

**Minutes of the meeting of Surrey County Council's
Local Committee in Elmbridge held at
4.00pm on Monday 21 September 2009 at
Elmbridge Civic Centre, Esher**

Members Present – Surrey County Council

Mr Michael Bennison (Vice Chairman)	Mr Ian Lake
Mr John Butcher	Mr Ernest Mallett
Mr Nigel Cooper	Mr Peter Hickman
Mrs Margaret Hicks (Chairman)	Mr Roy Taylor

Members Present – Elmbridge Borough Council

Cllr David Archer	Cllr Elizabeth Cooper
Cllr Chris Elmer	Cllr Barry Fairbank
Cllr Timothy Grey	Cllr John O'Reilly
Cllr Karen Randolph	Cllr Chris Sadler
Cllr John Sheldon	

PART ONE

IN PUBLIC

**21/
09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Phelps-Penry, Councillor Tipping and Councillor Hopkins.

Councillors Sheldon and Cooper substituted for Councillors Tipping and Hopkins respectively.

**22/
09 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2009, were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**23/
09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

**24/
09** **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman announced that the A244 (Albany Bridge) would be closed overnight on 2 October to reinstate the bridge. Work to permanently reinstate the bridge will begin in Summer 2010.

**25/
09** **PETITIONS & LETTERS OF REPRESENTATION**

There were three petitions submitted as follows:

Stoke Road, Cobham

A petition with 311 signatories was presented as follows:

“Petition to the Council for the reduction in the speed limit along Stoke Road from 40mph to 30mph.”

A representative nominated by the lead petitioner addressed the Local Committee.

A formal response to the petition will be presented to the next Local Committee on 7 December 2009.

Walton Controlled Parking Zone

A petition with 104 signatories was presented as follows:

“Those undersigned are residents who are against the planned introduction of a controlled parking zone in Walton-on-Thames. The scheme will adversely affect many residents and should be cancelled.”

The lead petitioner addressed the Local Committee.

The Parking Projects Manager provided the following formal response:

Following informal consultation and public exhibitions in July 2009, the Walton Controlled Parking Scheme has been revised to take account of public opinion, the detail of which is explained under agenda item 8. Although objections to the scheme have been received, the informal consultation has shown that there are a number of people in favour of the scheme. As stated before, where objections have been received, the Parking Team is reviewing the relevant proposal and amending as appropriate.

Pedestrian Crossing in Molesey Road, Hersham

A petition with 108 signatories was presented to the Local Committee as follows:

“We support the proposal for a light controlled pedestrian crossing across the Molesey Road between Hersham Library and the bus stop opposite”.

The lead petitioner addressed the Local Committee.

A formal response to the petition will be presented to the next Local Committee on 7 December 2009.

**26/
09 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were two public questions received as set out in Annex A with the answers.

A supplementary question was asked on public question one.

**27/
09 MEMBER QUESTIONS**

There were no Member questions received.

**28/
09 WALTON CONTROLLED PARKING SCHEME
CONSIDERATION OF OBJECTIONS**

The Parking Projects Manager presented the report to the Local Committee. To date informal consultation had taken place on the scheme in July 2009. The Local Committee discussed the detail of the report and the proposed Walton Controlled Parking Scheme.

Mr Taylor, as Leader of Elmbridge Borough Council, confirmed that Elmbridge Borough Council was currently in discussions with the Walton Business Group regarding their parking concerns. Elmbridge Borough Council has suggested that Walton Business Group put together a proposal to negotiate parking arrangements for employees at a favourable annual business rate. Mr Taylor confirmed that he would welcome similar proposals from other businesses across the Borough.

RESOLVED:

The Local Committee (Elmbridge) agreed that:

- i) Parking controls are progressed in those roads where considered necessary to preserve/improve existing road safety levels, such as main traffic routes and junctions.
- ii) Parking controls are progressed as consulted only in those roads where responses indicate that a majority of residents are in favour.
- iii) Further local consultation is undertaken in those roads where responses indicate that parking controls are necessary but not in the exact form as those consulted.

- iv) Discussions continue between Elmbridge Borough Council and Walton Business Group with a view to resolving issues raised concerning on-street parking in residential streets by business employees.
- v) Following re-consultation at a local level, further to recommendation (ii) above, the Traffic Regulation Order to introduce the controls that are to be progressed at this time, is advertised in October/November 2009.

**29/
09 WEST GROVE, WALTON-ON-THAMES
LETTER OF REPRESENTATION**

The Parking Projects Manager presented the report on West Grove, Walton-on-Thames following the submission of a letter of representation to the July Local Committee meeting as follows:

“The matter we wish the Council to consider is the problem of congested commuter street parking with the dangerous side effect of poor sight lines and manoeuvrability in West Grove, Walton-on-Thames”.

The Parking Projects Manager confirmed that the matter would be considered as part of the annual assessment of nominated roads in Elmbridge due to take place in December 2009 and January 2010. A report on this assessment process will be presented to the Local Committee meeting in March 2010.

RESOLVED:

The Local Committee noted the content of the report.

**30/
09 ANNUAL MAINTENANCE PLAN UPDATE 2009-10**

The Local Highways Manager presented the interim report for information.

RESOLVED:

The Local Committee noted the outturn figures for the East Area Maintenance Delivery Plan for 2008/09 and the Delivery Plans indicative levels of funding for 2009/10.

31/ NEW WALTON LIBRARY, EVALUATION OF USE

The Libraries Sector Manager presented the report, which provided an evaluation on the new Walton Library since it opened in May 2008.

Members congratulated the Library staff for their success in Walton.

RESOLVED:

The Local Committee (Elmbridge) noted the report for information.

**32/
09 SURREY FIRE & RESCUE ANNUAL REPORT**

The North Area Manager presented the annual report on the activity of the Surrey Fire & Rescue Service in Elmbridge in 2008-09. The report highlighted successes and areas for improvement. It was stressed that Elmbridge remains one of the safest Borough in relation to fire. In particular the education and prevention work carried out by the Elmbridge teams was discussed.

Members congratulated the Surrey Fire & Rescue Service within Elmbridge.

RESOLVED:

The Local Committee noted the content of the report.

**32/
09 LOCAL PROTOCOL ON PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

The Area Director for North Surrey presented the report. It was explained that the proposed changes to the Local Protocol were as a result of the Council agreeing in April 2009, to amend its Constitution to permit public participation on rights of way applications.

The Chairman announced that should a Rights of Way issue be presented for consideration at the Local Committee, a ten-minute training session should be scheduled in advance.

RESOLVED:

The Local Committee (Elmbridge) ADOPTED the revisions to the Local Protocol relating to public participation on Rights of Way Applications.

**33/
09 MEMBERS ALLOCATIONS**

The Chairman announced that funding application 3.2, as listed in the report, had been withdrawn.

RESOLVED:

The Local Committee agreed to:

- i) Note the Criteria and Guidance Note for the use of Members' Allocations as set out in Annex A and B.
- ii) Note the allocations approved under delegated authority by the Area Director in consultation with the Chairman.

- iii) Note the returned funding of £2,000 for Fieldcommon Signs and £400 for Fieldcommon plants to Mr Phelps-Penry revenue allocation.
- iv) Approve an application for funding of £2,187.50 towards the replacement of a damaged fence at Somerset Close, Hersham to be funded from Mrs Hicks' allocation.
- v) Approve an application for funding of £216 towards a tenth anniversary seat at Hurst Meadows, Molesey to be funded from Mr Mallett's allocation (£108) and Mr Cooper's allocation (£108).
- vi) Approve an application for Capital funding of £10,000 towards the refurbishment of Claygate Primary School swimming pool.
- vii) Approve an application for Capital funding of £3,730 towards nursery climbing apparatus for Long Ditton Infant and Nursery School.
- viii) Note that the funding bid from Cobham in Bloom for £2000 had been withdrawn by the applicant.

34/ **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
09

7 December 2009
Village Hall Cobham
Lushington Drive
Cobham
KT11 2LU

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Question 1 Mr Gilbert

Local Development Plans

I understand that Surrey County Council (SCC) will not be preparing a further Local Transport Plan, as the latest Government directive is that in future transport is to be addressed as part of Local Development Plans (LDPs).

I also understand the SCC has requested individual boroughs to prepare and submit their own LDPs, to be incorporated in the overall County Plan.

Elmbridge has issued for consultation its Core Strategy, as a prelude to drafting its Development Plan.

The Core Strategy indicates a range of key issues to be addressed, before the infrastructural requirements associated with additional developments can be identified to allow plans to be made accordingly.

Some of these issues, such as schools, public utilities and services such as transport, go beyond Elmbridge Borough Council's remit and responsibility.

"Will the Local Committee engage in active and urgent discussions with Elmbridge Borough Council to identify the areas in which it requires higher level participation to progress these aspects of its Development Plan, before the national Government or the Government of the South East takes pre-emptive decisions on housing or other developments which could have a serious impact on the character or the quality of life here in Elmbridge?"

Officer Response:

Local Transport Plans (LTPs) still continue and there has not been a Government directive that puts an end to the process.

The County Council, like all Transport Authorities, will be producing the next LTP by April 2011.

Local Development Frameworks (LDFs) are produced by the district/borough councils as the Local Planning Authorities. The County Council does not request the districts/boroughs to prepare them, although is consulted as the various stages of the LDFs are produced.

The LDFs and their constituent parts such as the Core Strategy must be produced by the Local Planning Authorities in accordance with Government Guidance such as PPS12 on Local Spatial Planning, and the South East Plan.

The level of future housing development allocated to each Surrey district/borough up to 2026 has already been set out in the South East Plan. It will be unlikely that the Surrey County Council Local Committee in Elmbridge will need to consider the matter in the way suggested.

Question 2 Councillor Macleod

North Weybridge 20mph Zone

Residents in North Weybridge were pleased to see 20mph signs installed earlier this year. However there are two serious issues:

- the restricted scope of the current 20mph zone
- the limited effectiveness of the current signage

SCOPE: The current 20mph does not include the roads around St James School. This is so counter-intuitive that many residents thought the signs were installed facing the wrong way, because they encourage people to speed up as they approach St James School from Thames Street.

The Surrey County Council Local Committee (Elmbridge) in January 2006 concluded: "Having carefully reassessed the extent of the 20 mph zone it is now proposed that the Weybridge 20mph zone be based on the area that was traffic calmed in 2001, but extended to include Wey Road and Round Oak Road." The heavy traffic calming along Monument Road therefore suggests this should already be in the 20mph zone.

SIGNAGE: Many road users fail to notice the current 20mph signage. It is particularly ineffective at the Balfour Road end of Portmore Park Road, where drivers' attention is focused on getting around the junction rather than looking for signs up in the air.

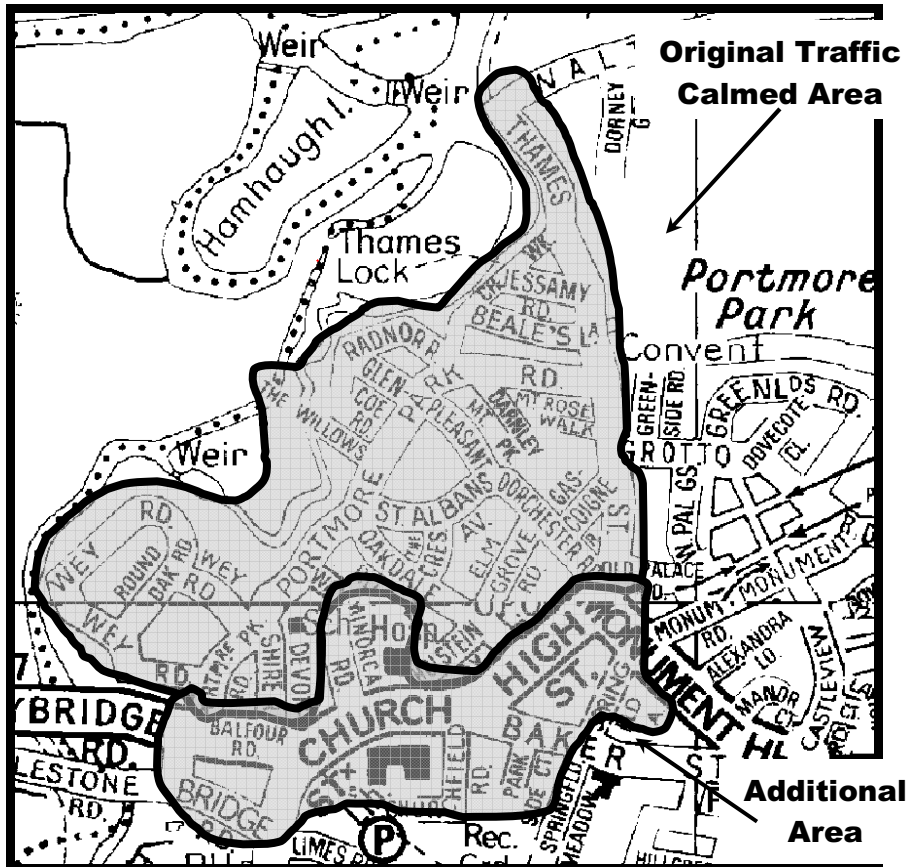
Will the Committee therefore please consider as a priority:

Extending the North Weybridge 20mph zone to cover Monument Road, Grotto Road, Old Palace Road, and other roads surrounding St James School
Improving the signage with road markings and a few strategically placed repeater signs, so that people notice they are in a 20mph zone?

Officer Response:

A report was originally taken to the Local Committee on the 23 March 2005. This detailed the area of implementation for the proposed 20mph speed zone, based upon the traffic calming installed in 2001.

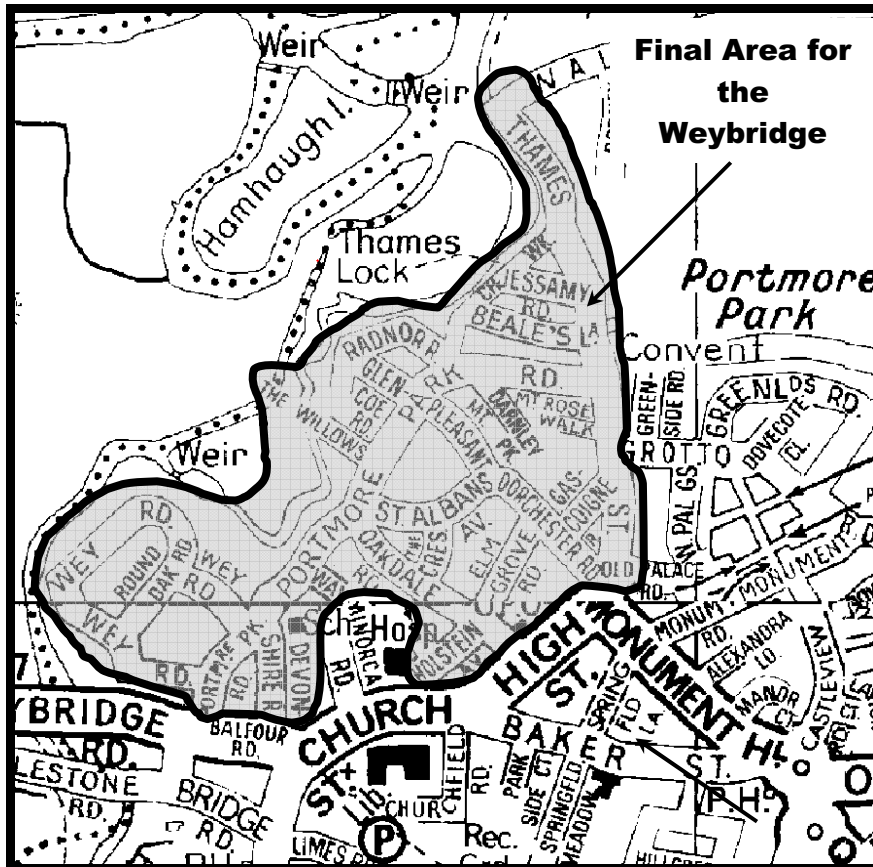
The report identified this area of traffic calming as having succeeded in its aims of reducing personal injury accidents, from 16 during the 3 years prior to the introduction, to 4 post construction. The areas proposed are shown below.



As vehicular speeds had, through the traffic calming treatment, also been effectively reduced to comply with a 20 mph zone, and complied with County policy, this was proposed.

However an additional area was also included within the scheme, which had not been treated and did not comply with policy.

The zone was advertised and objections received from primarily from Surrey Police, as the proposal did not comply with the joint speed management policy agreed between Surrey County Council and Surrey Police. A further report was taken to the Local Committee on 24 January 2006, explaining this, and revising the area for the zone, only to roads where the speeds had been reduced through the calming, to reflect the current policy.



The traffic calming in Monument Road had been introduced prior to 2001, other roads leading from the road had not been treated and accordingly not designed to reduce vehicular speeds to comply with a 20 mph policy. Consequently this area would not comply with the criteria for an extension to the current zone. The scheme in Monument Road however had been successful in achieving its aims of reducing casualties, which is one of the main aims of the County Council in accordance with Governments strategies of reducing casualties by 40% by 2010.

Driving in excess of the posted limit, on the other hand is a criminal offence, for which the Police as the sole highway enforcement authority have powers to deal with quickly and effectively, as it remains a criminal offence. Speed enforcement is not a responsibility of the highway authority, which if it were would probably necessitate every road in the County being calmed to ensure compliance, which no doubt would be socially unacceptable, as traffic calming remains universally unpopular.

There are two types of 20 mph traffic orders.

- 20 mph limit
 - This is similar to other limits such as 40mph, whereby the change in limit is signed together with regular reminders along the route.

- 20 mph zone
 - This is similar to a 30 mph limit whereby only the entry points are signed and repeaters are not permitted. This ensures that sensitive zones are not overwhelmed by a plethora of signs which then require greater cost to introduce and maintain.

The signing in the area has been erected to comply with the traffic order made following the resolution of the January 2006 Local Committee for a 20 mph zone.