

Full Council – 13 February 2024
Questions submitted by Councillors

Question 1 – submitted by Cllr B Trite

Since (1) Dorset Council members for Swanage have lately received a high number of complaints from residents concerning the extreme intensity of LED street lighting recently installed in various residential roads in the town; and (2) on investigating, both members fully agreed with complainants that the lighting is extraordinarily harsh and intense, amounting to a serious, intrusive nuisance for occupiers of homes thus affected; and (3) the members consider it reasonable for the residents subject to this nuisance to question whether the wrong specification of lighting unit has been installed for the category of streets concerned; then what action will the Council urgently take to remedy the present, most unsatisfactory situation currently being experienced by these residents?

Response by Cllr R Bryan

I have asked the Corporate Director for Highways to carry out a policy review of street lighting.

Supplementary question – 19:07

Ray – Yes will include – subject to the review but will take action if not as would like

Question 2 - submitted by Cllr K Wheller

Wooland Gardens in Wyke Regis would appear to be a quiet cul de sac with very little traffic. Very narrow, leafy with a narrow pavement to only one side. In fact, it leads via a small footpath to and from A Church, three schools, a Medical Centre, Dental Practice, library, shops, clubs and the main bus route.

This route is used by a huge number of residents throughout the day and into the night, all ages and mobility.

As well as moderate traffic generated by residents it is subject to frequent delivery vans and cars parked on the pavement because of the lack of off street parking in adjoining roads.

Last year an elderly resident, a lady of over 90 years of age who despite being sight impaired lived alone and independently was run over (a van reversed over her) and killed in the most horrendous manner.

Following the 'accident' I contacted the Cabinet member for Highways Cllr Ray Bryan and asked that safety measures could be put in place. He assured me that after road safety investigations were complete he would sanction this.

Subsequently, the police and our own road safety officers have stated that whilst this was a dreadful incident, agreeing that the road is narrow and parked cars are a

hazard, the death was the result of an accident and no recommendation to improve safety would be made.

I contacted Cllr Bryan on behalf of residents; of which I am one; to ask if 'SLOW' signs and 'Pedestrians in road' could be provided. I have also contacted the Highways team. I have received no response.

My residents have asked me to pursue this. It is difficult not to walk in the road when the only pavement is blocked, it is difficult to contain children walking in groups to and from the schools or parents with buggies.

We know that double yellow lines are impossible, we know that 'no parking on pavements' cannot be enforced. We simply ask for some warning signs alerting drivers unfamiliar with the Cul de Sac to improve the safety.

I am sorry to waste valuable council time on this issue but when one receives no answer to letters what can one do?

Response by Cllr R Bryan

Thank you for your question Cllr Wheller about the tragedy at Wooland Gardens.

I would like to be able to answer the question in full and also to address what I consider to be unfair criticisms of the highways team and of me. However, while a criminal case against the driver of a vehicle is under consideration it would be entirely wrong for me to comment.