

Draft Minutes of Meeting

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)

Date: Monday, 6 November 2006

Time: 4.00pm

Place: 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
Mr Timothy Oliver (East Molesey and Esher)
Mr Thomas Phelps-Penry (Walton)
Mr Roy Taylor (Walton South and Oatlands)

Elmbridge Borough Council (for transportation matters)

Mr David Archer (Esher)
Mr Alan Hopkins (Molesey North)
Mrs Maureen Sheldrick (Weston Green)
Mr David Tipping (Cobham and Downside)
Mrs Janet Turner (Hinchley Wood)
Mr Graham Winton (Weybridge North)

Also present:

Julia Penfound: Area Director (North Surrey)
Frank Apicella: Senior Engineer, Local Transportation Service
Duncan Knox: Team Manager, Safety Camera Partnership
Robert Hudleston: Traffic Manager
Debbie Spriggs: Countryside Legal Team Manager
Jane Bourgeois: Bureau Manager, Walton, Weybridge and Hersham CAB
David North: Local Committee and Partnership Officer

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

PART A: County and Borough Members

IN PUBLIC

42/06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTICES OF SUBSTITUTIONS (Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Derek Denyer, Glenn Dearlove and Torquil Stewart (Elmbridge Borough Council); Cllrs David Tipping and Graham Winton were present as substitutes for Cllrs Denyer and Stewart respectively.

43/06 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (Item 2)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Surrey County Council Local Committee (Elmbridge) held on 18 September 2006 be approved and signed as a correct record.

44/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

Mrs Margaret Hicks declared a personal interest in relation to Item 7 on the grounds that she is Chairman of the North Surrey Domestic Abuse Forum.

45/06 PETITIONS (Item 4)

Two petitions were received:

- From residents of Davis Road, Weybridge about noise emanating from the Mercedes-Benz test-track at Brooklands. It was agreed to refer the matter to Elmbridge Borough Council as the responsible authority. The Committee was informed that the Borough Council is undertaking a review of the matter.
- From residents of Manor Road, Hinchley Wood requesting the extension of parking restrictions. It was agreed to refer the matter to the Decriminalised Parking Enforcement Task Group.

46/06 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND LETTERS OF REPRESENTATION (Item 5)

No questions or letters of representation had been received.

47/06 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (Item 6)**

No questions had been received.

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

The Chairman introduced and welcomed Julia Penfound, the new Area Director for North Surrey.

PART B: County Members

48/06 **NORTH SURREY DOMESTIC ABUSE OUTREACH SERVICE (Item 7)**

Jane Bourgeois, Manager of the Walton, Weybridge and Hersham Citizens' Advice Bureau, introduced the report, stressing that her organisation's role in delivering the service ensures that clients receive a joined-up response.

The Committee discussed appropriate media for publicising the service, particularly for relatively hard-to-reach groups including males. The topic is being examined on a Surrey-wide basis and members were invited to assist with publicising the service.

In response to a question it was explained that the service is concerned with abuse of all kinds, not exclusively physical violence.

RESOLVED to note the report.

49/06 **MEMBERS' ALLOCATIONS (Item 8)**

The Chairman announced that she had agreed to allow the Committee to consider an application tabled by Mrs Margaret Hicks (7 below) as a matter of urgency to allow full use of the facility to be made as soon as possible.

RESOLVED

- 1) That the proposals for expenditure from the Local Revenue Budget be agreed as follows:
 1. Mr Michael Bennison to contribute £5000 towards a Rapid Deployable Covert Camera for Surveillance
 2. Mr Michael Bennison to contribute £2000 towards the "Claygate in Bloom" project
 3. Mr Michael Bennison to contribute £1750 towards the replacement of fencing and the 1st Oxshott Scout Group HQ

4. Mrs Dorothy Mitchell to contribute £2000 towards enhancing the Christmas lights in Cobham
5. Mrs Dorothy Mitchell to contribute £360 towards the provision of a Christmas tree and the planting of bulbs in Stoke D'Abernon
6. Mrs Dorothy Mitchell to contribute £1000 towards the "Cobham in Bloom" project
7. Mrs Margaret Hicks to contribute £1041 towards a drinks machine in the Community Room at Walton Fire Station

And that the following proposal for expenditure from the Local Capital Budget be agreed:

£5000-£7000 towards a Rapid Deployable Covert Camera for Surveillance

- 2) To allow the grant of £10000 agreed in 2004 to remain with the Molesey Second World War Memorial Association, but to review the position in the autumn of 2007 in the light of the total amount of funding committed to the project at that time

PART B: County and Borough Members

50/06 SURREY SAFETY CAMERA PARTNERSHIP (Item 9)

Duncan Knox introduced the report, highlighting the success of the partnership's enforcement activity and the complementary impact of its education programme. It was stressed that the partnership is funded by fines levied on offenders, not the public purse.

Mr Knox undertook to investigate the status of the proposal to undertake enforcement in Heath Road, Weybridge.

The partnership is currently looking in to the technology surrounding "average speed" systems, but it is understood that costs are high, with considerable implications for back-office functions. The partnership keeps abreast of emerging technology and members were informed that dual purpose red light/speeding installations are in development.

It was suggested that the partnership's activities could be publicised in licensed premises and this was noted.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) Note the benefits of the creation of the Surrey Safety Camera Partnership.
- 2) Note that safety cameras continue to be highly effective at reducing speeding collisions and casualties.

- 3) Note that following 2006/7 local authorities will be provided with an enhanced grant for road safety as part of the Local Transport Plan (LTP) process, replacing the current system of “netting off” and that the County Council’s Executive has agreed that this should be invested to ensure the continued operation and success of the Surrey Safety Camera Partnership.

51/06 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ACT 2004—STREET WORKS AND ROAD WORKS (Item 10)

The report was introduced by Robert Hudleston who further explained the system through which utilities companies are required to give notice for work on the highway and the inspection regime in place. Longer notice and more stringent management arrangements are required for work on M25 diversion routes.

It was noted that contractors are liable to be fined if they exceed agreed timescales and that closer scrutiny is being given to their resource plans to ensure timely completion of work. It was explained that any excavation through the surface of the road reduces the life of the road construction by up to 1/3rd. Utilities contractors are responsible for the remediation of any faults resulting from their work for two years after completion (maintenance period). If at any time a failure to comply with the reinstatement Code of Practice, Specification of Reinstatement of Openings in the Highway, is discovered there is no time limit on the maintenance period.

Mr Hudleston concluded by explaining that his contact details are publicised for access by the public and stakeholders.

RESOLVED to note the report.

52/06 ALLEGED PUBLIC FOOTPATH BETWEEN LOCKE KING ROAD AND PUBLIC FOOTPATH 23, WALTON AND WEYBRIDGE (NON-EXECUTIVE FUNCTION) (Item 11)

Debbie Spriggs outlined the background to the application. Members suggested that there are opportunities for improving public access generally in this area and were encouraged to submit proposals for inclusion in the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That a Map Modification Order be made under Section 53 and 57 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to modify the Definitive Map and Statement to include the route shown A-B-C-D on drawing 3/1/78/H9. The route shall be known as Public Footpath 39 (Walton and Weybridge)

- 2) That, if objections are maintained, the order be submitted to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for confirmation.

53/06 A307 PORTSMOUTH ROAD, THAMES DITTON: REPORT ON PETITION (Item 12)

The Committee was informed that recent work had led to a proposal that a small additional lay-by could be accommodated with space for a maximum of two vehicles. An amended recommendation was therefore put to the Committee (2 below). It was noted, however, that this scheme would be relatively low in terms of priority in the LTP programme, although it is possible that contributions to the cost could be secured from local traders and the Committee's revenue budget, via the local County Councillor.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To note the background and assessment carried out by officers.
- 2) To agree to the findings and conclusion of the report, but recommended that a reduced scheme be introduced into the Local Transport Plan programme at a cost of approximately £15000.

54/07 ELGIN ROAD, WEYBRIDGE: CLOSURE AT THE JUNCTION OF B374 HEATH ROAD (Item 13)

There was discussion about the need for the proposed closure and its potential impact. It was suggested that the principal risk locally is the speed of traffic in Heath Road. It was pointed out, on the other hand, that the low speeds necessary for access to Elgin Road increased the likelihood of collisions and that the accident record at this junction is significant.

The recommendations were agreed by 13 votes to 2.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To approve the scheme to close the D3887 Elgin Road, Weybridge at its junction with the B374 Heath Road to vehicular traffic, but to maintain access for pedestrians, cyclists and emergency vehicles.
- 2) To approve the advertising of the Traffic Order to ban the driving of vehicles over the first part of Elgin Road, except for cyclists and emergency vehicles.

- 3) To authorise the Local Transportation Manager, following consultation with the Chairman and Divisional Member, to consider, and if possible resolve, any objections received.

The meeting closed at 5.25 pm

.....(Chairman)