



**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY – WORK PROGRAMME SUGGESTION FORM

I would like to suggest a Scrutiny or Policy Review item for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee's next work programme.

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<p>I would like to suggest that the following matter is reviewed:</p> <p>The condition of footways, kerbsides and road signs.</p>
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Reasons for suggestion:

Many road signs are not serving their intended purpose due to being

- So dirty they are illegible
- Damaged or broken
- Missing
- Obscured by vegetation
- Obsolete

Many footways have accumulated leaf litter and other debris and encroaching vegetation

- Footways become narrow, uneven and slippery
- This makes them unsafe for users, particularly those with buggies, restricted mobility or visually impairments.
- At worst users have to walk in the road – causing highway safety issues for both the pedestrians and vehicles

Many kerbsides have accumulated leaf litter and debris

- This blocks gullies and can cause flooding
- Roadsides become uneven and slippery – a hazard for cyclists and vehicles

Overall the condition of the road signs, footways and kerbsides leads to:

- Areas looking untidy and uncared for
- Streetscape clutter
- Discourages walking and cycling
- Causes highway safety issues
- Concerns over whether contractors are operating in accordance with the specification and conditions of their contracts, and whether these contracts are being monitored.

The Council's vision states it wishes to 'maintain the quality of our environment'. It's principles include 'improve health, wellbeing and quality of life' and 'deliver quality in all we do'.

The current condition of the road signs, footways and kerbsides does not contribute to or comply with these statements.

Improvements to these areas would not only improve safety for residents, including pedestrians, cyclists and drivers, but could help promote community pride and encourage respect for the environment. It would also encourage the use of sustainable transport options.

Are there any specific aspects of the issue you would like scrutiny to focus upon or supporting evidence?

All aspects are a concern.

Local evidence includes

- Clear deterioration in these areas
- Increasing resident comments and complaints
- High number of comments received in a 2017 household consultation
- Specific examples of ineffectual kerbside sweeping
- Repeated reports of blocked road gullies not actioned
- Specific examples of replacement or new signs failing after a short time – due to quality of product or installation

What would you like to see coming out of the review in terms of desired outcomes?

Improvements to highway safety and the quality of the local environment through

- Clear and visible road signs
- Footways safe and useable for pedestrians, and cyclists where appropriate
- Gullies cleared so reducing roadside flooding
- Removal of unnecessary signs and posts reducing streetscape clutter

Efficient use of WBC resources through contractors complying with contract specifications and conditions

An option for Local Councils to buy in to a higher level of service for their area – only after areas are brought up to standard and routine maintenance is being carried out in accordance with contracts.

Would you like to attend the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to make a short statement in support of your request?

Yes If necessary

No

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