

Minutes of meeting

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)

Date: Tuesday, 28 March 2006

Time: 4.00pm

Place: Cobham Village Hall, Lushington Drive, Cobham

Members present:

Surrey County Council

Mr Michael Bennison (Hinchley Wood, Claygate & Oxshott)
Mr Peter Hickman (The Dittons)
Mrs Margaret Hicks (Hersham)
Mr Ian Lake (Weybridge)
Mr Ernest Mallett (West Molesey)
Mrs Dorothy Mitchell (Cobham) – In the Chair
Mr Timothy Oliver (East Molesey & Esher)
Mr Thomas Phelps-Penry (Walton)
Mr Roy Taylor (Walton South & Oatlands)

Elmbridge Borough Council (for transportation matters)

Mr David Archer (Esher)
Mr Gordon Chubb (Walton Central)
Mr Glenn Dearlove (Weybridge South)
Mr Derek Denyer (Hersham South)
Mr Roy Green (Hersham North)
Mr Peter Heaney (Esher)
Mr Torquil Stewart (Long Ditton)
Mrs Janet Turner (Hinchley Wood)

Also present:

Frank Apicella, Local Transportation Team
Paul Fishwick, Area Transportation Director
John Garner, Surrey County Council
Mike Lockwood, Chair, Community Safety Partnership
Richard Morris, Divisional Commander, Surrey Police
Chris Paisley, Local Transportation Manager
Theresa Ricketts, Local Committee and Partnership Officer
Gemma Thomas, Surrey County Council
Chris White, Area Director, North Surrey
Sean Wotherspoon, Local Transportation Team

All references to items refer to the agenda for the meeting.

PART A: County and Borough Members

IN PUBLIC

13/06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTICES OF SUBSTITUTIONS (Item 1)

Apologies for absence had been received from County Councillor Peter Hickman.

14/06 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (Item 2)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Surrey County Council Local Committee (Elmbridge) held on 24 January 2006 be approved and signed as a correct record.

15/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

In accordance with the Standing Orders, Mr David Archer declared a prejudicial interest in item 9 in view of his membership of a local resident's association. Mr Peter Heaney also declared an interest in item 9 and Mr Ernest Mallett declared a personal interest in item 8, as a member of the Trustees for Molesey Juniors Football Club.

16/06 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND LETTERS OF REPRESENTATION (Item 5)

Questions had been submitted by Tony Palmer, Vice Chairman of Weybridge Police and Community Partnership Group (PCPG). Copies of the questions and responses were before the Committee and are appended to these minutes in Appendix A.

RESOLVED

1. That the questions and responses be noted.
2. That Cllr Ian Lake and Chris Paisley arrange to meet with Mr Palmer to discuss matters further.

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

PART B: County Members

17/06 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT (Item 7)

Mike Lockwood reminded the Committee that crime and the fear of crime are the top priorities of Elmbridge residents. He summarised progress on some of the higher profile projects, in particular the Community Safety Centre in Walton, CCTV and accreditation. Mr Lockwood emphasised the

importance of partnership working, given that community safety issues cannot be tackled by agencies working in isolation.

Mr Stewart asked whether Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) are proving successful, particularly in relation to young people. Richard Morris explained that, for around 70% of young people, the first reprimand tends to be their last. An ASBO is a sign that more traditional methods of control are not proving successful, and penalties for a breach need to be strict to ensure the punishment is meaningful.

Mr Bennison raised a concern about financial implications of the proposed mergers of Surrey and Sussex Police forces. Mr Morris explained that the estimated cost of force merger is £28 million, in relation mainly to ICT costs and structural issues. Surrey Police is a high performing force, but receives relatively low levels of government grant, and there is an argument in favour of proper funding rather than restructure. On the other hand, the aim of force restructuring is to take advantage of potential efficiency savings, while maintaining the focus on Neighbourhood Policing which is of prime importance to residents.

Mr Bennison asked whether we are making the most of all possible funding streams in relation to CCTV. Mr Lockwood explained that CCTV in Elmbridge should be seen as a project with a number of phases. Around 70% of the highest crime areas in the Borough are currently covered by cameras in four centres. Cameras will shortly be installed in Hersham, and Mr Lockwood thanked County Members for directing allocations funding towards this stage of the project. The Borough Council has allocated £112, 000 towards CCTV for the coming year, and a number of options are being considered to increase efficiency.

Mrs Hicks mentioned that funding from the Community Safety Partnership has been instrumental in the success of the North Surrey Domestic Abuse Forum. Mr Phelps-Penry asked whether convicted offenders are doing community service. Mr Lockwood explained that there is an element of community pay-back with involvement of the Probation Service. The aim of this is to enable offenders to develop new skills, reduce repeat criminal activity and provide community benefit.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted.

18/06 **PROPOSALS FOR EXPENDITURE OF LOCAL REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET (Item 8)**

RESOLVED

1) That the twenty four proposals for expenditure from the Local Revenue Budget be agreed as follows:

1. Michael Bennison to contribute £1,800 towards speakers for Claygate Village Hall.

2. Ian Lake to contribute £1,472 towards sound amplification and a hearing loop for St. James' Church, Weybridge.
 3. Margaret Hicks to contribute £5,000 towards Hersham Youth Trust running costs.
 4. Margaret Hicks to contribute £1,000 towards a new floor for the Hersham Guide hut.
 5. Margaret Hicks to contribute £2,570 towards CCTV cameras in Hersham.
 6. Dorothy Mitchell to contribute £1,500 towards Cobham Youth Club football strip and refurbishment.
 7. Peter Hickman to contribute £3,350 towards a concrete post and galvanized railings in Station Road, Thames Ditton.
 8. Thomas Phelps-Penry to contribute £1,400 towards a Wednesday Club for Homestart, Elmbridge.
 9. Peter Hickman to contribute £1,725 towards resurfacing the private forecourt on Summer Road, Thames Ditton.
 10. Ian Lake to contribute £1,000 towards the Oasis Summer Scheme 2006.
 11. Ernest Mallett and Timothy Oliver to contribute £3,500 each towards the replacement of roofing on the changing and toilet facilities of Molesey Juniors Football Club.
 12. Ernest Mallett to contribute £1,500 towards the Holistic Education Lifestyles Project.
 13. Ernest Mallett to contribute £2,000 towards St. Paul's History of Molesey Exhibition 2006.
 14. Ernest Mallett, Thomas Phelps-Penry and Peter Hickman to contribute £1,000 each towards Surrey County Council's membership of the Thames Landscape Strategy.
 15. Michael Bennison to contribute £500 towards fencing around the Scout and Guide headquarters in Waverley Road, Oxshott.
 16. Michael Bennison to contribute £1,655 towards a new facility building for the 1st Hinchley Wood Scout Group.
 17. Thomas Phelps-Penry to contribute £750 towards parent training and the purchase of materials for the Family Links Nurturing Programme.
 18. Ian Lake to contribute £326 towards purchase of camp equipment for 1st Weybridge Guides.
 19. Roy Taylor to contribute £3,015 towards the purchase of equipment for the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service Community Room.
 20. Timothy Oliver to contribute £715 towards tree felling on Esher High Street.
 21. Thomas Phelps-Penry to contribute £5,500 towards installation of CCTV on Terrace Road.
 22. Thomas Phelps-Penry to contribute £2,750 towards Grovelands School Natural Garden.
 23. Timothy Oliver to contribute £3,000 towards installation of a permanent vehicle actuated sign on the A244 Copsem Lane, Esher.
 24. Ian Lake to contribute £3,500 towards the war memorial at Temple Market, Weybridge.
- 2) That the five proposals for expenditure from the Local Capital Budget be agreed as follows:

3. A contribution of £13,797 towards three specialist mattresses for the Princess Alice Hospice.
4. A contribution of £4,979.64 towards equipment for the Red Cross Medical Loan Equipment Service.
5. A contribution of £4,000 towards the replacement of roofing on the changing and toilet facilities of Molesey Juniors Football Club.
6. A contribution of £3,000 towards Cobham Youth Centre refurbishment.
7. A contribution of £5,670 towards the purchase of 2 defibrillators and a training manikin for St John Ambulance.

19/06 **ESHER GREEN JUNCTION IMPROVEMENT (Item 9)**

Chris Paisley explained that his report provided an update on progress since the last report to the Committee in September 2005. He requested the Committee's approval to an amended scheme.

Mr Oliver thanked Officers for the report and recommendation. He explained that Officers had listened carefully during the consultation process, and had responded accordingly. Mr Heaney also thanked Officers for taking account of residents' concerns.

RESOLVED

1. That the work done by Officers in reappraising the scheme and the level of objection received to the notice advertising the intention to make a Traffic Regulation Order to prohibit the right-turn manoeuvres at the junction of Lammas Lane with Esher Place Avenue be noted.
2. That, with reference to (1) above, the Traffic Regulation Order not be progressed.
3. That a modification to the scheme approved by this committee on 26 September 2005 be agreed, whereby the proposed traffic island in Lammas Lane opposite Esher Place Avenue is modified as shown in Appendix 'B' to enable the right-turn manoeuvres to take place.
4. That, following implementation and monitoring of the scheme, further consideration be given to banning the right-turn manoeuvres at the junction of Lammas Lane with Esher Place Avenue in the event that these manoeuvres are identified as contributing to accidents at the junction. If this is the case there should be a period of appropriate further consultation in advance of statutory advertising of proposals.

20/06 **DECRIMINALISED PARKING ENFORCEMENT (DPE) IN ELMBRIDGE (Item 10)**

Sean Wotherspoon introduced this report.

There was some discussion about the number of tickets issued, how this compared to last year's figures and whether there could be any danger of parking attendants becoming over-zealous. Mrs Mitchell explained that the wardens in Elmbridge are salaried, so there is no encouragement to

be over-zealous. Mr Green suggested that after an initial period, the public was likely to become familiar with the new enforcement arrangements.

Mr Phelps-Penry expressed concern about displacement of parked vehicles to residential roads. Mr Paisley explained that there is a scheme within the Local Transport Plan which will assess such displacement over the coming year.

Mr Hickman asked whether sufficient attention is being paid to local businesses, since it is important that people should not be deterred from shopping locally. Mrs Mitchell explained that time-limited parking arrangements are being considered.

RESOLVED

1. That the good work between the County Council and Borough Council in progressing and implementing DPE on 9th January 2006, and during the first few months of operation be noted;
2. That the establishment of a DPE Operational Task Group consisting of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Local Committee be approved, and that the Elmbridge Borough Council Portfolio Holder for Highways is invited to be a member of this group;
3. That the schemes already identified and listed in this report, or subsequently approved by the DPE Operational Task Group, to be included in Amendment 1 of the DPE Orders be approved, and that the Local Transportation Manager, after consultation with the DPE Operational Task Group and appropriate Divisional Member, consider and if possible, resolve any objections received.
4. That the Local Transportation Manager be authorised, after consultation with the DPE Operational Task Group and appropriate Divisional Member, to approve any future amendments and advertising of the DPE orders, and to consider and if possible, resolve any objections received.

21/06 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN (LTP) CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME 2006/07 (Item 11)

Mr Paisley explained that the second Local Transport Plan is to be submitted in July. The completed programme has received an excellent report from the Government Office for the South East (GOSE), which has led to additional funding. Mr Paisley summarised the assessment methodology for the new scheme.

Mr Bennison expressed some concern at the underspend. Mrs Mitchell explained that this is simply the result of a few schemes being behind schedule, and it is expected that the underspend will be carried forward.

RESOLVED

1. That the inclusion of the new schemes identified as part of the Construction Programme review and listed in paragraph 4.2 of this report be approved.

2. That the schemes proposed in the Construction Programme for 2006/07 in Appendix 'B' and the generic programme up to 2010/11 – as shown in Appendix 'C' be approved.
3. That the promotion of all Traffic Regulation Orders considered necessary for each scheme be approved, with any objections received being reviewed initially with the Chairman and appropriate Divisional Member.

22/06 LOCAL CAPITAL ALLOCATION 2006/07 (Item 12)

Frank Apicella introduced this item. He explained that the proposal is to continue using the Local Allocation for transportation studies and environmental highways works, but with a greater emphasis on traffic management and modern electronics in speed management, which has proved popular, and successful in changing driver behaviour.

RESOLVED

1. That the use of the 2005/06 Local Allocation budget be noted.
2. That the list of transportation projects set out in Appendix A be funded from the £100,000 Local Allocation budget for 2006/07.

23/06 ANNUAL HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR THE ELMBRIDGE LOCAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICE FOR 2006/07 (Item 13)

Paul Fishwick introduced this item, summarising some of the pressures on the budget for the coming year.

Mr Green asked whether savings could be made by turning off street lights, given the rising energy costs. Mr Fishwick explained that this was being considered. Mr Phelps-Penry asked whether solar power is being considered. Mr Fishwick said that technology is moving fast in this area, and solar powered street light may be possible in a few years.

Mr Stewart argued that Surrey's roads are in a poor state of repair, and Surrey County Council should be ashamed. It is wasteful to repeatedly refill potholes, and surface dressing does not work. Mr Fishwick replied that Surrey's road network is in the top quartile in the country. He explained that surface dressing is successful when correctly applied, and prevents roads from deteriorating to a level where more costly repairs become necessary.

RESOLVED

1. That the report be approved as the Annual Highway Maintenance Plan for the Local Transportation Service in Elmbridge for 2006/07.

The meeting closed at 5.55 pm

.....(Chairman)



PUBLIC QUESTIONS

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE) 28 MARCH 2006

The following questions have been received from Tony Palmer on behalf of Weybridge Police and Community Partnership Group (PCPG). The questions and responses are set out below.

1. Weybridge 20 mph Zone (Weybridge Police and Community Partnership Group)

Officer Response:

The Weybridge Police and Community Group (PCPG) is thanked for its interest in road safety issues in Weybridge.

We would ask you to:

- i) Consider a modification to the 20 mph zone to include Monument Road and Grotto Road area near to St James Primary School.**

Officer Response:

Any modification to the already advertised and approved Weybridge 20 mph zone would require a re-advertising of the whole zone. Before advertising it would be necessary to undertake a detailed analysis of vehicle speeds along the proposed additional roads. To include Grotto Road and Monument Road in isolation would require additional speed limit signs at Grenside Road, both ends of Greenlands, Marlborough Drive and West Palace Gardens.

While Monument Road already has vertical traffic calming along its length and might meet the 20 mph criteria it is considered very unlikely that Grotto Road, with no vertical traffic calming would meet the criteria for a 20 mph zone.

It is suggested that a better solution in the longer term could be consideration of a 20mph limit on the immediate approaches to St James Church of England Primary School. This would enable signing to be placed in close proximity to the school to remind motorists of the limit.

Members will be interested to know that the Safe Routes to Schools' Officer has been working with St James School during their development of a School Travel Plan. The plan highlights car parking as the main concern and not vehicle speeds.

At present there has not been a specific Safe Routes to School scheme identified for St James C of E School.

It is recommended that at this stage the only action to be taken is to carry out a speed survey in both Grotto Road and Monument Road to measure vehicle flows and speeds.

ii) Ask officers to report on how to introduce similar speed limits near other Weybridge schools (Heathside/Heath Road, Manby Lodge/Queens Road, Oatlands County Infant/St Mary's Road and Cleaves/Oatlands Avenue.

Officer Response:

Since 2000, Surrey County Council along with all other transportation authorities has been empowered by the Department of Transport to introduce their own 20mph speed limits and zones. A 20mph zone covers an area such as that introduced in Thames Ditton and requires traffic calming to actually control vehicle speeds. A speed limit applies to only one section of highway and does not specifically require traffic calming before it can be introduced.

The key requirement in both cases, however, is that the average mean free flow speed should not exceed 20mph and that the 85% speed should not exceed 24mph. In the case of a road that has been traffic calmed the speeds are calculated by taking the average of the speeds between features and the speed at features.

In the case of schools, experience has shown that where existing speeds do not exceed 20mph during school peaks then introducing 20mph speed limit signing is very unlikely to have any effect during this time and is difficult to justify.

Similarly if the existing speeds do not exceed 20mph during school peaks but exceed 20mph at any other time then introducing a speed limit or zone is not justified.

However, if existing speeds exceed 20mph during school peaks and local circumstances suggest that this is too fast then it may be appropriate to introduce physical traffic calming to ensure that speeds do not exceed 20mph. In these circumstances it has been found on occasions useful to introduce a 20mph limit or zone.

The County Council has also taken part in a Department for Transport initiative to trial the use of variable 20mph speed limits outside a number of schools, which came into force during school peaks but without any other measures being introduced. The results obtained, however, should only be a very marginal reduction in vehicle speeds.

The aim in controlling the use of the introduction of 20mph limits and zones is so that the limit does not become devalued.

I can assure all Members, however, that while developing the Safe Routes to Schools' programme further, if opportunities present themselves to pursue the introduction of a 20mph limit or zone, then this will be carefully considered. An example of this is at St Andrews School in Cobham where there are plans to introduce a 20 mph limit should the vehicle speeds meet the criteria once the scheme currently being built is completed.

iii) Ask officers to report on ways to improve the design of Heath Road (between Brooklands College and Brooklands Lane) to provide a safer road, cycle route and adequate pedestrian paths.

Officer Response:

The South Weybridge Feasibility Study in 2003 highlighted a potential improvement along the western footway of Heath Road.

The proposal would be to widen the existing unmade footway that is on the western edge of Heath Road. This would involve the cutting back of vegetation and possible removal of trees. The land is part of The Heath, which is registered as Common Land and is managed by Elmbridge Borough Council. Initial investigations and outline discussions have taken place with officers from Elmbridge Borough Council regarding this proposal.

Work has already been done along Heath Road in improving road safety. At the junction of Heath Road and Elgin Road new high visibility signs and coloured roadrailings on high friction surfaces on the approach to the junction have been installed.

Following a number of accidents along Heath Road a permanent Vehicle Activated Sign has been installed ahead of the Brooklands College entrance.

In addition, Surrey Police carry out regular radar surveys along Heath Road.

The site is also to be assessed in the coming 3 months to see if it meets the criteria for the installation of a speed camera under the Surrey Safety Camera Partnership Scheme.

There are also outline proposals to improve the junction of Brooklands Road and Heath Road. The proposal would be to provide a new pedestrian island in the Brooklands Road Bellmouth to provide a safer crossing facility for those walking along Heath Road.

Following the completion of the Hangar Road scheme the next element of the project will be development of detailed proposals for Heath Road. The possible schemes highlighted above will be considered as part of the scheme development process. Included in the assessments will be the carrying out of further vehicle flow and speed counts together with pedestrian counts and site assessments to gauge what could be developed.

It is anticipated that development of scheme options will commence during the financial year 2006/07.