

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

13 March 2018



Title	Use of lay-bys by large goods (LGVs) and other vehicles		
Purpose of the report	To note		
Report Author	Jackie Taylor Group Head Neighbourhood Services		
Cabinet Member	Councillor Nick Gething	Confidential	No
Corporate Priority	Clean and Safe Environment		
Recommendations	There are none		
Reason for Recommendation	The report is an information item		

1. Key issues

- 1.1 Lay-bys are intended as a short stopping location for LGV drivers and other motorists to either comply with TACO regulations or take a short break to relieve tiredness, they are managed by various agencies to different standards and frequencies of cleansing and general maintenance.
- 1.2 There have in the past been issues by one haulier who was using the lay-bys to park containers but this practice has now ceased and the majority of lay-bys now appear to be used for their intended purpose.
- 1.3 Issues reported to Spelthorne by SBC staff, residents and visitors are either dealt with by Neighbourhood Services, if it falls within our area of responsibility, or reported through to customer services at either Surrey County Council or Highways England/Connect Plus.
- 1.4 There are 12 main lay-bys in the borough 6 of which are used daily by large goods vehicles (LGVs) and other traffic, 3 on the A308 & 3 on the A30. Many years ago there was another 1 lay by on A308 towards the crooked billet roundabout. This lay-by was removed and reinstated as verge by SCC due to complaints by residents living in the adjacent housing area. Other lay-bys fall within the boundaries of industrial estates, are off the main roads and create very few complaints.
- 1.5 The main lay-bys are on the:_
 1. Staines Road West (Sunbury cross to Fordbridge roundabout)
 2. A 308 (Fordbridge roundabout to crooked billet)
 3. A30 (Fordbridge roundabout to junction 13, M25)

Management & maintenance of these lay-bys falls to Spelthorne Borough Council (**SBC**), Surrey County Council (**SCC**) and the Highways England/Connect plus (**HE/CP**)

- 1.6 The following table shows the frequencies (where known) and responsibilities of the various agencies along the 3 sections of road.

	Litter on verges	Litter bins	Fly tipping on grass verges & footways	Grass cutting	hedges	General maintenance
Staines road west	SBC Daily in lay-bys, other areas vary-daily & weekly	SBC Emptied 7 days a week	SBC Within 7 days	SBC (agency agreement with SCC) 6 cuts per year under traffic control Chapter 8 regulation	SCC when required	SCC when required
A308	SBC Daily in lay-bys, other areas vary-daily, weekly, 6 times a year under traffic control	SBC Emptied 7 days a week	SBC Within 7 days or under traffic control Chapter 8 regulation	SBC (agency agreement with SCC) 6 cuts per year under traffic control Chapter 8 regulation	SCC when required	SCC when required
A30	HE /CP frequency unknown	HE/CP frequency unknown	HE/CP frequency unknown	HE/CP frequency unknown	HE/CP frequency unknown	HE/CP frequency unknown

- 1.8 Complaints that fall within the responsibility of Spelthorne are dealt with according to issue. Litter within the lay-by will be dealt with daily at the same time as the litter bins are emptied or the following day if reported after 12 noon. Litter on footways will be dealt with within 48 hours. Litter on stretches of high speed road such as the A308 where there is no footway will only be dealt with when traffic management has been put into place due to the legal requirements of working within Chapter 8 of the road traffic management regulations, this requires lane closures to maximise safety of operatives.

Fly tipping will be dealt with within 7 days depending on the location & severity.

Abandoned vehicles will be dealt with under our abandoned vehicle policy although there have been occasions where large trailers full of tyres have

been abandoned in lay-bys and these have taken much longer to remove due to complications with the condition of the trailer and its fly tipped contents.

- 1.9 The majority of complaints that are passed to Surrey County Council relate to rubbish & fly tipping in the ditches along the A308 and tree & hedge maintenance. During periods of extreme weather SBC assist SCC with tree issues to ensure that traffic can continue to flow along these busy routes.
- 2.0 The majority of complaints that are passed on to Highways England/Connect Plus relate to litter, fly tipping, litter bins, defecation in the lay-bys believed to be by lorry drivers and grass cutting. We do not assist with any of these issues on the A30 as none of these functions fall within the responsibility of either Spelthorne Borough Council or Surrey County Council.
- 2.1 Spelthorne Borough Council manage cutting of the grassed areas along the Staines Road West and A308 as part of a 4 year agency agreement with Surrey County Council. The cost for providing the high standards achieved are subsidised by Spelthorne Borough Council. The subsidy for 17/18 was £80k and for 18/19, due to the SCC funding reduction will be £120k
- 2.2 The management of litter & bins along the Staines Road West & A308 falls to Spelthorne Borough Council under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
- 2.3 There are no public rest facilities available to any drivers along most stretches other than at larger fuel stations.

2. Options analysis and proposal

- 2.1 There are no options available to us as other agencies like Spelthorne work within their own policies, guidelines and budgets to manage their responsibilities and customer expectations within these areas.

3. Financial implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications for Spelthorne Borough Council as management of areas that fall within our area of responsibility are financed within existing budgets.

4. Other considerations

- 4.1 We could consider promoting areas of responsibility on social media, concentrating on creating a page on our web site with current reporting procedures, contact details and agency responsibilities.
- 4.2 Surrey Police are not able to attend the Committee meeting but have submitted comments which are attached to this report. (Appendix 1)
- 4.3 At the time of writing this report we are awaiting an update from Highways England to advise if they are able to attend the Committee meeting in relation to this issue.

Background papers: There are none

Appendix 1 – Comments from Surrey Police