

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 25 September 2008

Subject: Civil Engineering and Maintenance Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Richard Bassett

Item: 7(c)

Recommending:

That the report of the Portfolio Holder for Civil Engineering and Maintenance be noted.

I am pleased to report that we are making considerable progress on Highways issues. You would have seen in the Bulletin recently a request for you to discuss with your residents and interested persons the proposals for a large range of small waiting and disabled bays alterations. (Traffic Regulation Order, TRO, Amendment No. 14). Hopefully you have passed any comments back to Kim Durrani, Assistant Director of Environment and Street Scene but if not can you do this as soon as possible. There are over 100 proposed changes in this TRO and I would like to get agreed positions response back to Highways as soon as possible so work can commence.

Also we held a meeting with West Area Highways on 2 September where we discussed the outstanding parking reviews. I am pleased to report that Spencer Brooks has rejoined Highways on a temporary basis with a specific brief to complete these reviews. As such we are in a position to commence the discussion process with members. We have a date of 24 September for the Epping Members to have the Epping review presented to them.

We have also set a date for the Buckhurst Hill Review of 6.30pm on 23 October 2008 and finally the Broadway review will be 8pm on the 23 October. Highways still have work to do on the reviews but they have committed to be ready to present on the above dates to the local members for those areas.

As I have previously stated it is my plan to clear the outstanding parking issues and reviews and treat any new requests as a separate item. However, as stated if you need me to come to speak to people about local issues then I am more than willing to help.

Shortly I shall be publishing the Highways capital works program for the rest of the year. I have seen the proposals from Highways and they are sending it to me and I will publish it in the Bulletin. Again if you wish me to work with you on issues please contact me. With regards to the County Council's plans on localism we are awaiting for a timetable but I believe we should know if we are in the next group of councils by the end of October. If we are then we will need to set up some form of local highways panel representing the areas in the district. I am doing some work on how this should be structured but I am always open to suggestions.