

**Minutes of the meeting of Surrey County Council's
Local Committee in Elmbridge held at
4.00pm on Monday 22 September 2008 at the
Christ the Prince of Peace Parish Hall, Weybridge**

Members Present – Surrey County Council

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

Mr Peter Hickman
Mr Ian Lake
Mrs Dorothy Mitchell (Chairman)

Members Present – Elmbridge Borough Council

Cllr David Archer
Cllr Barry Fairbank
Cllr John O'Reilly
Cllr Chris Sadler
Cllr James Vickers

Cllr John Butcher
Cllr Alan Hopkins
Cllr Karen Randolph
Cllr David Tipping

PART ONE

IN PUBLIC

**49/
08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Oliver, Mr Taylor and Councillor Dearlove. Councillor Tipping substituted for Councillor Dearlove at this meeting.

Councillor John O'Reilly was welcomed to the Local Committee. Councillor Reilly had recently been appointed taking the place of Councillor Fuller.

**50/
08 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th June 2008, were confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the following amendments as set out below.

Minute number 39/08

There were no Member questions received will be amended to read:

There was one Member Question received from Councillor Butcher but was disallowed by the Chairman as it failed to comply with Standing Order 47.1 as set out in the Constitution.

Minute number 41/08

The Local Committee adjourned between 4.40pm and 4.45pm will be amended to read:

The Chairman adjourned the meeting between 4.40pm and 4.45pm.

Minute number 41/08

The amendment to section 6 was amended to read:

Meetings will normally last no longer than two and a half hours, for example, meetings commencing at 4pm will end at 6.30pm unless the majority of those present approve a formally seconded proposal that the meeting should be extended to enable the completion of the business on the agenda considered urgent, otherwise the business standing will be referred to the next formal meeting of the Local Committee. It is at the discretion of the Chairman to decide whether if the reason for urgency is appropriate.

**51/
08** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

**52/
08** **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no Chairman's announcements.

**53/
08** **PETITIONS**

There was one letter of representation and two petitions received.

A letter of representation was submitted by the Walton Business Group and had 25 signatures. The letter requested the following:

We the undersigned strongly believe that lack of short-term on-street parking bays between 71 and 89 High Street, Walton is having a detrimental effect on our businesses. We request that Surrey County Council, in conjunction with Elmbridge Borough Council, implement parking bays in the area with immediate effect in order to safeguard the financial viability of this part of the town centre.

A representative of Walton Business Group spoke to the petition.

The Local Highways Manager responded verbally to the petition at the meeting. It was reported that a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) review

of the Walton area was planned and residents and businesses would be consulted with before the end of this financial year. It was also reported that Elmbridge Borough Council had contributed £30,000 towards the CPZ review of Walton. It was confirmed that consultation and design should be finalised this financial year with a view to implementing the scheme in the 2009/10 financial year.

The Walton Business Group was advised to monitor the progress of this review via the Local Committee meetings.

A petition signed by 141 electors of Surrey requesting the following was submitted:

Please could Surrey County Council place parking controls on Windmill Lane, KT6, to include surrounding residential streets and Ditton Park car park.

A representative of the petition addressed the Local Committee.

The Local Highways Manager confirmed that a report would be presented on the petition at the next meeting of the Local Committee.

A petition signed by 308 Surrey County Council electors in the Elmbridge area was submitted requesting the following:

We the undersigned believe that the A245 Byfleet Road between Seven Hills Road and Brooklands Road to be unsuitable for the national speed limit and accordingly petition for a reduction in the speed limit on this road to a more appropriate 40mph.

A representative of the petition addressed the Local committee.

The Local Highways Manager confirmed that a report would be presented on the petition at the next meeting of the Local Committee.

**54/
08 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were four public questions submitted as set out in Annex A with the answers.

There were supplementary questions asked on questions one and three.

**55/
08 MEMBER QUESTION TIME**

There were no Member questions received.

**56/
08** **EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY**

The Local Committee received a presentation on the Surrey County Council Equalities and Diversity agenda and members of the Local Committee discussed the issue in the context of the Elmbridge area.

**57/
08** **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE IN ELMBRIDGE**

The Local Committee received a presentation on the current status of Children in Care in Elmbridge and asked various questions. The Borough Councillor with responsibility for Children in Care and the Head of Leisure and Cultural Services were invited to participate in the discussion.

RESOLVED:

- i) To note the information provided on the position of children and young people in care in Elmbridge.
- ii) Consider ways in which it might support children and young people in care in Elmbridge.

**58/
08** **FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT**

The Area Manager North Surrey presented the report to the Local Committee for information highlighting both the areas of strong performance and those in need of improvement.

RESOLVED:

- i) To note the performance of the Service within Elmbridge.
- ii) To support the achievement of the personnel at Esher, Walton and Painshill Fire Stations.
- iii) To endorse the initiatives by the Service to reduce the hazards of fire and other incidents in the community.

**59/
08** **REFRESHING THE ELMBRIDGE COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

The report was presented to the Local Committee for consultation purposes.

RESOLVED:

- i) To Note the report and forward any comments to the Community Planning and Partnerships Co-ordinator, Elmbridge Borough Council, before 6 October 2008.

**60/
08** **ELMBRIDGE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

The report, presented by the Elmbridge Community Safety Manager, provided an update on the current performance against the community Safety Partnership action plan. It also provided Members with an opportunity to comment on the refresh of the Partnership Plan for 2009/10.

RESOLVED:

- i) To make representations on community safety issues to help shape the refresh of the Partnership Plan 2009/10.
- ii) To note the activities of the Elmbridge Community Safety Partnership between April and August 2008.

**61/
08** **CONSULTATION ON IMPROVEMENTS TO LEARNING DISABILITY DAY SERVICES**

The current position in relation to the Learning Disability Day Services and future plans were explained to the Local Committee. The Local Committee discussed the current provision in Elmbridge.

RESOLVED:

- i) To comment on the information provided in the consultation document on improvements to day services for people with learning disabilities across Surrey.
- ii) To comment on proposals for the Fernleigh day service in Walton on Thames to become a 'Centre for Excellence' for people with complex needs.
- iii) To comment on proposals for a greater range of services for people in Elmbridge in their local communities.

**62/
08** **MEMBERS' ALLOCATIONS REPORT**

The Local Committee and Partnerships Officer presented the report to the Local Committee.

RESOLVED:

- i) To approve the applications for funding as set out in the Members' Allocations report.

**63/
08** **LOCAL COMMITTEE DECISION – CALLED IN – 16 JUNE 2008**

The report of the Local Committee decision called in by the Executive was presented to the Committee by the Area Director.

RESOLVED:

- i) That authority be delegated to the East Area Group Manager, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and portfolio holder for Transport at Elmbridge Borough Council, in relation to any amendment to the 2008/09-2010/11 scheme list, as a result of changes in available funding following the closing of the 2007/08 accounts.
- ii) To note the report for information.

**64/
08 LETTER OF REPRESENTATION – RYDENS ROAD, WALTON ON THAMES**

The Local Highways Manager presented the report on the Letter of Representation submitted to the Local Committee in June.

It was confirmed that the Local Committee members who were interested in the location of the Vehicle Activated Signs should consult with the Divisional Member.

RESOLVED:

- i) To Note the report for information.
- ii) To approve the installation of two vehicles activated signs to be erected on suitable lamp columns on Rydens Road.

**65/
08 SAFE CROSSING PETITION – STATION ROAD, THAMES DITTON**

The Local Highways Manager presented the report on the petition submitted to the March Local Committee to the Local Committee.

It was confirmed that the Local Highways Manager would write to Mr Humsworth to confirm the position of Rydens Road in the Maintenance Programme (letter attached at annex B).

RESOLVED:

- i) To note the report for information.
- ii) To approve installation of a red surface to the flat top crossing, complete with improved warning signs, to be highlighted to vehicular traffic the existence of a non controlled crossing location.

**66/
08 LTP CAPITAL PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT INCLUDING UPDATE ON ALBANY BRIDGE**

The Local Committee received an update on Albany Bridge and the LTP Capital Programme. The Local Committee discussed the issues concerning Albany Bridge at length.

RESOLVED:

- i) To note the report for information.

**67/
08 UPDATE ON £103,000 REVENUE FUNDS AND THE ELMBRIDGE
ALLOCATION OF THE ADDITIONAL £5 MILLION FUNDS**

The report was presented by the Local Highways Manager. It was agreed to circulate a revised table as set out in the report under item 2.6.

RESOLVED:

- i) To note the targeted expenditure of the £103,000 local scheme funding.
- ii) To note the list of works to be undertaken from the Elmbridge share of the additional £5 million funds provided by the County.

The meeting closed at 6.27pm

SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN ELMBRIDGE – 22 SEPTEMBER 2008

AGENDA ITEM 8

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Question 1 – Cllr Macleod

Weybridge North Parking Issues

1. News that consultation on CPZ extension in Weybridge North has been brought forward to this financial year is welcome to local people who have been pressing for action on residents' parking. Can the Committee give some information about the terms of reference for this consultation in Weybridge North, the roads to be included, and anticipated timescales for the consultation and subsequent actions?

Officers Response:

This year's budget allocation for Local Transportation Plan schemes (LTP) has been severely cut. Although a scheme to research the parking issues in Weybridge existed on the LTP list it was, due to this financial shortfall, programmed for investigation during 2009/10 with implementation during 2010/11. On the 23rd June, a meeting was held at County Hall to bid for additional funds, which have been made available to all areas in both the East and West of the County.

As a result Elmbridge were awarded a total of £434,100 and confirmed by the Leader of Surrey County Council on the 22nd July. Included in this award was a sum to enable the Weybridge CPZ to be advanced ahead of its programmed date on the LTP. The full details of this award forms part of Item 21 of this meetings agenda.

County Councillor Mr Ian Lake, the Divisional Member for Weybridge, has been pursuing this issue on behalf of his electorate for some time now. Whilst the detail of this scheme needs to now be worked upon, he will be involved throughout the process to ensure that the area of coverage, the consultation, and all other elements are all in accordance with residents expectations wherever possible. The funding made available for this is allocated for expenditure during 2008/09 so it is anticipated that consultation will occur prior to this and results known soon after April 2009.

Question 2 – Ms Baxter

Permit parking in Holstein Ave, Weybridge

2. When will you have any more information about when the parking problems, which are really serious for the residents, can be resolved?

We appreciate that there is now to be a detailed consultation exercise during the next six months but it would help us enormously if we had any more information as to when the serious problem of being able to park outside our homes are resolved.

It really is an untenable situation here in the Avenue and we urgently need permit parking for the residents - it is a very short avenue with no through road so it would be more than appreciated if something was done for us in the not too distant future.

Officers Response:

The Response to this question is the same as question 1 above.

Question 3 – Michael Freeman (Chair of a local Resident Association

Parking and Road Safety in Weybridge

3. The amenity value of our roads is a major concern for people living around the venue of this meeting. There is always a considerable degree of uncertainty, and sometimes skepticism given the history, about the programme going forward. Specifically, we were pleased to note the commitment at the last meeting to introduce the 20mph speed limit imminently and the commitment to consult about residents parking which we understand will also take place this year. Could you please tell us whether the 20mph limit to be introduced this year will facilitate the implementation of a resident friendly CPZ (e.g. the provision of more parking spaces) and whether any markings of these spaces would be coordinated with actions to address the recent disastrous resurfacing of Portmore Park Road and the poor condition of adjacent roads?

Officer Response:

The traffic calming introduced some years ago now in the local area has gone some way to reducing personal injury accidents, and removing much of the traffic from using these roads as an alternative route at inappropriate speeds. The 20 mph zone will further enhance this area being a visual deterrent to drivers; it will also ensure that the Police as the sole highway enforcement agency can deal with any further occurrences of inappropriate speeds with greater efficiency.

Residents will find that when a CPZ is introduced, the removal of commuter parking, will afford residents far greater ability to park on street, and hence

less bays will actually be required. The reduced limit will also assist to control vehicular speeds along roads, which will no longer be parked up as extensively as they were previously, which could otherwise increase speeds.

Discussions are currently being had with Surrey County Council's Constructor, Carillion PLC, to determine the best and most appropriate way forward on rectifying the resurfacing problems.

Question 4 – Tukun Chatterjee

Pavements and Verges - Weybridge

4. Please could you tell us about the current policy with regards to care of our pavements and verges? I have written to Highways Agency about three times about the corner of Darnley Park and Portmore Park Road and met with no response.

Officer Response:

The Highways Agency is responsible for all Motorways and trunk roads whilst the County Council is responsible for all other public highways in its area.

Trees are an intrinsic part of Surrey's street scene and from part of the rural beauty of the area. Many of the trees have been in existence in the area for hundreds of years, with many predating the roads and housing developments.

Trees form part of the highway asset infrastructure, and each and every one has a monetary value placed upon it, based upon the London Tree Officers Association system known as CAVAT.

Trees are a living plant form and whilst they have in many circumstances been constrained in their ability to grow due to the closeness of urban development closely surrounding them in the form of roads, footways and housing, some root heave must be expected during their growing life. They are also vulnerable from further factors such as high-sided vehicle damage to growing limbs overhanging the carriageway, and damage to the tree condition resulting in terminal decline, caused by road salt, during winter months.

Much care is hence required when dealing with the maintenance of trees as many highway trees are also subject of tree preservation notices, and residents are very protective of any tree losses, for obvious reasons.

The current policy in Surrey is only to cut down trees that are dead, diseased, or dying.

Surrey County Council does not own many hedges in urban areas, as these are mainly in private ownership and the maintenance responsibility of the property owner. It does however own many hedges in the rural areas. The policy document used by Highway Safety Inspectors in Surrey is the Highway Safety Inspections Standards and Procedures.

Trees and vegetation defects on the highway are covered by this document and divided into 2 categories, based on the recommendations of the Code of Practice for Maintenance Management (July 2001)

- Category 1 – Those defects that require prompt attention because they represent an immediate or imminent hazard. Such things as danger of falling timber, fallen debris causing obstruction to passage or vision.
- Category 2C – These will be reviewed during the next safety inspection. Such things as obscuring regulatory road signs and signals, overgrowth inhibiting passage, obstruction to vision considering location and use.

Surrey County Council has a dedicated Senior Asset Planning Manager for arboriculture who is responsible for the condition assessment of trees on the highway.

Re: Rydens Road, Walton on Thames

I am responding to your enquiry, at the recent September Committee meeting, following my written response to the letter of representation received by Councillors at the earlier June Committee.

In the first instance, I should perhaps point out that my written response was directly aimed at addressing the comments contained in the letter of representation. I have now had the opportunity to re-read the comments contained in the letter of representation and cannot find any reference to the issue of carriageway resurfacing.

Having said that you will recall, that when the Molesey Road end of Rydens Road was last resurfaced, the first 60m of Rydens Road was also included within those works. Surface dressing was also carried out from the Hersham Road end along Rydens Road in the recent past.

A scheme has recently been included in this years programme to surface dress the carriageway from the 60m joint at the Molesey Road end of the road, to a point circa the junction of King Georges Avenue, a distance of some 600 metres. This work is to be carried out prior to the end of March 2009. In addition the newly redesigned traffic signals at the Halfway will also include junction resurfacing on completion of the signal works and is scheduled for next week.

I trust that the above will serve to apprise you of the situation and reassure you of our intentions.

Yours sincerely

F R Apicella
Local Highways Manager