

Minutes of meeting

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)

Date: Monday, 3 July 2006
Time: 4.00pm
Place: Elmbridge Civic Centre, Esher

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

Elmbridge Borough Council (for transportation matters)

Mr David Archer (Esher)
Mr Glenn Dearlove (Weybridge South)
Mr Derek Denyer (Hersham South)
Mr Alan Hopkins (Molesey North)
Mr Chris Sadler (Walton Central)
Mrs Maureen Sheldrick (Weston Green)
Mr Torquil Stewart (Long Ditton)
Mrs Janet Turner (Hinchley Wood)
Mr James Vickers (Oxshott & Stoke d'Abernon)

Also present:

Roger Archer-Reeves, East Area Transportation Group Manager
Frank Apicella, Senior Engineer
John Garner, Principal Engineer
Theresa Ricketts, Local Committee and Partnership Officer
Chris White, Area Director, North Surrey
Martyn Williams, Senior Local Transportation Manager

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

PART A: County and Borough Members

IN PUBLIC

24/06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTICES OF SUBSTITUTIONS (Item 1)

Apologies for absence had been received from County Councillors Tom Phelps-Penry and Roy Taylor.

Apologies for absence had been received from Borough Councillor Gordon Chubb, who was substituted by Borough Councillor Chris Sadler.

25/06 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (Item 2)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Surrey County Council Local Committee (Elmbridge) held on 28 March 2006 be approved and signed as a correct record.

26/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

No interests were declared.

27/06 APPOINTMENT OF ELMBRIDGE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEMBERS (Item 4)

Following the local elections in May, Members were informed of the appointment of nine Borough Councillors and six substitutes to the Committee.

RESOLVED

That the appointment of the following Members be noted:

- i) Councillors David Archer, Gordon Chubb, Glenn Dearlove, Derek Denyer, Alan Hopkins, Maureen Sheldrick, Torquil Stewart, Janet Turner and James Vickers as members of the Surrey County Council Local Committee (Elmbridge) for the municipal year 2006-07; and
- ii) Councillors Nigel Cooper, Simon Dodsworth, Ruth Lyon, Chris Sadler, David Tipping and Graham Winton as named substitutes.

28/06 PETITIONS (Item 5)

Mr Chris Bachmann addressed the Committee for three minutes on behalf of the Thames Ditton and Weston Green Residents' Association concerning the repositioned bus stop and kerbing fronting retail

businesses in Criterion Buildings on the north side of the Portsmouth Road at Winters Bridge, Thames Ditton.

RESOLVED

That the petition be noted, and a written report be brought to the next meeting.

29/06 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND LETTERS OF REPRESENTATION (Item 6)

No questions or letters of representation had been received.

30/06 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (Item 7)

No questions had been received.

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

PART B: County Members

31/06 COMMUNITY SAFETY FUNDING (Item 8)

Chris White introduced this item, explaining that Surrey County Council provides funding to local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP), half of which is ring-fenced for work to combat domestic abuse. The rest is added to other sources of funding, to be spent as agreed by the partnership. Mr White directed Members to Appendix A, which contained the spending plan for the Elmbridge Community Safety Partnership for 2006/07.

Mrs Hicks asked whether an update on Community Safety issues could include a presentation from the organisation responsible for delivering the domestic abuse outreach service, in order to see the good use to which this funding is put. In response to a question from Mr Mallett, Mr White explained that the statutory members of the Community Safety Partnership are the two local authorities, the two Primary Care Trusts, Surrey Police, Surrey Police Authority and Surrey Fire and Rescue Service.

RESOLVED

That the budget of £24,000 devolved to the Local Committee for community safety be transferred to the Elmbridge Community Safety Partnership to be spent to further the work of the partnership, with £12,000 of this funding specifically ring-fenced to fund work to reduce the incidence of domestic abuse locally.

32/06 MEMBERS' ALLOCATIONS 2005/06 – ANNUAL REPORT (Item 9)

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted.

33/06 **PROPOSALS FOR EXPENDITURE OF MEMBERS' ALLOCATIONS
(Item 10)**

In accordance with Section 100B (4) (b) Local Government Act 1972, the Chairman agreed to consider one additional item for funding, put forward by Mr Phelps-Penry, to contribute £200 towards a paintballing expedition for St Johns Youth Group.

Mrs Turner explained that the Youth Cycle Project is not yet a foregone conclusion. Proposals need to go to a meeting of the Countryside Consultative Group. There will also be a period of consultation and the proposals will need to be cleared for both Health and Safety and insurance purposes. Mr Stewart expressed delight that the County Council was seeking to contribute to this worthwhile project.

Mrs Hicks explained that she was unable to support the additional proposal, put forward by Mr Phelps Penry, for a paintballing expedition for St Johns Youth Group. She explained that Surrey Schools do not allow paintballing trips on the grounds that it is considered too dangerous. Mr Bennison disagreed, explaining that such sports can teach self control, discipline and team work. Mr Mallett said that paintballing venues were approved for that use, and used proper safety equipment. A vote was taken, and the project was approved for funding by 4 votes to 2.

RESOLVED

- 1) That the six proposals for expenditure from the Local Revenue Budget be agreed as follows:
 1. Peter Hickman to contribute £3,500 towards the Youth Cycle Project, on condition that match-funding is forthcoming.
 2. Peter Hickman to contribute £1,970 towards the Long Ditton Youth Project – Youth Club Premises.
 3. Margaret Hicks to contribute £300 towards the purchase of a lawn mower.
 4. Dorothy Mitchell to contribute £3,000 towards the Cobham and District Town Appraisal.
 5. Ian Lake to contribute £300 towards the Heathside Student Council Community Link.
 6. Tom Phelps-Penry to contribute £200 towards St Johns Youth Group paintballing expedition.

34/06 **ANNUAL HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE EAST SURREY
TRANSPORTATION SERVICE 2006/07 (Item 11)**

Roger Archer-Reeves explained that in the past each Local Transportation Director had produced a Highway Management Plan for their borough, but for 2006/07 there would be two plans for Surrey, one for the East and one for the West. He clarified a number of aspects of the paper. At paragraph 4.1, he explained that the title for the right hand column (“outturn budget”) was misleading, and that this represented the works budget for 2005/06 for each borough. The overspend reported in

paragraph 4.2 was accounted for mainly by tree work and damage to council property. The term “structural maintenance” in paragraph 4.4 meant highway safety improvement work, for example potholes.

Mr Archer-Reeves explained that annexe A was a working document, and a number of figures are yet to be resolved. The final paper would be circulated once figures had been finalised. Expenditure of the sums listed in annexe B was centrally controlled, with delivery on a priority basis, as set out in annexe C. Annexe D listed those major maintenance schemes which should be carried out in 2006/07.

Mr Stewart expressed some concern about the maintenance schemes listed in annexe D, explaining that he did not consider Sharon Close the highest priority in Long Ditton. Mr Hickman agreed. Mr Archer-Reeves explained that there was limited latitude, but explained that in future he would try to get Member input into the priority list before it was published.

Mr Bennison raised a series of concerns about transportation-related issues, including inadequate staffing and insufficient funding. Mr Mallett explained that from his perspective the maintenance scheme had prioritised correctly, including the three worst roads in Molesey.

(Mrs Hicks left the meeting)

Mr Sadler said he was delighted to see two Walton schemes on the priority list, though he thought they may have appeared on last year’s programme. He asked whether the Local Committee could be updated on when the schemes would take place. Mr Archer-Reeves confirmed that an update would be provided. Mr Sadler also asked for an update on the Upping the Street group in Walton. Mr Lake explained that, following the initial meeting, the group had not met, but agreed to take this matter forward with officers, and report back to the Local Committee.

Mr Hickman mentioned that there appeared to be a number of different authorities with responsibility for grass cutting in Long Ditton, and asked whether there could be savings to be made by co-ordinating this work. Mr Archer-Reeves explained that there is already considerable co-operation between authorities, and the council would be seeking appropriate opportunities to make savings in this way in the future.

RESOLVED

1. That the report be approved as the Annual Highway Management Plan for the Local Transportation Service in Elmbridge for 2006/2007
2. That the outturn figures for the Maintenance Programme for 2005/2006 be noted
3. That the discretion for the Area Transportation Director, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman to vire up to 100% of the indicative allocations for each expenditure head within the revenue budget whilst retaining the County Councils policies and standards be noted.

The meeting closed at 5.15 pm

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