Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Sustainability

Response to Overview and Scrutiny Commission Comments at its meeting on Monday 4 June 2018
OSC/269

Broadfield Residents Parking Petition – To have more grass verges for parking at Halley Close, Eddington Hill, Broadfield

1.
As Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Sustainability, I have given thought to the OSC discussion and vote suggesting consideration of the reintroduction of the Residential Improvement Schemes for 2019/20. This would inevitably involve a Capital Bid. In recent years, the criteria for capital bids have been one or more of 'spend to save', 'spend to earn', 'environmental obligations' and 'maintaining council assets'. Unfortunately such Improvement Schemes, including the Halley Close proposal, do not, in my judgment satisfy any of those criteria so I will have to set aside the recommendation. Putting aside the financial cost, I am concerned that the Halley Close proposal will potentially involve the loss of trees and amenity space, including a play area on CBC land, in an otherwise densely housed area. In addition, I would remind the OSC that since 2012 there have been over 50 suggestions made for such Improvement Schemes from residents elsewhere in the town which have not been implemented for similar reasons.

2.
I am happy to engage with the petitioner and local residents - with the help of Community Development officers - to consider the issues in detail in the hope that individual concerns can be addressed or ameliorated such as Parking Bays for use by – and only by- Emergency Vehicles.

3.
West Sussex County Council Highways is the body whose responsibility it is to address parking issues. This is clearly documented in Part 3 of WSCC Constitution 'Responsibility for Functions' notably Sections 55 and 58. Currently WSCC Highways are conducting a Road Space Audit for Crawley and a number of 'hotspots' have been identified. Miles Davy, the Parking Manager, will be approached to ask that Halley Close be added to the hotspot list.

I have been in touch with the principal petitioner along these lines and will also ask that this matter be separately considered by Cabinet and BAG.

Cllr Geraint Thomas
Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Sustainability
11.6.18.