

**Minutes of the meeting of Surrey County Council's
Local Committee in Elmbridge held at
16.00pm on Monday 26 March 2007 at the
Elmbridge Civic Centre, Esher**

Members Present – Surrey County Council

Mr Michael Bennison
Mrs Margaret Hicks
Mr Ernest Mallett
Mr Timothy Oliver
Mr Roy Taylor

Mr Peter Hickman
Mr Ian Lake (Vice-Chairman)
Mrs Dorothy Mitchell (Chairman)
Mr Thomas Phelps-Penry

Members Present – Epsom and Ewell Borough Council

Cllr David Archer
Cllr Derek Denyer
Cllr Torquil Stewart

Cllr Glenn Dearlove
Cllr Alan Hopkins
Cllr Janet Turner

PART ONE

IN PUBLIC

[all references to items refer to the agenda for the meeting]

**01/
07 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]**

Councillor Chris Sadler substituted for Councillor Maureen Sheldrick who had sent her apologies.

**02/
07 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING [Item 2]**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2007 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

Councillor Janet Turner requested that a copy of the Manor Road petition referred to in Minute number 45/06 be sent to her.

**03/
07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]**

1. Mrs Margaret Hicks declared a personal interest in the report on the Review of Adult Education (Item number 7) as she was Chairman of Governors at Brooklands College.
2. Councillor Chris Sadler declared a personal interest in the Members' Allocations report (Item number 12) as he was a trustee

of the Walton-on-Thames Barn Trust which was a parent body of the Riverhouse Barn.

**04/
07** **PETITIONS [Item 4]**

A petition was submitted relating to the drainage issues in Thames Ditton. However, Mr Perrin who submitted the petition had decided not to attend the Local Committee to speak as the officers involved had been very helpful and many of the issues raised by the petition had since been resolved.

**05/
07** **WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTION TIME [Item 5]**

Two public questions were received as set out in the annex attached together with the answers given.

**06/
07** **MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME [Item 6]**

Two Members' questions were received as set out in the annex attached together with the answers given.

**07/
07** **REVIEW OF ADULT EDUCATION**

Linda Piercy, Head of Adult and Community Learning, and Yvonne Rees, Head of Libraries and Culture, presented the report on the Review of Adult Education to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

1. The Committee noted the proposals agreed by the Executive for the delivery of Adult and Community Learning in Elmbridge from August 2007.
2. Members to advise officers of any local issues or concerns that should be taken into account in planning adult and community learning in Elmbridge.

**08/
07** **LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

The Committee received a presentation from Janet Forster, Area Manager Surrey Children's Service – North East Surrey, on Looked After Children and Julian Gordon Walker, Elmbridge Locality Team Manager, on the Elmbridge Locality.

**09/
07** **ALBANY BRIDGE [Item 10]**

Roger Archer-Reeves, East Area Transportation Group Manager, presented the report on Albany Bridge to the Committee detailing the current status of works to the bridge and future plans.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the report.

**10/
07** **DECRIMINALISED PARKING ENFORCMENT UPDATE**

David Curl, Principal Engineer (Traffic) presented the report to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposals for the Esher CPZ as shown in drawing 7265/50 (available at the meeting) be formally advertised and that any objections be considered and resolved by the Local Transportation Manager in consultation with the DPE Operation Task Group and the Esher Divisional Member.
2. The Committee agreed that this decision was subject to further consultation with the residents of Hilbrow Road.

**11/
07** **VEHICLE ACTUATED SIGNS**

Frank Apicella, Acting Local Transport Manger, presented the report to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee note the various locations where the VAS's are due to be installed.

**12/
07** **MEMBERS' ALLOCATIONS**

Julia Penfound, Area Director, presented the report to the Committee and asked Members to note that any unallocated funds could be allocated to the Elmbridge Taxi Voucher Scheme.

Mr Mallett asked the Chairman if she would accept the submission of seven new bids at the meeting. Mr Mallett was informed by the Chairman that she had been advised that it would be unacceptable to accept these new bids at this stage.

Katie Mills, Local Committee and Partnership Officer, advised that these bids should only be accepted if there is a reason for urgency which the Chairman then reiterated.

The Chairman agreed that she would accept the new bids on the condition that the Area Director, in consultation with the Chairman, would be given delegated authority to approve the applications after they had been assessed against the necessary criteria.

RESOLVED:

The Committee agreed to fund the following from the Councillors Members' Allocations Revenue funds:

- 1) £500 – Brochures – Cobham District Dog Training Club (Michael Bennison)
- 2) £1,080 – Elmbridge Taxi Voucher Scheme (Thomas Phelps-Penry)
- 3) £3,774 – Renovation of Thames Ditton Guide Hut (Peter Hickman)
– Please note £173 of this allocation has been added by Peter Hickman as remainder from a previous allocation of £1,725 Summer Road, Thames Ditton (LC 28.03.06)
- 4) £1,140 – Cobham/Oxshott Health Check & Town Plan (Dorothy Mitchell)
- 5) £1,750 – Car for PCSO Officers (Michael Bennison)
- 6) £8,705 – Extended CCTV Coverage – Queens Road, Weybridge (£6,000 Roy Taylor/£2,705 Ian Lake)
- 7) £3,000 – Replacement Blinds – Oatlands Infant School (Roy Taylor)
- 8) £2,000 – Walton Firs Foundation Appeal (Roy Taylor)
- 9) £950 – Pool Table & Whiteboards – Cromwell Community Centre (Thomas Phelps-Penry)
- 10) £5,000 – Replacement Boiler Riverhouse Barn (Thomas Phelps-Penry)
- 11) £5,335 – Refurbishment of Kitchen – AJAX Sea Scouts (Peter Hickman)
- 12) £400 – Elmbridge Junior Citizen Scheme – Artwork (Margaret Hicks)
- 13) £1,000 – Benches & Table – St John's Estate, Walton (Thomas Phelps-Penry)
- 14) £2,000 – Projectors for Electronic Whiteboard – Heathside School, Weybridge (Ian Lake)
- 15) £4,995 – Sail Shade – St James School – Weybridge (Ian Lake)
- 16) £1,000 – Oasis Child Care Centre (Ian Lake)
- 17) £1,068.60 – Hersham in Bloom (Margaret Hicks)
- 18) £931.40 – Hersham Library (Margaret Hicks)

- 19) £489 – Get Writing with Rosie – Hotbuckle Productions (Margaret Hicks)
- 20) £1,000 – Life Education Centre Visits to Walton Oak & Grovelands School (Rachael Lake supported by Roy Taylor – this allocation replaces Rachael Lake’s previous allocation of £1,000 for Walton and Hersham PCPG (LC 23 March 2005) as the group has now been disbanded).
- 21) £911 – Refurbishment of Cobham Youth Club (Dorothy Mitchell – Re-approval of Allocation LC 28 March 2006)

The Committee noted that £3,500 had been refunded to Peter Hickman’s allocation fund 2006/07 as the Youth Cycle Project was no longer going ahead due to residents’ and police concerns.

The Committee agreed to fund the following from their Capital Budget:

- 1) 10,000 – Installation of 6th Form Cycle Storage - Heathside School, Weybridge
- 2) £2,749.50 – Safety Campaign Banners – Driving Safely
- 3) £800 – Elmbridge Junior Citizen Scheme – Two Way Radio
- 4) £9,450.50 – Repair to Ceiling & Floor – Cobham Youth Club
- 5) £5,000 – Replacement Windows – Cobham Village Hall

The Committee authorised the Area Director and Chairman under delegated powers to assess the following applications and give final approval subject to those applications meeting the required criteria and conditions:

- 1) £6,000 – East Molesey Cricket Club Roof (£3,000 Ernest Mallett/£3,000 Tim Oliver)
- 2) £6,000 – St Mary’s Church Roof (£3,000 Ernest Mallett/£3,000 Tim Oliver)
- 3) £3,000 – 3rd Molesey Scout Group – Hut Roof (£1,000 Ernest Mallett/£2,000 Tim Oliver)
- 4) £3,000 – 1st Molesey Sea Scout Group – New Hut Roof (£1,000 Ernest Mallett/£2,000 Tim Oliver)

- 5) £2,250 – 2nd Molesey Scout Group – Tents/Equipment/Upgrade of Toilets/Wheelchair Entrance (£1,250 Ernest Mallett/£1,000 Tim Oliver)
- 6) £2,000 – Thames Landscape Strategy Annual Membership (£1,000 Ernest Mallett/£1,000 Thomas Phelps-Penry)
- 7) £750 – Falls Prevention Training – Surrey PCT (Ernest Mallett)

**13/
07** **FORWARD PROGRAMME**

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the Forward Programme and the formal meeting dates of the Local Committee in the next municipal year.

**14/
07** **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the date of the next meeting.

Meeting Ended: 6.26pm

ANNEXE A

SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN ELMBRIDGE – 26 MARCH 2007

AGENDA ITEM 5

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Question 1 – Mr Wolstenholme

“Cash for Cars” Fly Posters

The issue of the hundreds of identical “Cash for Cars” fly posters, appearing on street furniture all over Elmbridge and extending into Kingston, Spelthorne and Kingston boroughs, has been raised many times with both Elmbridge and Surrey County Council – the latest being the complaint referred to above, dating back to last year. Other than the removal from time to time of some of these signs (which are immediately replaced) – no enforcement action has been taken.

SCC has claimed:

1. That the perpetrator cannot be traced since no one answers the mobile phone number appearing on the posters.
2. That there are insufficient funds to pursue enforcement.

With reference to 1: This is a poor excuse since contact may very obviously be arranged by potential customers through the message service, otherwise there would be no earthly point in distributing such huge numbers of posters.

With reference to 2: This is unacceptable since this represents disfigurement of large areas of the community and the perpetrators are gaining confidence from the impotence of the enforcement agency. In not prosecuting the perpetrator the Council is ignoring a defined policy on fly posting and failing the ratepayer.

The question is therefore – what is to be done about this?

Officers Response:

Thank you for your question on fly posting, which is fully supported by the East Area Transportation Group Manager, Mr Roger Archer Reeves.

The current reorganisation, which is now due to ‘Go Live’ on the 7th May, will see increases in the numbers of Community Highway Officers (CHO’s) and this will enable Surrey County Council to increase its ability to deal with this issue in a more robust manner.

I am also aware that Elmbridge Borough Council has been placing 'Cancelled across' these 'Cash for cars' posters in an attempt to discourage drivers from contacting this organisation rather than removal, which would merely generate another poster. The Borough Council have been instrumental in the removal of many other such posters under the Environmental Protection Act 2000.

Question 2 – Mr G Clarke of Working for Cycling

Albany Bridge

With regard to the item on Albany Bridge, Hersham, p.3, para 4.1, I wish to ask what the effects of reinstating two lanes of traffic in each direction will be on cyclists if the existing barriers are to be maintained, with the possible obstruction of the cycle lanes?

Officer Response:

At the moment the intention is to provide two narrower lanes for traffic. This depends on the outcome of the further assessment work as we have already said. The barriers will still be in place to keep vehicles away from the footways and there will be room between the barriers and kerblines for cyclists.

AGENDA ITEM 6

MEMBER QUESTIONS

Question 1 – Cllr Simon Dodsworth supported by Mr. Ian Lake

Cycle Routes across Weybridge

There are several footpaths/pavements in Weybridge that are wide enough to be used for shared cycle and pedestrian routes but which are currently designated as pedestrian routes only. Examples include two paths in the Churchfields area (e.g. between Springfield Meadows and Melrose Road and, secondly, between Church Lane and Churchfields Avenue). With suitable maintenance of these routes (cutting back and trimming overgrown hedges and boundaries) a wider communal area usage could be provided.

These routes could provide a safe cycle route bypassing the High Street and be a key part of a 'safe route' to several Weybridge schools (Heathside, St James, St Georges Junior and Manby Lodge) as well as part of a key route between the station and the town and cross town. The benefit of such action would be to introduce delineation between foot and cycle users (which in itself is the frequent cause of local concern of many pedestrians) and provide for a formal structure, where possible, across a number of routes across Weybridge. Possible grant funding could be achieved through charitable organisations and central government.

These significant new cycle routes could be provided with relatively small expenditure (covering modifications to barriers to allow cycles/deter motorcycles; suitable surface markings; revised signage and possible national cycle network inclusion). There are a number of paths that cross over with the cycle network, and although may be marginally in terms of strict compliance with guidelines, the inclusion of such routes would help to reduce the pressure across pedestrian and cycle routes where potential conflict exists.

Will Surrey County Council undertake a feasibility survey and funding requirement for the provision of combined cycle and pedestrian routes across Weybridge Division?

This initiative has been supported by local groups and borough councillors.

Officer Response:

Thank you for your positive and helpful question.

Many of the town paths in Weybridge were looked at with a view to possibly upgrading them to shared facilities and linking them to the wider cycle route network across the Borough, in consultation with the Cycle Forum. Indeed to this end an initial plan for this proposal was displayed at the Public Exhibition

for the North Weybridge traffic calming scheme some years ago now, aimed as a discussion point to gauge public opinion.

Many if not all of these paths are covered by Elmbridge Borough Council local bylaws, which preclude their use by cyclists. These would have to be extinguished in order to allow cyclists to use these routes.

Inevitably such a change of designation of these town paths will generate concerns within the local community and path users, as in many cases it will be problematic to prevent their usage by mopeds and motocyclists.

A feasibility study has been included within next years LTP programme to progress this proposal further. As you may be aware this will be raised at the LTP Seminar for County Councillors on the 28th March.

Question 2 – Councillor Derek Denyer

Street Lighting

In view of the unacceptable long delays in restoring failed street lighting in many areas of the Borough (six to eight weeks) will the County Council consider re-negotiating or re-letting the contract with the electricity suppliers?

Officer Response:

Thank you for your question on this issue of street lighting.

The maintenance and repair of street lighting in the Borough can often involve not just the County Council's contractor Balfour Beatty Infrastructure Services (BBIS), but also the Statutory Undertaker Power Energy Supplier, EDF Energy.

Surrey County Council currently have a contract with BBIS for the repair and installation of street lighting equipment. This includes the supply and installation of the column, the internal electrical equipment, the lamps, illuminated bollards, signs, and any necessary cabling and ducting required.

They are also contacted for the repair of failure of any of these component parts, including damage caused by vehicular impact damage and any making safe to electrical equipment.

When a fault is identified in a street light our contractor will attend within 3 working days, and for an illuminated sign or bollard, within 2 working days. In most cases they can affect an immediate repair.

The Highway Authority, Surrey County Council is responsible for the supply of power to streetlights from the top of the cut out in the base of the column, similar to the domestic cut out/fuse box following the meter. The supply to the bottom of the cut out is the responsibility of the electricity supplier, namely EDF energy, and no one is permitted to tamper with the supply side of this.

When a fault arises which involves the supplier side of the cut out, the Street Lighting Engineer issues EDF energy with a works order to carry out the necessary repair. This fault can arise for several reasons, damage to the cable by third party works, damage to the cable through age or power surge or merely a supply problem further along the cable, but more often than not, through vehicular impact.

The whole system of street lighting is entirely reliant upon EDF energy as the power supplier to ensure that there exists an uninterrupted supply to each and every lighting column.

EDF attempts to programme faults into their scheduled maintenance patterns, however these dates are always subject to emergencies, which inevitably take precedence, and hence the delays we encounter, which are completely outside Surrey County Council control. Our street lighting engineers pressurise EDF energy at every opportunity once they are aware of a problem, to minimise any delays in restoring the power supply.

You will have noticed on several occasions now that two lamp columns exist along a section of footway, side by side. Surrey County Council have commenced this system of working where lamp columns are damaged by vehicles or when replacing older standards, as this minimises any delays by ensuring that when EDF engineers turn up they can easily transfer supplies from the old column into the new, and then the old column can be subsequently removed once disconnected.

As you will no doubt be aware there are proposals, which are aimed at having the entire street lighting stock included within a Private Funding Initiative (PFI), the outcome of which will be known soon.