



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
(ELMBRIDGE)**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

20 JUNE 2011

KEY ISSUE

This report examines the work of the Local Committee (Elmbridge) over the last year.

SUMMARY

This report describes the work of the Local Committee and the Local Partnerships Team during 2010/11.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Elmbridge) is asked to note this report for information.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 The Local Committee (Elmbridge) has held 4 formal meetings, 4 informal briefings and 4 postbag meetings during 2010/11.

2. ANALYSIS

2.1 The meetings have been well attended by the public with an average of approximately 30 people attending each Local Committee meeting; although some meetings have had higher numbers in response to particular issues of local concern such as:

- Pay and Display Charges Consultation
- Parking Schemes Updates
- Map Modification Order along Leigh Place

- Petitions for issues such as a request for speed limit change along Ashley Road, Walton on Thames, and another along Stoke Road, Cobham
- 2.2 **Public Questions** – Formal questions can be submitted prior to the meeting from members of the public, local businesses, and members of the Local Committee, and written responses are available at the meeting.
- 2.3 There have been 12 public questions and 7 member questions submitted to the Committee and all have received a written response. Topics were mainly on parking and highways issues, but some were on the petition procedure and requesting a response to a petition and on the proposed Youth Development Plan. It is evident that the public value this form of engagement.
- 2.4 **Petitions** – Under the Council's Constitution, petitions containing over 100 signatures can be submitted prior to the meeting from members of the public and local businesses. In addition to this the Local Committee continued to acknowledge the importance of public engagement, permitting petitions within fewer than 100 signatures (subject to the Chairman's approval) to be submitted (called letters of representation for clarity) for consideration by the Committee.
- 2.5 As set out in the Council's Constitution and the Local Protocol, all the petitions and letters of representation were received and responded to at a later meeting. There were 7 letters of representation and 4 petitions submitted to the Committee on a range of topics including road safety, speed limit changes, and the proposed pay and display parking charges. All but one was considered at the next meeting.
- 2.6 **Reports** – The Committee has taken 37 reports in 2010/11. There has been a variety in the topics considered from a decision on the Youth Development Plan, recommendations on bids for the Small Disadvantaged Areas Fund to accountability reports from partners such as the Community Safety Partnership. Ten of these have been on Transportation/Highways issues such as proposed cycle routes; four of these have been on parking issues such as the proposed Pay and Display On Street parking and Controlled Parking Zones.
- 2.7 As a comparison 40 reports were taken to the Local Committee, thirteen of which were Transportation/Highways issues.
- 2.8 In September 2009, the Local Committee approved an amendment to the Local Protocol to incorporate clarified arrangements for public participation in terms relating to Rights of Way applications. The Committee considered the first application in February 2011. Members of the public utilised the option to address the Committee, and the discussion suggested that this had informed the decision making of the Committee.

- 2.9 **Informal Briefings** – Members met four times in 2010/11 at informal briefings. These sessions have been a fantastic opportunity for some of the County and Borough services to bring items for information and discussion to the Members attention, which informed the work of the Committee. Some of the topics reported on have been education attainment and the work of the confederations, section 106 money monitoring, youth service provision, highways schemes, and implications of the County Council's speed limit policy on the local committee.
- 2.10 **Member Postbags** – Additionally, the Committee Members have met four times this year to discuss issues that have arisen within their postbags over the previous quarter, identifying a possible way forward and allocating a representative to take this forward. This has been an excellent way of ensuring that issues are fed through to the representatives of the correct authority and ensures that County and Borough Members are well briefed on the issues in their areas.
- 2.11 **Local Issues** – The Parking Task Group met four times in 2010/11, the terms of reference for this group was agreed by the Committee in June 2010. Both Members and Officers from both Surrey County Council and Elmbridge Borough Council are members of this group and have endeavoured to shape parking consultations to ensure that they are fit for purpose, and meets the needs of the residents. Discussions from this group fed into the discussions by the Local Committee on Pay and Display On-Street Parking charges.
- 2.12 **Resolutions to the Cabinet Consultations** – The Committee has taken a proactive role in referring issues to the Cabinet i.e. regarding its concerns on the proposed Pay and Display On-Street Parking Charges.

3. LOCAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Input the paragraphs from the Members on the Outside Bodies

- 3.1 **Elmbridge Business Network** – Ernest Mallett
 Progress has been made in that the very long waited, (well over 10 years), project to improve Walton High Street. This has been achieved using the part of the Uniform Business Rate made available for local use by central government. Elmbridge now has a 'Loyalty' shopping card, the 'More' card. The take up has been good in Weybridge but very mixed elsewhere. Slight complication is that Cobham have duplicated this with its own Chamber of Commerce card. The general interest from Business in the affairs of the Elmbridge Business Network is mixed and the participants change frequently. Major events such as the County presentation at Brooklands and the Olympic presentation at Sandown, have been well attended with some enthusiasm although the output of these meetings in tangible form is difficult to quantify. The Elmbridge

Business Network is well run by the administration at Elmbridge but tangible results are not easy to identify.

- 3.2 **Elmbridge Community Partnership** – Margaret Hicks
See paragraphs 4.7 and 4.8 below
- 3.3 **Elmbridge Health and Social Care Partnership** – Peter Hickman
Following a review of the themes of the Elmbridge Community Partnership, this theme group was disbanded in 2010/11.
- 3.4 **Elmbridge Environmental Forum** – Anthony Samuels
This group has been meeting regularly throughout the year. It is not considered that a new nomination is required for this in the 2011/12 year.
- 3.5 **One Elmbridge Partnership** – Nigel Cooper
Following a review of the themes of the Elmbridge Community Partnership, this theme group was disbanded in 2010/11.
- 4. LOCAL PARTNERSHIP TEAM AREAS OF WORK OUTSIDE THE LOCAL COMMITTEE**
- 4.1 In 2010/11 the Local Partnership Team consisted, James Painter, the then Area Director – North (North being Elmbridge, Epsom and Ewell and Spelthorne) the strategic lead officer working with statutory and voluntary partners, liaising with SCC officers in all directorates and the Leadership Team, also brokering projects with partners.
- 4.2 Michelle Collins, the then Local Committee and Partnerships Officer – Elmbridge, worked to broker improvements in partnerships across SCC services and sectors, working on the stronger communities agenda covering the five areas of deprivation in Elmbridge.
- 4.3 Delia Davies, the Local Support Assistant, undertook the pivotal role of assisting with the allocation and management of the members' allocations, capital grant funding reporting the allocations back to the Council's financial central budgets.
- 4.4 As of 9 May 2011, the team changed. James Painter is now the Community Partnerships Officer overseeing the work of the Partnerships Team for the county. Sandra Brown is the East Community Partnerships Team Leader who undertakes the team management and partnership arrangements for the east of the county. The Local Committee and Partnerships Officer role has remained (new title: Community and Committee Officer). The East Support Team in Reigate now processes members' allocations for Spelthorne, Elmbridge, Epsom & Ewell, Mole Valley, Reigate & Banstead and Tandridge.
- 4.5 **Crime and Disorder** – A particular focus of the Partnerships Team in 2010/11 has been its participation in the Community Safety agenda.

James Painter was a member of Community Safety Partnership (the CDRP). Michelle Collins has been attending these alongside James and has also been a member of the Community Incident Action Group (CIAG) and the Joint Action Group (JAG) both sub groups of the CDRP, which carry out local actions to reduce crime and disorder within the borough and report to the CDRP on issues of local concern to agencies.

4.6 Successful outcomes from the work of the Community Safety Partnership in the last year include:

- Public Confidence data via Elmbridge Borough Council's Residents' Panel is high with 64% of Elmbridge residents agreeing that the Police and Council are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues that mattered in their area
- Successful Distraction Burglary Awareness Week - close to 200 older people receiving input with 150 taking part in the quiz in the 7 Centres for Community. Distraction Burglary figures reduced for the fourth year, only 11 incidences in Elmbridge in 2011. The number of bogus callers remained static.
- SelectaDNA taken on and promoted through Neighbourhood Watch has increased take up of 160 kits. Following this at a partnership stall in Walton Heart, an additional 70 kits were given out with guidance from partnership officers to the residents of Elmbridge.
- Domestic Abuse Professionals Networking Event successfully attended by approximately 60 professionals. Presentations were given from smaller or newly started organisations and successful linkages were made between groups on the day and following the event.
- Successful Alcohol Awareness Week held in October 2010, which received good media attention. Alcohol information was publicised on notice boards, in schools, pubs, libraries, and centres for the community. Two events at Walton & Molesey Youth Centres were held, with help from the Youth Development Service, Surrey NHS & Surrey Fire & Rescue Service.
- Test purchasing for under age alcohol and cigarette sales. Only two contravening sale out of xx took place

4.7 **Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)** – The Local Partnership Team has contributed to the LSP in Elmbridge (named the Elmbridge Community Partnership). The LSP oversees the implementation of the sustainable community strategy, and against the backdrop of current spending reductions; the LSP has succeeded in achieving most of its targets for the 2010/11 year. In the year to come there will be a refresh of the strategy and new priorities and actions identified for the following three years.

4.8 The Community Development Worker who has been funded through some of the LSP budget has been working in the five areas of deprivation in the borough (Cobham Fairmile, Lower Green, Molesey South, Walton North and Walton Ambleside) to support community

groups to flourish. Michelle has sat on the Steering Group for the Community Development Worker and additionally the work of the Community Development Worker has been monitored at the quarterly meetings of the LSP.

- 4.9 **Work with Elmbridge Borough Council** – Every six weeks the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen meet with the Chief Executive and Leader of Elmbridge Borough Council, James and Michelle to discuss the issues arising in relation to the Local Committee, SCC and Elmbridge Borough Council and how we can support each other for the benefit of local residents.
- 4.10 As you maybe aware, each of the County Council Strategic Directors has been asked to work directly with one or two borough Chief Executives to ensure that the County Council and Borough Council work together when looking to resolve issues or commission work. Sarah Mitchell, SCC Strategic Director for Adults Social Care has and will continue to work closely with the Community Partnerships Team and Elmbridge Borough Council to aid this process. In 2011 she started to attend the liaison meetings and has been very supportive of this process.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Consultation involving the community and statutory and voluntary partners from the outset has been key principle in taking forward and developing local initiatives. All County Councillors with the assistance of Officers when required are committed to ensure that local residents are listened to and kept fully informed of issues in their areas. For example, requesting modifications to the proposals around pay and display on street parking.

6 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Council's Local Committee in Elmbridge has contributed to many of the partnership projects within the Borough, reinforcing the reputation of the Council's Members at a local level.
- 6.2 Each County Councillor was allocated a revenue budget of £8,250 in 2010/11 to be spent on schemes and projects, which promote social, environmental or economic well being. The Committee as a whole was also given a £30k capital allocation grant and a £100k capital to fund part of the Integrated Transport Schemes.
- 6.3 The Committee committed all its revenue funding for 2010/11 on wide range of initiatives. The Annual Members Allocations Report will be coming to the next Local Committee.

- 6.4 With regards to the capital funding, the £100k funded a Community Gang to carry out minor works within the Borough that the Highways Service would not be able to complete, but made an environmental difference to the borough. A report on the work carried out by the Community Gang is set out in item 18 of this agenda.
- 6.5 The £30k funding was augmented by monies carried forward from 2009/10 and returned capital from a Highways Scheme that had been less to fund than estimated, leading to a total of £38,500. This funded £30,350 of the items agreed by the Committee in the 2010 Parking Review, £4,885 towards any displacement schemes that resulted from the introduction of the Pay and Display On Street Parking Proposals.

5 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 A key aspect of all initiatives is to ensure sensitivity and responsiveness to diversity. The Local Committee is sensitive to the needs of the community and positively promotes equality through our activity and communications. If any member of the public requires the papers in large print or Braille, or another language, or special requirements such as an induction loop, this can be undertaken as required.

6 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Community Partnership Team works with partner agencies to address crime and disorder issues within the borough on a regular basis. There are no crime and disorder implications regarding this report.

7 CONCLUSION AND REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 This report sets out the Chairman's view of the ninth year of operation of the Local Committee. The County Councillors and Borough Councillors within Elmbridge work well together on the local committee. There is work in progress on the localism agenda that through the Local Strategic Partnership and other initiatives proposed by SCC and other statutory partners in these challenging financial times and Local Committees will play a pivotal role in delivering these over the coming year.
- 7.2 The Local Committee Elmbridge and the Community Partnerships Team remains the key tool for partnership working and citizen engagement within the borough acting on behalf of the Council and its Members locally.

Chairman of Local Committee – Elmbridge

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: none