such as during a cost-of-living crisis.

However, data collected from Waste Data Flow indicates that there has been a year on year reduction in the rolling 12 month average total tonnage of fly-tipping from 220 tonnes in March 2020 to a rolling annual total of 9 tonnes in September 2023. This is the lowest level of fly-tipping within Surrey.

Monthly averages of fly-tips reported to our waste contractor Amey were calculated as a monthly average for a period of 7 months prior to and post-May 2023. The data shows that prior to May 2023 the monthly average number of reported fly-tips was 50 whereas the average figure from May to November 2023 was 59.1.

The number of fixed penalty notices served between May 2023 to date is 6, 4 in the same period in 2022 and 2 in the same period for 2021. It is important to add that the number of fixed penalty notices for fly-tipping offences is not directly linked to incidents of fly-tipping. FPNs and other enforcement action such as prosecution is reliant on having sufficient evidence to be able to identify the perpetrator.

Our Corporate Enforcement team have invested in deployable CCTV cameras for the purpose of prevention and detection of environmental crimes such as fly-tipping. This has generated substantial successes in reducing fly-tipping in surveyed areas. This will continue and we will continue to work with partners to tackle fly-tipping and other environmental crimes.

New guidelines have been issued by Central Government regarding the FPN scheme we are able to fine. This is currently being reviewed and I hope to bring a recommendation forward in the new year.

Finally, I would like to encourage the public to help us tackle fly-tipping by ensuring:

1. Dispose of their waste responsibly at household waste recycling centres
2. If they are paying someone to remove waste on their behalf, that they are asking them to ensure they are a registered waste carrier, and
3. To come forward with information where they witness fly-tipping taking place.”