

**Minutes of the meeting of Surrey County Council's
Local Committee in Elmbridge held at
4.00pm on Monday 24 September 2007 at the
Elmbridge Civic Centre, Esher**

Members Present – Surrey County Council

Mr Michael Bennison
Mrs Margaret Hicks
Mr Ernest Mallett
Mr Thomas Phelps-Penry

Mr Peter Hickman
Mr Ian Lake (Vice-Chairman)
Mr Timothy Oliver

Members Present – Elmbridge Borough Council

Cllr David Archer
Cllr Derek Denyer
Cllr Ruth Lyon
Cllr Janet Turner

Cllr Glenn Dearlove
Cllr Chris Sadler
Cllr Torquil Stewart
Cllr James Vickers

PART ONE

IN PUBLIC

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

Mr Lake opened the meeting by informing those present of the fire/bomb evacuation procedure.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Mitchell and Mr Taylor. Councillor Ruth Lyon substituted at the meeting for Councillor Maureen Sheldrick.

**34/ MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING [Item 2]
07**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2007 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

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

Councillor Chris Sadler declared a personal interest in Agenda item 13 (Members' Allocations) as he was a member of the Walton Heritage Day Committee.

**36/
07** **PETITIONS [Item 4]**

The Committee received one petition with 148 signatures, concerning the parking restrictions in Bridge Street Walton-on-Thames.

The petitioner or representative of the petitioner was invited to address the Local Committee but was not present. The Local Highways Managers response to the petition is attached to the Minutes (Annex B).

**37/
07** **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME [Item 5]**

One public question was received from Mr Clarke, as set out in the Annex B.

Mr Clarke asked the following supplementary question:

This problem was immediately reported to the police as it arose on a Bank Holiday who promised to pass the information on but still failed to do so by the following Wednesday. Is Surrey County Council satisfied with police communication on road matters?

The Local Highways Manager responded that in this case he did not know whether the police contacted Surrey County Council. However, he acknowledged that they were normally very reliable at passing on information. It was reported that the police have the power to change the traffic signal timings themselves without contacting the County Council.

**38/
07** **MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME [Item 6]**

There were no Member questions received.

**39/
07** **PRIMARY CARE TRUST PRESENTATION (PCT) [Item 7]**

The Local Committee received a presentation from Ruth Hutchinson, Public Health, on the reorganisation of the PCT.

The presentation included details on the structure, function and communication and engagement plans of the Primary Care Trust.

**40/
07** **POLICING IN ELMBRIDGE [Item 8]**

Steve Rodhouse, Divisional Commander North Surrey, gave an oral presentation to the Local Committee on the current policing situation in Elmbridge.

The structure of Surrey Police and local arrangement were explained. In addition to the traditional aims of the police, for example reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, it was report that Surrey Police also

aimed to improve public confidence in them as an organisation and provide a better lever of customer service in the borough.

Although it was stressed that Elmbridge as a borough was safe, it was acknowledged that crime was still is an issue. The current crime trend in Elmbridge is theft of tools from vans.

The Local Committee members asked various questions. The Vice-Chairman thanked the local Police Community Support Officers on behalf of all the Local Committee members for the work they do in the local community.

**41/
07** **COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE [Item 9]**

Julia Penfound, Area Director, introduced the report and explained the current attendance at the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership meeting.

Andrew Bircher, Head of Community Partnership (Elmbridge Borough Council) and Ellena Phelps, Community Safety Co-ordinator (Elmbridge Borough Council) attended the meeting and presented the report to the Local Committee. The Local Committee members asked various questions on community safety issues in Elmbridge.

RESOLVED:

The Local Committee agreed to note the activities of the Elmbridge Community Safety Partnership in 2006/07 and plans for 2007/08.

**42/
07** **CCTV STRATEGY FOR ELMBRIDGE [Item 10]**

Andrew Bircher presented the report to the Local Committee and explained the three-year strategy and the current progress that had been made.

RESOLVED:

The Local Committee noted the developments of the CCTV in the borough and the proposed changes for the coming years.

**45/
07** **LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE PRESENTATION [Item 11]**

The Local Committee received a presentation on Local Government Finance from Mark Baker, Assistant Head of Finance.

**46/
07** **LIBRARIES STAFFING REVIEW [Item 12]**

Sally Parker, Libraries Area Manager, introduced the report and explained the benefits of changing library opening hours in the

borough. Overall the libraries in Elmbridge would, as a result of these changes, gain 34 hours and 30 minutes per week in opening time.

RESOLVED:

1. To support the approach of seeking improvements to opening hours and services through efficiency gains from Self-service new technology.
2. To Support the proposed new Group structure – three Groups of libraries, A ('Town' centre), B ('District' centre) and C ('Local' centre), with a geographic/strategic approach.
3. To support the resulting improvements in opening hours in Libraries in Elmbridge.

**47/
07 MEMBERS' ALLOCATIONS [Item 13]**

RESOLVED:

1. To note the criteria and Guidance Note for the use of Members' Funds as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
2. To note the funding applications approved under delegated authority.
3. To approve £1,5000 for Envisage for promotional materials (Michael Bennison).
4. To approve £2,000 for Claygate in Bloom for new permanent planting in three roadside areas and further spring bulb planting (Michael Benison).
5. To approve £741 for the Molesey Bridle Way Planting Project group for the planting of shrubs, etc in the bridle way between Bridge Road, East Molesey and the playing fields (Roy Taylor).
6. To approve £1,500 for Walton Oak School towards the 'Stringalong' Music Project (Tom Phelps-Penry).
7. To approve £857.28 for the Walton Heritage Day Committee for entertainment costs incurred on Heritage Day subject to the following condition:
If at any time this day is advertised as an event organised by a political group then the Walton heritage Day Committee will be required to return the funding granted by Local Committee (Tom Phelps-Penry).
8. To approve £1,568.92 for the Trustees of the Thames Ditton Jubilee Quilt for the reframing of the quilt which is displayed at Thames Ditton Library (Peter Hickman).
9. To approve £2,850 to St. Paul's Church Building and Maintenance Committee for the purchase of new tables and chairs (Ernest Mallett/Tim Oliver).
10. To approve £4,000 to the Old Tiffnan Sports Ground (Company) Club for a play area for small children (Ernest Mallett/Tim Oliver).
11. To approve £1,048 to St Alban's School for the design and set up of a website (Ernest Mallett/Tim Oliver).

12. To approve £3,000 to Old Tiffnan Sports Ground (Company) Club for a play area for small children (Capital).
13. To approve the spending of £950 previously agreed at the Local Committee on 26 March 2007 for Cromwell Community Centre to hire a Pool Table and Whiteboards instead of purchase one.
14. To approve the reallocation of capital funding of £500 for the Elmbridge Community Safety Partnership to purchase display equipment. The money is the remainder of £800 previously granted to the Elmbridge Junior Citizen Scheme on 26 March 2007 for a two-way radio.
15. To re-approval the spending of £250 agreed at the Local Committee on 26 March 2007 for Hurst Park Residents Association to purchase native plants, such as holly, instead of Pyracantha Shrubs.

**32/
07** **DATE OF NEXT MEETING [Item 14]**

The Committee noted that the next Local Committee meeting was on Monday, 12th November 2007 at 4pm. The meeting is to be held at Elmbridge Borough Council.

Meeting Ended: 5.50pm

Dear Mrs Beattie

Re: Waiting Restrictions – Walton on Thames

Thank you for your petition regarding the above, which has been forwarded by Elmbridge Borough Council, as Surrey County Council is responsible for on-street car parking.

Surrey County Council as the Highway Authority is currently in the process of consulting with businesses and residents on parking controls in the Walton area. I have attached a questionnaire, which was recently sent by hand to the area to gauge public opinion and to obtain views on what would be considered appropriate locally.

Both Surrey County Councillors and Elmbridge Borough Councillors have been involved in the early consultation process and once the informal consultation with residents, businesses and other affected stakeholders has been carried out the results will form part of a more formal consultation and advertising process, prior to any amendments being carried out by way of legal traffic order.

The reason for the review is primarily the changes in parking generally in the central Walton area since the redevelopment of the Centre. This together with the recent car parking charges introduced by Elmbridge Borough Council, in its off-street car parks, which has displaced much parking from the off-street car parks to on-street locations on the public highway.

As this has been received as a petition, you will be receiving shortly a letter from the Committee team, advising that you will have the opportunity to attend and present your petition to the Committee at the next available meeting for the Elmbridge area, which is on the 24th September. You may wish to speak to your Surrey Divisional Councillor, Mr Tom Phelps-Penry, as he is also aware of the parking situation locally and has been involved in the initial consultation.

I hope the above appraises you of the situation and reassures you of our intentions.

Yours sincerely

F R Apicella
Local Highways Manager - Elmbridge

SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN ELMBRIDGE – 24 SEPTEMBER 2007

AGENDA ITEM 5

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Question 1 – Mr G.D. Clarke (Working for Cycling)

Roadworks in Ember Lane

The roadworks in Ember Lane outside Imber Court were light-controlled but did not allow cyclists to clear the works even when using the maximum phasing, thus allowing a conflict of traffic. This is a national problem and motor traffic is often abusive, as it does not understand that insufficient time is given for clearance.

What instruction does Surrey CC give to avoid this happening and is it enforced?

Officers Response:

Thank you for your question on this issue of cycling and roadworks.

Contractors are always reminded to take account of both cyclists and horse riders within the phasing times for temporary traffic signals, as both highway users take longer to clear the controlled section than motor vehicles.

Obviously during the works the phasing is subject to change dependant on tidal flows of vehicular traffic and slight adjustments to ensure that traffic flow is maintained and congestion kept to an absolute minimum. Officers travelling around the Borough will keep an eye on the performance of the signals, and Surrey Police will also be made aware.

It is unfortunate however that on occasions as in the case of the works on Ember Lane, Statutory Undertakers, commences on site, utilising temporary signal control, without seeking permission from the Highway Authority.

Even when permission is sought on occasion contractors/Police have also been known to change the operation of the signals from Vehicle Actuated (VA) sensor control to Fixed Time. This should only be used if the VA operation fails or if there are operational problems with the signals. This will also have an adverse effect on congestion, driver behaviour, and the highway user.

The Police regularly inform the Highway Authority of problems with temporary signal installations. This can be by way of telephone, Email, letter or defect notification, but as stated previously, can and do, also on occasion make the necessary changes themselves or request it from the contractors on site.

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