



SURREY

COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting

LOCAL COMMITTEE IN WAVERLEY

Date: FRIDAY 12TH MARCH 2004

Time: 2.00PM

Place: GODALMING BAPTIST CHURCH

Members present:

Surrey County Council

Mrs M Nyazai (Godalming South and Rural) (Chairman)
Mr J Foster (Waverley West)
Mrs M King-Hele (Farnham Central)
Mrs J Maines (Farnham North)
Mr D Munro (Farnham South)
Dr A Povey (Waverley East)
Mr C Slyfield (Godalming North)

Waverley Borough Council

Mr M W Byham (Bramley, Busbridge and Hascombe)
Miss G B W Ferguson (Farnham Castle)
Mrs P M Frost (Farnham Rowledge and Wrecclesham)
Mr P D Harmer (Hindhead)
Mr J E Robini (Haslemere Critchmere and Shottermill)
Mr J M Savage (Cranleigh East)
Mr K Webster (Milford)

All references to Items refer to the Agenda for the meeting.

25/04 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item 1)

Apologies were received from Mrs C Stevens.

26/04 MR S D STEEL

The Committee observed a minute's silence in memory of the late Mr S D Steel.

27/04 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: 30 JANUARY 2004 (Item 2)

The minutes were agreed to be a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

28/04 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS (Item 3)

There were no declarations of interests.

29/04 PETITIONS (Item 4)

A petition was presented by Ms R Mullender on behalf of local residents requesting a pedestrian crossing across High Lane, Haslemere.

The matter was referred to the next meeting for a report.

30/04 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (Item 5)

The following questions were received and responses provided as follows:

1. From Mr Jeremy Hunt

Please could you let me know if Surrey County Council has any plans to help fund a youth drop-in centre in Godalming ? There has been an increasing problem of antisocial behaviour in the Godalming and Farncombe area over the last year. Incidents such as youths congregating around a bench outside the off-licence by Farncombe station, the smashing of the Co-op windows on 10th October and persistent graffiti problems in Godalming High Street have caused concern to many local residents. In view of this would Surrey County Council be willing to consider funding or part-funding a youth drop-in centre? Something similar to Plantation Cafe in Market Street in Guildford, where young people are able to meet, use the internet and receive free counselling on careers, education and training and personal issues could be a huge benefit to the community by helping to address the issues facing young people in the area.

Response

It is apparent that there is a need for a youth 'drop-in' centre in Godalming that provides access to information and support along the lines suggested in this question. The Neighbourhood Youth Worker identified, early on, that young people would welcome this initiative in the centre of Godalming. For over two years she has been actively

seeking suitable premises, and pursued this with a number of local organisations. We could not offer, in the short-term, funding from Surrey County Council. With the support of partners we would consider this much needed resource. A shop front is suggested as an appropriate venue and would be suitable, even on a temporary basis, as a pilot initiative. Finding premises that are accessible will remain a hurdle to be overcome.

It appears that some of the problems of anti-social behaviour have been reduced recently. According to the local police this has been due to the development of initiatives led by the Neighbourhood Youth Worker in Godalming. An example is Farncombe Youth Zone targeting young people, some of whom have been involved in anti-social behaviour at the station. From May on Wednesday evenings they started meeting at the 'Barn'. These premises are no longer available but youth workers have continued engaging with young people outside Broadwater Community Centre. A programme of activities and visits has been developed and include 'problem solving' and taking responsibility for vandalism including 'graffitti'.

The Neighbourhood Youth Worker was aware of 'graffitti' problems in the High Street about a year ago, but this has not been raised as a current issue. Another initiative has been to develop Godalming Youth Forum, which meets at the 'Pepper Pot'. With the support of the local police a programme of activities are developed for young people in the Godalming area. This enables the Forum to address the issues around anti-social behaviour and actively involve young people.

It is important to understand that Surrey Youth Development Service is not the only agency involved in addressing young people's anti-social behaviour. Any initiatives undertaken arise from focusing on the identified needs particularly of those groups targeted in our Borough Plan.

2. From Mr David Morley (on behalf of Bramley Parish Council)

- At its meeting on 12 September 2003 the Local Committee agreed arrangements for the implementation of Phase 1 of the scheme to improve traffic management in Bramley. The Parish Council urgently need sight of the plans to ensure accuracy and to be informed as to the duration of any closure of the A281.
- The Parish Council is also keen to replace those street lights in Birtley Road which are not part of the junction lighting contained in the above traffic management plan and has written to the Local Transportation Service with respect to possible funding for this. Could the Local Committee please provide an update on these matters ?
- The Parish Council has analysed the three-year injury accident statistics for the A281 through Grafham (9 accidents over a 0.8km stretch of road). Could the Committee provide a response to the Parish Council's request to the Local Transportation Service for a thorough survey of this section of road ?

Response

- The Local Transportation Service's consultants sent the Parish Council the final drawings for the scheme at the beginning of the week commencing 12/02/2004. However, officers will send an additional copy of the drawings to the Parish Council for its information. The road closure required for the A281 will last for approximately 7 to 10 days and it is anticipated that this will be during April. Officers will ensure that the Parish Council is kept fully informed of the detailed timings of these works once the exact timetable is known.
- Currently the lighting in Birtley Road is the responsibility of the Parish Council. The Local Transportation Service lighting budget covers maintenance and replacement of damaged columns and so could not contribute to replacing the lighting in Birtley Road. However, there are funds available in the LTP programme to work in partnership with others to improve street lighting and it may be possible for the Local Transportation Service to make a small contribution from this budget and officers will discuss this with the Parish Council. The County Council is also currently preparing a detailed business case for a Private Finance Initiative Bid to central government which, if accepted, will mean that between 2006 and 2011 over 70,000 County Council street lights will be replaced and over 7000 additional street lights will be installed countywide. The Local Transportation Service is currently compiling a list of possible schemes for potential inclusion in this bid and Birtley Road could be added to this list for consideration if the Parish Council wishes.
- The Local Transportation Service has been investigating this section of road with police casualty reduction officers and road safety engineers from County Hall. Currently a scheme is being prepared for improved signing and lining along this length of road and it is hoped that funding for this scheme will be available from the centrally held Accident Working Group Budgets.

3. From Mr David Morley (on behalf of Bramley Parish Council)

When the Bramley Youth Club was closed by the County Council at the end of 1997 the remaining funds which had been raised locally via the Management Committee were retained by the County Council. It was agreed that these would be ring-fenced for future projects targeted specifically for the young people of Bramley. The idea of a HOPPA bus to transport Bramley children to Cranleigh for the Arts Centre "Fly project" and possibly skateboarding) is now gaining momentum after the eventual demise of the mobile youth bus scheme. Could we please be reassured that the ring-fenced funding is secure ?

Response

Surrey County Council was given the remaining funds following the closure of Bramley Youth Club. It was agreed that the funds would be ring-fenced specifically for the development of youth work in the

Bramley area. It has been difficult to carry forward this sum over the years but the Youth Development Service can assure Bramley Parish Council and Mr Morley that a sum of £1,036.75 remains within the local area budget for this purpose. If the Parish Council would like the funds to be transferred the Area Manager would be happy to do this at their earliest convenience.

4. From Mr John Graham

What arrangements have being made to publish the South Godalming Safety Study (both text and drawings) on the Surrey County Council website in accordance with the policy and firm plans as set out in Surrey County Council's "Implementing Electronic Government" statements IEG2 and IEG3 ?

Response

The text of the South Godalming Safety Study will be published on the County Council's website in the near future. Because of the significant number of drawings included in this study officers are currently investigating cost-effective ways of formatting these drawings to allow publication on the County Council's website. If a cost effective way of formatting these drawings can be found then they will also be published on the website.

5. From Mr Chris Coates

What is the current status of plans and envisaged changes, with timescales, following the review and public consultation on the lack of residents' parking in the South Godalming area ?

Response

The results of the public consultation on the proposed residents' parking scheme for this area were considered by this Committee on 18 July 2003. Because of the lack off public support for such a scheme it was resolved that the scheme should not be progressed. However, areas where safety concerns were identified were included in the South Godalming Safety Study. The results of the consultation on this study are the subject of a report to this committee on today's agenda. If approved the proposals in this study will be prioritised for implementation, although there is no funding available to implement these measures until 2005/6. However, as part of the process of implementing decriminalised parking enforcement in Waverley amendments to the traffic regulation orders will have to be progressed during 2004/5 and it is intended that any amendments in this area will be carried out as part of this process.

31/04 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME (Item 6)

From Mrs J Maines:

Residents in Radford Close, Farnham suffer continual seepage of water into their garden and now the retaining wall holding back the banking alongside the A325, Farnborough Road is moving. I have brought this to the attention of the County Council in the past and they are aware of the situation. Problems of damage to the drainage under the A325 were confirmed fairly recently by the electricity company when replacing the main cabling due to a major power failure in the area. The two residents most seriously at risk in Radford Close are very elderly and at times are not able to use their rear entrance due to the path being under water. Evidence of the problem can be seen on the retaining wall. I am aware of the difficulties of undertaking road works on this stretch of the A325 but am asking when a serious investigation can be undertaken in order to check the underground drainage, in particular as most of the buildings in this area are listed.

Response

The Local Transportation Service carried out an investigation of the highway drainage system at this location last year. It was apparent from this investigation that the highway drainage system was not blocked and was performing satisfactorily. Officers have also met the owners of one of these properties to discuss these problems. The County Council owns the land on the outside of the wall but the wall forms part of the boundary of the property and is likely to be the responsibility of the property owners who were advised to check their deeds to confirm this.

In the light of the Electricity Company's findings the Local Transportation Service will arrange for a further investigation of the highway drainage system to be undertaken as a matter of urgency.

In response to a supplementary question from Mrs Maines the Local Transportation director reported that the investigations undertaken to date were thorough and that a further inspection would confirm the source of the water.

32/04 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SERVICE: BOROUGH PLAN FOR WAVERLEY (Item 7)

The Service's Youth Development Worker was supported by the Head of Leisure Services at Waverley Borough Council in stressing the need to work in partnership to maximise resources and to provide a variety of opportunities for young people.

The majority of members felt that the Borough Plan did not satisfactorily address the demonstrable need to provide places where young people could socialise in safety and undertake leisure activities. It was suggested also that the service's priorities – informal educational activities in a variety of settings – were now incorrectly positioned and not sufficiently responsive to the expressed needs of young people and that greater clarity of purpose was

required. The Committee was reminded, however, that a significant priority of the service was to maintain contact with vulnerable young people with multiple needs and that its skill in supporting this group should be recognised.

The role of Connexions, and its relationship with the Youth Development Service, remains unclear. The intention of Waverley Borough Council to develop a comprehensive strategy for young people was noted. A recent improvement in the service's recruitment of new staff was reported.

A motion to amend recommendation 2 to the effect that the Committee should "note", rather than "endorse", the Borough Plan was proposed by Mrs J Maines, seconded by Mrs M King-Hele and carried by five votes to one. Mrs Maines also proposed an additional recommendation (3 below), again seconded by Mrs King-Hele and accepted *nem. con.*

Resolved to:

- (i) Continue the process of informal consultation with young people with an informal workshop during November 2004.
- (ii) Note the Borough Plan for 2004/05 (6 votes to nil).
- (iii) Request that further work should be undertaken between members of the Local Committee and the Youth Development Service with a view to a further report being submitted to the Committee in the autumn of 2004 on the options for the Borough Youth Plan for 2005/06.

33/04 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN SETTLEMENT AND PROGRAMME 2004/05 (Item 8)

The Committee welcomed the report and commended officers on the level of resource brought into Waverley. The Local Transportation Director noted members' comments on the criteria for prioritising parishes in the proposed review of speed limits and confirmed that he expected the Quality Bus Partnership referred to in a previous meeting to be launched early in 2004/05

Resolved :

- (i) That there should be no changes to the agreed three-year rolling programme (Annexe A of the report) until the 2003/04 out-turn is known and that the Local Transport Plan (LTP) Task Group should consider amendments to the programme and report back to the Local Committee at a subsequent meeting.
- (ii) To delegate the authority to the Local Transportation Director to consult on schemes contained in the three-year programme in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and local County Councillor(s).
- (iii) To delegate the authority to the Local Transportation Director to advertise Traffic Regulation Orders required by the schemes contained in the three-year programme subject to consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and local County Councillor(s).

- (iv) To agree the proposed priority ranking for the Waverley speed limit review as shown in Annexe C of the report.
- (v) To welcome the centrally funded projects within the Waverley area.

[Mr P D Harmer and Miss G B W Ferguson left the meeting during this item.]

34/04 **SURREY HIGHWAYS PARTNERSHIP CONTRACT UPDATE (Item 9)**

The Committee was encouraged by the progress of the contract in its first year. It was noted that safety maintenance work received priority attention, but it was hoped that in due course there would be an increase in more locally responsive work, making use of the advice of highway stewards. The Committee was also reminded that highways maintenance would be a priority for the County Council and would receive increased investment. There were some concerns about street-lighting and its maintenance. This is covered by a separate contract, but improvements would be envisaged if the current Public Finance Initiative (PFI) bid were to be successful. Some members felt that the County Council's call-centre was not sufficiently responsive to highways maintenance issues, but it was reported that more specialist staff would be available to support this.

The Committee was reassured that the new contract was delivering sustainable improvements, was realistically priced and providing better quality work. A request was made for regular updates on relevant performance indicators to be brought to the Committee to enable these improvements to be evidenced.

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

35/04 **RESULTS OF THE CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT FOR THE A283 ROUTE STUDY (Item 10)**

The Committee welcomed the progress made and thanked the officers who had taken part in the consultation events.

Resolved to delegate the authority to the Local Transportation Director to prioritise the implementation of the route study in consultation with the LTP Task Group.

36/04 **RESPONSE TO PETITION FROM HAMBLEDON PARISH COUNCIL CONCERNING A283 SPEED LIMIT PROPOSALS (Item 11)**

Resolved to ask the Local Transportation Director to include the investigations into both the speed limits and double white line surveys along the A283 from Wormley to Chiddingfold within the A283 study results.

37/04 RESULTS OF THE CONSULTATION ON THE SOUTH GODALMING STUDY (Item 12)

In relation to the proposed area-wide lorry ban, members were concerned at the implications for other areas of any displacement of large good vehicles. Officers referred to the principle that the A-road network is more appropriate for this type of vehicle, but confirmed that those affected would be given an opportunity to comment.

Resolved to:

- (i) Ask the Local Transportation Director to prioritise the proposals for implementation in consultation with the Godalming Traffic Task Group and report back to the Committee in due course.
- (ii) Ask the Local Transportation Director to advertise any necessary Traffic Regulation Orders for the proposed area-wide lorry ban.
- (iii) Thank the Local Transportation Service for its work in developing the proposals.

38/04 RESPONSE TO PETITION FROM RESIDENTS OF GRAYSWOOD CONCERNING TRAFFIC SAFETY WITHIN THE VILLAGE (Item 13)

Resolved to ask the Local Transportation Director to investigate the concerns in more detail and report back at a subsequent Local Committee meeting.

39/04 ECHO BARN LANE, FARNHAM: PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING (Item 14)

The Committee was referred to the additional information circulated at the meeting. A further oral update from more recent consultations with local traders operating on the Ridgway was provided: they now feel that if certain environmental adjustments could be made then the proposed zebra crossing in the vicinity of their premises would be acceptable. In the light of this Mr D Munro was content to withdraw his previously reported opposition and support the recommended crossing. There remained some concern about the impact on approaching traffic of the proposed mini-roundabout in Manley Bridge Road.

Resolved to:

- (i) Ask the Local Transportation Director to arrange for completion of the detailed design and subsequent construction.
- (ii) Formally thank Farnham Town Council for its financial contribution towards the scheme.
- (iii) Approve the installation of the proposed zebra crossing between Langham Court and Weydon Hill Road.
- (iv) Approve the installation of the proposed mini-roundabout in Manley Bridge Road (6 votes to 1).

[Mr J E Robini and Mr J M Savage left the meeting during this item.]

40/04 **RESULTS OF THE FARNHAM STATION AREA CONTROLLED PARKING ZONE CONSULTATION (Item 15)**

The corrected title of this report (as above) was noted. There was concern about the likely displacement of parked vehicles into neighbouring areas and the Farnham Traffic Task Group was encouraged to analyse the impact in detail. The Committee was reassured that it would be given an opportunity to consider any objections to the advertised orders.

Resolved to:

- (i) Ask the Local Transportation Director to investigate further the necessary Road Traffic Regulation Orders in consultation with the Farnham Traffic Task Group.
- (ii) Delegate authority to the Local Transportation Director in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and local County Councillor to advertise the necessary Traffic Regulation Order subject to the outcome of (i).

[Mrs P M Frost left the meeting during this item.]

41/04 **SANDY HILL, FARNHAM: PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES (Item 16)**

Officers confirmed that the work approved by the Committee would begin early in the year 2004/05.

Resolved:

- (i) That the gateways, footways and bend treatments should be installed in the 2004/05 financial year.
- (ii) That the Local Transportation Director should be asked to carry out the trial scheme for the spine road, undertake the necessary consultation and advertise any necessary Traffic Regulation Orders.
- (iii) To thank Farnham Town Council for its contribution.

42/04 **A287 BETWEEN FARNHAM AND FRENHAM: ROUTE STUDY PROPOSALS (Item 17)**

Resolved to ask the Local Transportation Director in consultation with the Farnham Traffic Task Group to prioritise the agreed measures for construction.

43/04 **UPDATE ON WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL'S REGENERATION PROPOSALS FOR EAST STREET, FARNHAM (Item 18)**

The Committee discussed the format of the proposed briefing by the developer and Waverley Borough Council officers, particularly the respective benefits of a private briefing or a public meeting under standing orders. Officers indicated that any change to their recommendation would have to be discussed further with the Borough Council.

An amendment to recommendation (ii) was proposed by Mr D Munro and seconded by Mr K Webster to the effect that members of the public should be invited to attend as observers; this was carried by 5 votes to 4.

Resolved to:

- (i) Note the contents of the report.
- (ii) Ask the Local Transportation Director to arrange a briefing for members of the Local Committee by Crest Nicolson Sainsburys and Waverley Borough Council officers as offered by the Borough Council; members of the public would be invited to observe.
- (iii) Ask the Local Transportation Director to work closely with Transportation Development Control officers to manage the transportation implications of this project.

44/04 **REVIEW OF LOCAL COMMITTEE FORWARD PLAN (Item 19)**

Resolved to note the Forward Plan contained in the report.

[Mr D Munro left the meeting after this item.]

45/04 **LOCAL EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT REPORT: 2002-2003 ACADEMIC YEAR (Item 20)**

The Committee noted a correction to the tables for Key Stage 2 (column 6) and Key Stage 4 (column 7) in Annexe C, where the word "with" should read "without".

Members were interested in the extent to which the available performance data was used to support and challenge schools. The FourS consultants present at the meeting explained that differences in attainment in English, Mathematics and Science were explored in detail with schools, along with any differential performance between boys and girls; in the secondary sector "national conversion data" is now available to focus on departmental performance. There was concern that the relative performance of individual schools varied significantly depending on the basis of comparison used and this could be misleading. However, it was confirmed that consultants use all available measures to help schools identify pockets of underachievement. In response to a question, officers indicated that the focus on literacy at key Stage 2 is maintained across the curriculum in secondary schools.

The Committee discussed the innovative confederation involving six establishments in the east and north of Waverley. A concern about potential loss of autonomy was shared by governing bodies, but this was balanced by

the opportunity to co-operate in making the most effective use of limited resources in the environment of falling school rolls. It was recognised that the federation was at an early stage and would welcome further improvements in its aims. The County Council is encouraging groups of schools to consider forming confederations and it is felt that, once the benefits are demonstrated, the concept may prove attractive in other areas, e.g. Farnham.

Members sought suggestions as to how they could best support schools in the current challenging environment. New head teachers are advised to make early contact with their local County Councillor and the Local Committee funding allocated by members to individual schools has been much appreciated. More generally it was suggested that members are able to speak on behalf of schools in their communities, especially if they are governors, and that their overview and wider understanding of educational issues is helpful in these circumstances.

Dr A Povey proposed an additional recommendations ((ii) and (iii) below) which were accepted by the Committee *nem. con.*

Resolved to:

- (i) Note the suggestions made above to further facilitate the improvement of education within Waverley through members' support of schools and/or pupil groups.
- (ii) Ask the Children and Young People's Select Committee to consider the various methods of measuring performance when making comparisons between schools.
- (iii) Support the retention of village schools in rural communities and recognise their importance to the social fabric of these communities, and ask the Executive to call on central government and its appointees to meet the wishes of local residents in this regard.
- (iv) Thank all head teachers and staff of maintained schools in Waverley for their achievements.

46/04 SURREY CHILDREN'S SERVICE: EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES (Item 21)

Members welcomed the opportunity of undertaking visits to teams and establishments in south-west Surrey, jointly with members of the Guildford Local Committee.

There was some discussion about the nature of data included in the report and it was confirmed that data is being collected to provide evidence of the Multi-Professional Team's progress on a locality basis. The lack of a primary phase Pupil Referral Unit concerned some members; the numbers of children affected are very low, but it is hoped that there may be some provision at key Stage 1 in the Guildford area during the coming year.

Resolved to:

- (i) Provide the comments set out above in response to the report.

- (ii) Ask officers to suggest teams and establishments where members' visits could take place.
- (iii) Thank officers working in the service in Waverley for their work and commitment.

47/04 **“DEVELOPING YOUR LOCAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE” (Item 22)**

In the absence of representatives from the Guildford and Waverley Primary Care Trust the Committee was unable to receive an update on this listening exercise. However, it was noted that it would be possible to share the emerging themes at an informal meeting and that there was still time for members to contribute individual comments. Dr A Povey was nominated to represent the Committee at a meeting convened by the Trust to ensure that the results of the exercise are independently validated.

48/04 **LOCAL COMMITTEE REVENUE BUDGET (Item 23)**

Resolved to:

- (i) Approve the funding applications annexed to the report and tabled at the meeting.
- (ii) Note the actions carried out under delegated authority referred to in paragraphs 1.2 and 1.3 of the report.
- (iii) Delegate to the Local Director the authority, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee (or in her absence the Vice-Chairman), to approve all funding applications received from members up to and including 31 March 2004.
- (iv) Agree the arrangements proposed in paragraph 3.2 of the report for dealing with matters outstanding from the financial year 2002-2003.

The meeting closed at. 6.55 pm.

..... **(Chairman)**

Contact:

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