

**Minutes of the meeting of Surrey County Council's
Local Committee in Elmbridge held at
10.00am on Monday 11 June 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 Peter Hickman
Mr Ian Lake (Vice-Chairman)
Mrs Dorothy Mitchell (Chairman)
Mr Thomas Phelps-Penry

Members Present – Elmbridge Borough Council

Cllr David Archer
Cllr Alan Hopkins
Cllr Maureen Sheldrick
Cllr Janet Turner

Cllr Derek Denyer
Cllr Chris Sadler
Cllr Torquil Stewart
Cllr James Vickers

PART ONE

IN PUBLIC

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

Mrs Mitchell opened the meeting by informing those present of the fire/bomb evacuation procedure.

**01/ APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN [Item 1]
07**

The Committee noted that Mrs Mitchell and Mr Lake had been appointed Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively for the ensuing Municipal Year.

**02/ APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 2]
07**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Dearlove and Mr Roy Taylor.

**03/ MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING [Item 3]
07**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2007 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

**04/
07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 4]**

No declarations of interest were received.

**05/
07 APPOINTMENT OF ELMBRIDGE BOROUGH MEMBERS [Item 5]**

The Committee noted that the following Borough Councillors had been appointed to sit on the Local Committee for the 2007/08 Municipal Year:

Cllr David Archer	Cllr Maureen Sheldrick
Cllr Glenn Dearlove	Cllr Torquil Stewart
Cllr Derek Denyer	Cllr Janet Turner
Cllr Alan Hopkins	Cllr James Vickers
Cllr Chris Sadler	

**06/
07 PETITIONS [Item 6]**

The Committee received a petition with 1,020 signatories concerning the double yellow line in Bridge Road. The lead petitioner Mr Chahal addressed the meeting, explaining that the petitioners felt that there had been a lack of consultation before the line was changed from a single to a double yellow line.

Frank Apicella noted that there had been a period of some months between the display of consultation notices and the line being painted. He said that the Decriminalised Parking Enforcement task group would consider the representation as part of the annual review of parking restrictions, during the summer.

**07/
07 WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTION TIME [Item 7]**

One public question was received from Mr Bachmann, as set out in the annex attached together with the answer given. Mr Hickman asked if a member allocation contribution towards the scheme in question would help to prioritise the work, and Mrs Mitchell confirmed this.

**08/
07 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME [Item 8]**

No Members' questions were received.

**09/
07 FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE [Item 9]**

Dave Steggles, Area Manager, presented the Fire and Rescue Service annual report to the Committee, together with a Powerpoint presentation showing performance against indicators in comparison to other Surrey districts.

Mr Lake commended this performance. Mrs Hicks suggested that the Fire Service consider adopting the approach taken by police locally, in setting up and consulting with a diversity reference group.

RESOLVED:

The committee agreed to:

1. Note the performance of the Service within Elmbridge.
2. Endorse the initiatives by the Service to reduce the hazards of fire and other incidents in the community.
3. Endorse the initiatives by the Service to work with partners to influence behaviour in the community.
4. Recognise that following evaluation of initiatives funding may be requested in order for them to be implemented, maintained or continued.

**10/
07** **WALTON LIBRARY UPDATE [Item 10]**

Sally Parker, Area Manager for Libraries, presented the update report to the Committee. There was also a Powerpoint presentation illustrating the plans for the children's area and teenage area of the new Walton Library. Rhian Taylor, Business Manager in SCC Estates Planning, highlighted the scope for community use of the new library, through incorporation of a parents' and children's room, and other space suitable for holding ward surgeries or meetings. Members asked about local consultation, timescales, young peoples' facilities, opening hours, total budget and branding.

RESOLVED:

The Committee agreed to:

1. Note the plans for design and service delivery in the new Walton Library.
2. Advise the Library Service on the future range of service developments in the new Walton Library.

**11/
07** **EAST SURREY HIGHWAYS LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN 2007-2008 PROGRAMME [Item 11]**

Frank Apicella, Acting Local Transport Manger, presented the report to the Committee. Mr Oliver asked why the Church Street puffin crossing had been delayed, and Mr Apicella stated that this was because a night-time closure was required and was scheduled for late July. Mr Sadler asked for details of the A244 Hersham Road junction scheme.

RESOLVED:

The Committee agreed to:

1. Approve the programme of Local Transportation Plan funded integrated transport schemes for Elmbridge for progression in 2007/08 as set out in Annex 1 of the report.
2. Approve the application of Local Allocation for highway schemes for Elmbridge for progression in 2007/08 as set out in Annex 1 of the report.
3. Delegate authority to the East Area Group Manager, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and local elected Member to advertise any necessary traffic regulation order(s), to consider any objections received and subject to those objections make the associated order(s) deliver the scheme in (i) and (ii) above.

12/07 ASSET MANAGEMENT PRESENTATION [Item 12]

Stephen Child, West Area Highways Group Manager, gave a Powerpoint presentation on asset management of the highways infrastructure, funding sources and the decision-making process for the major maintenance programme.

Members asked about the timescale for when the public would notice improvements, the distribution of funding by borough, and the strategy for allocating the major maintenance budget across the county. The Chairman suggested that a future Committee could receive an information report on the distribution of local government finance.

13/07 ANNUAL HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE EAST SURREY TRANSPORTATION SERVICE 2007/08 [Item 13]

Roger Archer-Reeves, East Area Highways Group Manager, presented the report, noting that the draft Plan included with the report was an early version but that a near-final version would be circulated shortly.

Members asked about drainage vehicles, management of community gangs, and scope for scything works.

RESOLVED:

The Committee agreed to:

1. Approve the report of the East Area Maintenance and Delivery Plan for 2007/08 of which Elmbridge is included.
2. Note the anticipated outturn of figures for the East Area Maintenance and Delivery Plan for 2006/07.
3. Delegate the authority for authorising expenditure of the £100,000 revenue monies to the East Area Group Manager in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee.

**14/
07** **COMMUNITY SAFETY FUNDING [Item 14]**

Julia Penfound, Area Director, presented the report on Community Safety Funding to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

The Committee agreed 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.

**15/
07** **LOCAL PROTOCOL [Item 15]**

Julia Penfound, Area Director, presented the report to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the Local Protocol on public engagement as set out in appendix 1 of the report.

**16/
07** **MEMBERS' ALLOCATIONS – ANNUAL REPORT 2006/07 [Item 16]**

Julia Penfound, Area Director, presented the Members' Allocations annual report to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

**17/
07** **MEMBERS' ALLOCATIONS [Item 17]**

Julia Penfound, Area Director presented the report to the Committee, and asked members to consider an amendment to the original recommendation 1 in the report. The Chairman noted that recommendation 19 was withdrawn at the request of the Fire Service.

RESOLVED:

The Committee agreed to:

1. Note **and approve** the Criteria and Guidance Note for the use of Members' funds as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.
2. Delegate authority to the Area Director, in consultation with the Chairman and relevant Divisional Member, to approve the use of an individual Member's allocation for projects up to £1,000 which will be reported for information to the next Local Committee meeting.

3. Approve an application for funding of £1,600 from Love of Learning for an Anti Bullying Day for children in the Hinchley Wood/Claygate/Oxshott Divisional area to be funded from Mr Bennison's allocation.
4. Approve a retrospective application for funding of £500 from Molesey, Dittons & Hinchley Wood Neighbourhood Watch for printing and distribution of Neighbourhood Watch Newsletters in April 2007 to be funded from Mr Bennison's allocation.
5. Approve an application for funding of £800 from Chadsworth Stage School, Claygate towards costumes for 40 dancers visiting Euro Disney in Summer 2007 to be funded from Mr Bennison's allocation.
6. Approve an application for additional funding of £3,000 from East Molesey Cricket Club towards the pavilion roof repair and insulation work urgently carried out in November 2006. To be funded from Mr Mallett's allocation £2,000 (£1,000 reallocated from Thames Landscape Strategy Funding Local Committee 26/3/07) and Mr Oliver's allocation (£1,000).
7. Approve an application for additional funding of £5,000 from Elmbridge Borough Council towards the Elmbridge Taxi Voucher Scheme to be funded from the allocations of Mr Bennison (£700), Mr Hickman (£770), Mrs Hicks (£770), Mr Mallett (£770), Mrs Mitchell (£450), Mr Phelps-Penry (£770 – reallocated funding from the Thames Landscape Strategy Local Committee 26/3/07) and Mr Taylor (£770).
8. Approve an application from Elmbridge Borough Council for funding of £370 towards Drive Out Vehicle Crime Project for a radio campaign to be funded from the allocations of Mr Lake (£30) Mr Mallett (£30), Mrs Mitchell (£50), Mr Phelps-Penry (£230 – reallocated funding from the Thames Landscape Strategy Local Committee 26/3/07) and Mr Taylor (£30).
9. Approve an application from St. Mary's Church, East Molesey for additional funding towards a new roof to be funded from the allocations of Mr Mallett (£1,000) and Mr Oliver (£1,000).
10. Approve an application from 1st Molesey Sea Scouts for additional funding towards a new hut roof to be funded from the allocations of Mr Mallett (£500) and Mr Oliver (£500).
11. Approve an application from 2nd Molesey (St Paul's) Scout Group for additional funding towards upgrading the toilets and disabled entrance of the Scout Hut to be funded from Mr Mallett's allocation (£500).
12. Approve an application from 3rd Molesey Scout Group for additional funding towards a new hut roof to be funded from the allocations of Mr Mallett (£500) and Mr Oliver (£500).
13. Approve an application for additional funding from Cobham, Stoke & Oxshott Town Plan & Health Check Steering Group towards back-up staff/office costs to be funded from the allocation of Mrs Mitchell (£3,000).
14. Approve an application for funding from Cobham in Bloom Working Group and Committee towards new beds and planting

- for entry into the South East in Bloom competition to be funded from the allocation of Mrs Mitchell (£2,500).
15. Approve an application for funding from Stanners Lane Residents Group towards countryside path clearing and maintenance of Stanners Lane, East Molesey to be funded from the allocations of Mr Mallett (£400) and Mr Oliver (£400).
 16. Approve an application for funding from Hurst Park Residents Association towards planting of shrubs to cover residential/garage walls on Hurst Park common land to be funded from the allocation of Mr Mallett (£250).
 17. Approve an application for funding from Public Rights of Way/Countryside Access, Surrey County Council towards planting of shrubs on garage wall in Walton Lane to be funded from the allocation of Roy Taylor (£300).
 18. Approve an application for funding from the Friends of Claygate Centre for Retired People towards Claygate Centre Cyber Café to be funded from the allocation of Mr Bennison (£1,300).
20. Approve an application for reallocation of funding from Oatlands School, Weybridge (£3,000 approved at Local Committee on 26 March 2007 - £941.40 paid towards blinds from Mr Taylor's allocation). Now seeking to consider an application for balance of £2,058.60 to be reallocated from Mr Taylor's allocation for provision of Bicycle Racks at Oatlands School costing £2,056.42.
 21. Approve an application for additional funding from the capital allocation of £5,000 towards East Molesey Cricket Club Roof
 22. Approve an application for additional funding from the capital allocation of £5,000 towards a new roof for St. Mary's Church, East Molesey.
 23. Approve an application for additional funding from the capital allocation of £1,000 towards a new hut roof for 1st Molesey Sea Scouts.
 24. Approve an application for additional funding from the capital allocation of £2,000 towards a new hut roof for 3rd Molesey Scout Group.

**18/
07** **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Committee noted that the next Local Committee meeting was on Monday, 24th September 2007 at 4pm. The meeting is to be held at Weybridge Library.

Meeting Ended: 12.20pm

ANNEXE A**SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN ELMBRIDGE – 11 JUNE 2007****AGENDA ITEM 7****PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Dear Committee members,

I am seeking clarification over a matter of due process regarding a proposal to provide additional parking bays at Winters Bridge parade in Thames Ditton. After a petition of approximately 1300 signatures supporting the issue was presented to the committee, a working proposal was put forward by Mr Frank Apicella (I thank him for the time and effort that he put in to the issue) and passed unanimously by the committee at the meeting of November 3rd 2006.

Unfortunately earlier this month, after discussions with Peter Hickman and Mr Apicella, it has become apparent that the scheme is unlikely to proceed unless a significant portion (50%) of the estimated £15000 budget required is financed from Mr Hickmans' budget (he has generously agreed to provide £3500) and the traders at Winters Bridge. This leaves a shortfall of £4000 which the traders can ill afford, especially in light of the drop in trading levels on the parade after the completion of the previous scheme.

I understand from Frank Apicella that the local committee is given a general remit by which it ascertains priority given to any works due to be carried out. Because reducing road deaths is the key factor in deciding where available funds are spent, and despite his support, our proposal is deemed a low priority.

I would like to make clear that I do appreciate that funds are limited and budgets are stretched and that as a consequence general priority guidelines have to be in place.

However, it seems to me that given the level of support for this issue from the local community and the subsequent endorsement by the committee itself, any set spending priorities should and can be altered to accommodate this issue. There cannot be many other proposals that are supported with 1300 signatures and as such it should receive high priority.

Is the committee happy that this does not seem to be the case? Can the committee exercise its authority to ensure the works it has endorsed are given priority and thus completed in accordance with the wishes of local people, or does the committee have no further influence in this area?

Mr Chris Bachmann on behalf of the Winters Bridge traders.

Officer Response:

Thank you for your question to Committee on this issue.

You will recall that the original recommendation of the report submitted to the 6th November 2006 Committee was to

'Agree to the findings and conclusion of this report, which recommended that no further action be taken'

The conclusion stated that

'Whilst it is accepted that parking provision has been reduced, it must be acknowledged that any parking that occurred previously was undertaken illegally, and to the detriment and safety of bus passengers.'

The scheme, which has been constructed, has not only provided substantial safety gains for bus passengers but also enabled some formal limited parking to be gained.

Although the waiting restriction in the Bus Stop was poorly enforced previously, and resulted in vehicular parking, this should not be confused with formalised legal parking.

A scheme to provide an additional parking lay-by in advance of the Bus Stop would, in benefit/cost terms, be very unlikely to succeed in being prioritised to for design and construction and to merely add such a scheme to the LTP Assessment list would falsely raise expectations. It is therefore recommended that no further action be taken

It was following a meeting between Mr Bachmann and Mr Apicella prior to the Committee, that it was considered by Mr Bachman that it may be possible for the frontages to contribute to such a proposal. Mr Hickman, the Divisional Member, was also approached and he also agreed that he could contribute to a scheme.

It was with this in mind that at the Committee meeting on the 6th November 2006, Mr Apicella requested that the recommendation be amended to have the scheme included on the LTP programme, however with the proviso that if a contribution was received then this would assist the priority of such a proposal.

An extract from the Committee minutes and the Committee resolution was as follows:

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.

- 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.*

You will note from Annex 1 on Item 11 of this meetings agenda that the list of schemes prioritised for 2007/8, having all been assessed and ranked, range between 1- 36. For information their respective scores range from 84.43 to 38.07.

The proposal for the lay-by has also been assessed and included in the LTP list of schemes and is ranked at number 48 out of 69 with a score of 31.14.

.....Chairman