

**Minutes of the meeting of Surrey County Council's
Local Committee in Elmbridge held at
4.00pm on Monday 6 December 2010 at
Elmbridge Civic Centre, Esher, KT10 9SD**

Surrey County Council Members

- ** Mr Michael Bennison
- ** Mr Nigel Cooper
- ** Mrs Margaret Hicks (Chairman)
- ** Mr Ernest Mallett
- ** Mr Anthony Samuels
- ** Mr John Butcher
- ** Mr Peter Hickman
- * Mr Ian Lake
- ** Mr Thomas Phelps-Penry

Elmbridge Borough Council Members

- ** Cllr David Archer
- ** Cllr John Bartlett
- ** Cllr Glen Dearlove
- ** Cllr Barry Fairbank
- ** Cllr Jan Fuller
- A Cllr Tim Grey
- ** Cllr Alan Hopkins
- ** Cllr John O'Reilly
- ** Cllr Karen Randolph

PART ONE

IN PUBLIC

52/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]

There were no apologies for absence given.

53/10 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING [Item 2]

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2010 were confirmed.

54/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

Mr John Butcher declared a personal interest in all the items that referred to Elmbridge Borough Council, as he was an Elmbridge Borough Councillor.

55/10 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS [Item 4]

The Chairman made the following announcements:

Walton Bridge Position Statement – 12 November 2010

The Government has announced that it continues to support the scheme to replace Walton Bridge, and that they hope to agree a way forward on funding by January 2011.

A meeting was held with the Department for Transport on 2nd November, and they have asked the County Council to review the financing of the scheme, with a view to reducing the Department for Transport's capital contribution, and increasing the percentage contribution made by the County Council.

The County Council is now in discussion with its contractor Costain, to identify cost savings that can be achieved without changing the design or quality of the scheme.

We are very hopeful that a sensible agreement can be reached that will allow this project to proceed, with advance works starting on site early in the new year.

Possible Closure of Oatlands Avenue

SCC Streetworks officers are currently in discussions with Veolia Water regarding the possible closure of Queens Road, Weybridge for up to 9 weeks during 2011.

The works involving connections to the existing water mains in the carriageway, and the laying of new mains to a proposed new booster station in Oatlands Avenue. The booster station will enable Veolia Water to maintain and enhance the water supply to approximately 45,000 homes in the Walton, Weybridge and wider area.

At present, a planning application for the booster station has been rejected by Elmbridge Borough Council, but will be subject to an Appeal. It is therefore uncertain at this time that these works will go ahead at all. However, in the meantime, Veolia Water and SCC officers are continuing to plan the works to ensure that all the necessary arrangements, including public engagement, can be undertaken should the appeal be successful. This currently includes looking at possible diversion routes, access arrangement for residents, deliveries etc. We have already advised Veolia Water that any closure of this route must coincide with the school summer holidays in order to minimise disruption. There will be consultation with local businesses, letter drops to residents and a public exhibition, details of which will be confirmed at a later date.

56/10 PETITIONS & LETTERS OF REPRESENTATION [Item 5]

Two letters of representation and two petitions were submitted as follows. The two petitions are on the same topic so under Standing Order 65.5 these will be taken together:

Copsem Lane, Oxshott – Speed of Traffic – Letter of Representation

Mrs Norah Biggs spoke at the Committee on behalf of the Gunter's Mead Residents Association. She requested that the speed limit along Copsem Lane be reduced to 30mph from the A3 roundabout to Sandy Lane.

Resolved: To receive a response to the letter of representation at the 28 February 2011 Committee meeting.

Queens/ South Road, Weybridge – Parking – Letter of Representation

Mr David Chapman spoke at the Committee on behalf of the residents of South Road. He requested that the Council consider building up the pavement at the junction where the double lines extend and into South Road.

Resolved: To receive a response to the letter of representation at the 28 February 2011 Committee meeting.

Ashley Road, Walton on Thames – Road Safety – Petition (i)

Mrs Jean Cutts spoke at the Committee on behalf of the Ashley Road Residents Association. She requested that the Council draw up an action plan to consider a series of issues including a weight restriction on the road to ban HGVs and improved signage.

Resolved: To receive a response to the letter of representation at the 28 February 2011 Committee meeting.

Ashley Road, Walton on Thames – Road Safety – Petition (ii)

Ms Clare Glanville spoke at the Committee on behalf of the parents of Ashley Road School. She requested that the Council consider widening the pavement, improved school signage, pedestrian barriers erected and traffic calming measures implemented.

Resolved: To receive a response to the letter of representation at the 28 February 2011 Committee meeting

57/10 PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 6]

There were three public questions received as set out in Annex A with the answers. A supplementary question was asked and answered on questions 2 & 3.

58/10 MEMBER QUESTIONS [Item 7]

There were four Member questions received as set out in Annex B with the answer. A supplementary statement was asked.

59/10 LETTER OF REPRESENTATION RESPONSE – FRENCH GARDENS [Item 8]

This was a response to a letter of representation that was submitted to the Committee on 21 June 2010. The report set out to update the Members on the investigations into the request for French Gardens to become a no car-parking zone, or a controlled parking zone.

The Parking Projects Manager introduced the item stating that as part of the 2009 review, the Parking Team had considered the request to install double yellow lines at the junction of French Gardens and Hogshill Lane, in order to facilitate access for refuse vehicles and improve drivers' sightlines when exiting French Gardens. Having considered the on-site assessment the Parking Task Group had recommended to the Committee, and the Committee approved this action with funding. The Parking Team will consider the request for additional parking controls during the 2011 Parking Review.

Mr Butcher thanked the Chairman for her interest in work related to this issue, and stated that he was eager for a solution to the conundrum. It was difficult for waste collection vehicles to access the site and emergency vehicles would soon find it difficult to access the properties. He was therefore surprised that this type of parking was not classified as antisocial behaviour.

In response to a question on funding, the Parking Projects Manager confirmed that the advert for double yellow lines on access to French Gardens would hopefully be placed in January, and that the work would be carried out in 2011.

Resolved:

That the contents of the report be NOTED.

60/10 LETTER OF REPRESENTATION – C153 MOLESEY ROAD, HERSHAM [Item 9]

This was a response to a letter of representation that was submitted to the Committee on 20 September 2010. The report set out to update the Members on the investigations into the request for a light pedestrian crossing across the C153 Molesey Road, Hersham.

The Interim Area Team Manager introduced the item stating that there was a good safety record along this section of road so it was difficult to pursue this scheme. The Highways Team would monitor the collision history along this section of road as a matter of course and if collisions rose significantly this would be referred to the Casualty Reduction Working Group for action.

The Committee compared the section of road to a similar one in Walton on Thames, which had a crossing installed as part of the Safer Routes for Schools programme. It was noted that the survey results were the same as those viewed in 2009. Members requested a breakdown of the costs required to install a puffin crossing.

Resolved:

That the contents of the report be NOTED and AGREED that based upon the lack of pedestrian personal injury collisions since 1987, and the difficulty in locating further pedestrian measures, compounded by the current financial difficulties, that there is no benefit at this time in pursuing the issue further.

61/10 LETTER OF REPRESENTATION – ISLAND FARM ROAD, WEST MOLESEY [Item 10]

This was a response to a letter of representation that was submitted to the Committee on 20 September 2010. The report set out to update the Members on the investigations into the request for the Council to resurface the carriageway along Island Farm Road, West Molesey.

The Interim Area Team Manager introduced the item stating that both Pool Road and Island Farm Road were on the rolling programme for highways works. Based on the current programme, work in Pool Road was due to be carried out in the 2011/12 year, and Island Farm Road in 2012/13. However this was a working document, and if emergency works were required to be carried out, then these would be carried out first.

Mr Mallett welcomed the report and that the two roads were on the programme for improvements, and stated that Pool Road was a major access route in the area for HGVs.

It was agreed that a list of all the roads and the rankings for Elmbridge

would be circulated to the Committee before Christmas.

Resolved:

- (i) That the contents of this report and the relative priorities of both Pool Road and Island Farm Road on the County programme be NOTED
- (ii) A list of all the roads and the rankings for Elmbridge would be CIRCULATED to the Committee before Christmas

62/10 PETITIONS AND LETTERS OF REPRESENTATION [Item 11]

The Local Committee and Partnerships Officer introduced the item stating that the reason for this report was to provide transparency for petitioners to see what had happened following the receipt of their petitions and letters of representation. Also to allow Members scrutinise what actions had been carried out against the requests made.

With regards to the letter of representation received in July 2009 regarding West Grove, Walton on Thames, Cllr O'Reilly requested clarification on whether the assessment would be reported to the Committee in March 2011. The Parking Projects Manager advised that this had been reported to the Committee in March 2010, but this was not deemed a priority at that time, however it was due for consideration again in the Parking Review 2011.

Mr Hickman requested that the information relating to the petition received in March 2008 relating to Station Road, Thames Ditton be amended to present the action taken.

With regards to the petition for a speed change along Stoke Road (received in September 2009) Mr Butcher stated that he understood the concerns of the residents and that this had been a longstanding issue. He noted that there wasn't the funds within the budget to carry out these works, and questioned this, but stated that he would provide the funding from his allocation for the assessment of the road to be carried out. This could then be considered at the next meeting.

Resolved: That the

- (i) Contents of the report be NOTED
- (ii) A report on the results of an assessment on whether to reduce the speed limit at Stoke Road from 40mph to 30mph be RECEIVED at the next Committee meeting. The funding for the assessment to be funded from Mr Butcher's allocation.

63/10 HAVE YOUR SAY ELMBRIDGE EVENTS [Item 12]

The Elmbridge Borough Council Policy Manager – Partnerships introduced the item stating that Elmbridge had recently hosted two public events (on 15 and 23 November) for members of the public to have a discussion on the spending challenges ahead and question representatives of Surrey County Council, Elmbridge Borough Council and Surrey Police Authority on the services they provided. There had been a good turnout of both members of the public and councillors from both authorities. She thanked all those involved, and stated that there had been really good feedback from the attendees.

Mrs Hicks thanked Joy and her team for all the work that had been put into arranging the events, and said that they were really well run and had been successful. There had been lots of new faces amongst the core group of individuals who helped to challenge the authorities on the work that they carried out.

Other Members also commented on the success of the events and agreed that there had been a good mix of questions being put forward.

Resolved: That the contents of the report be NOTED.

64/10 ELMBRIDGE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE [Item 13]

The Area Director – North introduced the item stating that this was an update of the all the work that had been carried out by the Elmbridge Community Safety Partnership since June 2010.

He highlighted a range of events that had been successful including

- A public event in June at which the Community Safety Fund had been launched
- Domestic Abuse Awareness Week work in a local shopping centre
- The press release relating to the Alcohol Awareness Week being one of the top stories on the BBC Website
- Quizzes carried out in Centres for the Community in relation to addressing domestic burglary increases
- The involvement of 5 Elmbridge residents on the YES Scheme.

He praised the work of the Domestic Abuse Outreach teams stating that they had seen and helped a high number of referrals since June.

There had been an overall decrease in the number of crimes reported in the borough however there had been an increase in domestic burglaries which had led to the campaigns carried out throughout November. Following a series of campaigns headed by the Borough Inspector, Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) had reduced and importantly there had been low reported figures of ASB over the Halloween period.

Members discussed the relative merits of asking the Council's Contact Centre to host numbers of other public authorities where the rates were higher than the local rate. The Chairman summarised the report by stating that Elmbridge was a safe place to live.

Resolved: That the activities of the Elmbridge Community Safety Partnership between April – September 2010 be NOTED.

65/10 MEMBERS' ALLOCATIONS REPORT [Item 14]

The Committee considered a report on the criteria and guidance relating to Members' Allocations, and funding proposals for approval. Members discussed the types of projects to which funding should be provided.

Resolved 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 (paragraph 2.1–2.7).
- (iii) NOTE it was agreed at Local Committee on 20 September that the remaining balance of the Capital funding, £30,350, be allocated towards Parking Projects in Elmbridge 2010/11.
- (iv) APPROVE an application for funding of £2,500 from Ashley School, Walton-on-Thames towards a solar PV roof membrane to be funded from Mr Samuel's allocation.
- (v) APPROVE an application for funding of £2,790 from Walton Rowing Club towards security CCTV for the new boathouse to be funded from Mr Phelps-Penry's allocation.
- (vi) APPROVE an application for funding of £1,920 from Oatlands Scouts towards hall floor replacement to be funded from Mr Samuel's allocation.
- (vii) APPROVE an application for funding of £2,500 towards a Grit Bin at Walton Station to be funded from Mr Samuel's allocation.
- (viii) APPROVE an application for funding of £250 towards NSCCP The Counselling Partnership training costs for volunteer counsellors to be funded from Mr Tony Samuel's allocation.
- (ix) APPROVE an application for funding of £1,000 towards a Grit Bin for the central shopping area of Claygate to be funded from Mr Bennison's allocation.
- (x) APPROVE an application for funding of £2,670 from Love of Learning towards Staying Connected through Art projects at Hinchley Wood, Claygate and Royal Kent Primary Schools to be

funded from Mr Bennison's allocation.

- (xi) APPROVE an application for funding of £1,440 from Love of Learning towards Staying Connected through Art projects at Cranmere Primary School, Thames Ditton Junior School and Long Ditton St. Mary's Junior School to be funded from Mr Hickman's allocation.

The meeting closed at 6.30pm

SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN ELMBRIDGE – 6 December 2010

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Question 1 : Tim Jolliffe – Ferry Road Congestion

I am interested to find out why considering the level of congestion, parking issues and number of people affected and complaining down Ferry road that the Council have seen fit not to include the road in the proposed residents parking scheme for Windmill road, Prospect road and Ditton reach, that is only a matter of yards away from Ferry Road. There is surely a cost saving in adding additional affected roads in the scheme and additionally in on going costs

The Chairman will give the following response:

The parking scheme in the Windmill Lane area has been in development since the end of 2008 when a petition was presented to this committee requesting the introduction of parking controls.

During the 2009/10 parking review in Elmbridge, an assessment was made of the parking situation in Ferry Road, but it was not deemed to be a serious enough problem to be included in the schemes that are being progressed as part of that review, as agreed by this committee in March of this year.

It is true that since the decisions were made in respect of the 2009/10 review, the parking team has received further requests for the situation in Ferry Road to be looked at, and as a result it is one of the locations due to be considered during the 2011 review which is currently scheduled to take place in June and July next year.

There is a cost saving to be made in advertising and implementing a number of new parking controls at the same time, which is why we have periodic reviews and do not implement individual new restrictions in isolation.

Question 2 : Martin Elbourne – Stoke Road

I am representing my daughter, Victoria Elbourne, who presented a Petition to the Committee in September 2009 with regards to reducing the speed limit along the Stoke Road in Cobham; a Petition, which was supported by over 200 local residents. Victoria also appeared before the Committee in September 2010, having witnessed further road accidents on the Stoke Road, in order to seek an update on the Committee's progress towards addressing the concerns raised in the Petition. As Victoria is unable to attend this Committee meeting, she has asked me to represent her, particularly as I witnessed yet another accident on Stoke Road on 4 November involving 3 cars and, as at the last Committee meeting, there appeared to have been no progress, or satisfactory explanation, as to the action being taken by the Committee to address the concerns raised in the Petition. My question is, can the Committee therefore please provide an update as to the progress and actions being taken to reduce the speed limit along Stoke Road, in line with the increasing safety concerns expressed by local residents in their Petition submitted to the Committee over a year ago in September 2009?

The Chairman will give the following response:

A review of the Speed Limit Policy has now been undertaken and this was presented to the Cabinet's meeting on 26 October 2010.

In order to carry out a review of the speed limit on Stoke Road, funding would need to be assigned so that an assessment can take place with a view to seeking approval, if deemed appropriate, from this Committee. The Local Committee has in recent years allocated funds to progress new schemes from the budgets for Integrated Transport in Elmbridge. Since there is only a very small budget this year, funds were allocated earlier in the year to a few measures that are already agreed or ongoing. There is therefore no funding available at this time to be able to progress this matter.

Mr Elbourne asked the following supplementary question:

When will the Committee exercise its discretion [under the new SCC Speed Policy agreed by the Cabinet on 26 October 2010] to reduce the speed limit along Stoke Road to 30mph as it has done along Copsem Lane?

The Chairman gave the following response:

The Committee will take part in a workshop in March to understand all the issues related to making such a decision and will progress issues following this session.

Question 3: Gerald Gilbert – Petitions

Your Chairman has suggested that petitions are a more effective way of communicating with the Committee than questions such as this. The question is: “Would the Committee recommend that petitions be submitted by independent groups of residents, rather than by larger groups, some of which already have elected representatives?” In putting this question, I am aware of the writings of Professor Bognador at King’s College, London).

The Chairman will give the following response:

In order to ensure the Local Committee is able to engage effectively with all residents in Elmbridge or those affected by issues in the Elmbridge the SCC Local Committee for Elmbridge under its current Chairman has agreed minor variations from the County Council’s Constitution to improve public engagement at the Local Committee meetings via its Local Protocol.

Within the Local Protocol the Local Committee for Elmbridge has agreed that if a body of its citizens wish to bring a written request to the Elmbridge Local Committee but are not electors of Surrey they may do so at the Chairman’s discretion. The protocol also includes provision that a body of citizens does not need to have obtained 100 signatures to meet the agreed definition of a petition and can, at the discretion of the Chairman, present this as a representation to the Local Committee.

More widely the County Council has also take steps to further enhance public engagement which impact on Local Committees including the development of e-petitions so that petitions can be submitted on line and provision for Local business to submit petitions to Local Committees.

Other than through being active in taking measures to improve public engagement and the ease by which all groups can submit petitions or a representation as outlined, it is not for the Local Committee to recommend a specific type or size of group, from which petitions should be submitted.

Mr Gilbert asked the following supplementary question:

Would a petition raised by a new group be more likely to be considered than an existing group who has members on this Committee?

The Chairman gave the following response:

All petitions are considered equally.

SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN ELMBRIDGE – 6 December 2010**AGENDA ITEM 7****MEMBER QUESTIONS****Question 1 : Cllr David Archer – West End Lane, Esher**

This road has a number of speed humps that are no longer clearly marked. I believe this represents a hazard and a danger to motorists. What action is being taken to remedy the situation?

The Chairman will give the following response:

The road markings for West End Lane, Esher are on a list of locations to be remarked. This operation is now being carried out in batches across the East of the County to reduce operational costs. The lines should be replaced imminently.

Question 2 : Cllr David Archer – Hillbrow Road, Esher

This road is not part of the CPZ and as a result is heavily parked. This causes extreme danger, particularly at the two bends, making it impossible for anything bigger than a car to drive safely through it. When will this essential safety work be put in hand?

The Chairman will give the following response:

The Local Committee approved the introduction of double yellow lines on the insides of the bends in this road at its meeting in March this year, and agreed funding to progress this work at its meeting in September. There were a considerable number of other new parking controls approved at the same time and the work to prepare the formal advertisement of the intention to introduce all of them is taking place at the moment, with a view to implementation in 2011.

Question 3 : Cllr David Archer – Esher Green Junction

As you will be aware this is the most dangerous junction in Surrey. Driving through it becomes a corridor of uncertainty and it is not unusual to have two or three accidents per week, albeit some minor. One accident demolished the lamp post and another required the attendance of two fire engines to cut out occupants from damaged cars. The newly installed puffin crossings have significantly improved pedestrian safety but the crashes continue. When is this situation going to be reviewed? Do we have to wait for a fatality?

The Chairman will give the following response:

As you will no doubt be aware from previous Committee meetings, this scheme has been on the programme for many years now. Although many minor improvements have been made over these years, one of the issues remains the straight over movement from Church Street, into Moore Lane.

The inability to provide the much-needed scheme stems from the fact that the green areas are all Common Land and bound by the rules and regulations that appertain to this.

The Local Committee resolved a few years ago that due to the immense cost of a major scheme at this location, circa £1m, and the unavailability of exchange land for Common, then the 2 puffin crossing were to be introduced. These two schemes have now been completed and it is encouraging to hear that they are of benefit locally.

The major scheme remains on the list of capital schemes for construction, However there has been a complete cut of capital funding this year for schemes of this nature due to the economic climate coupled with the austerity savings to be made over future years. This has not merely affected this project but all similar schemes across the County, and no doubt has had ramifications across the entire UK.

Question 4 : Cllr David Archer – West End Lane Parking

It is extremely important that some parking controls are bought in at West End Lane, particularly at Princess Alice Hospice. Cars are frequently parked on the pavement and this causes pedestrians to walk into the road, thus causing potential for a serious accident. When can we have this situation reviewed?

The Chairman will give the following response:

The Local Committee approved the introduction of double yellow lines on both sides of West End Lane, from its junction with Lammas Lane down to just past the entrance to the car park to the south of the Arrow and Trefoil Hall, at its meeting in March this year, and agreed funding to progress this work at its meeting in September. There were a considerable number of other new parking controls approved at the same time and the work to prepare the formal advertisement of the intention to introduce all of them is taking place at the moment, with a view to implementation in 2011