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**Minutes of the meeting of Surrey County Council's
Local Committee in Elmbridge held at
4.00pm on Monday 27th February 2012 at
Elmbridge Borough Council**

Surrey County Council Members

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

Elmbridge Borough Council Members

- ** Cllr Barry Fairbank
- ** Cllr Jan Fuller
- A Cllr Ramon Gray Substituted for by Cllr Ruth Mitchell
- ** Cllr Stuart Hawkins
- A Cllr Peter Harman Substituted for by Cllr Chris Sadler
- ** Cllr Alan Hopkins
- ** Cllr Dorothy Mitchell
- ** Cllr John O'Reilly
- A Cllr Karen Randolph Substituted for by Cllr Elizabeth Cooper

PART ONE

IN PUBLIC

70/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]

There were five apologies for absence from Councillor Ian Lake, Councillor Karen Randolph, Councillor Ramon Gray, Councillor Margaret Hicks and Councillor Peter Harman.

Councillor Elizabeth Cooper substituted for Councillor Karen Randolph, Councillor Ruth Mitchell substituted for Councillor Ramon Gray and Councillor Chris Sadler substituted for Councillor Peter Harman.

71/11 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING [Item 2]

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2011 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

72/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

Councillor Stuart Hawkins declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 in that his wife worked for Surrey County Council and undertook some youth related work. Although only a personal interest, Councillor Hawkins did not vote on this item.

73/11 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS [Item 4]

The Chairman noted that this would be the last Elmbridge Local Committee of the municipal year and thanked Members for their hard work. He stated that the Leader of Surrey County Council was highly supportive of Local Committees and that he was looking forward to seeing the influence of the Elmbridge Local Committee grow in the coming months.

74/11 PETITIONS & LETTERS OF REPRESENTATION [Item 5]

One petition was submitted as follows:

Oakdene Road – Request to increase safety for pedestrians when crossing Oakdene Road: 156 signatures

Penny Rossor spoke at the Committee and explained that the current traffic flow in Oakdene Road made crossing the road dangerous for local residents, many of whom were elderly. It was stated that the danger was caused by cars making right turns into the Waitrose car park and buses using the road as a turning point. As many residents had limited hearing or visual impairments, there had been a number of near misses and there was concern that an accident was inevitable. The petitioners requested that the County Council look to introduce measures to increase pedestrian safety and provided a number of suggestions, as detailed in the report.

The North East Area Highways Team Manager, Matthew Scriven, presented the response to the petition. He stated that Police collision records did not indicate that there was a problem in the area and that the average speed of vehicles using the road was only 21mph. He added that there already existed two uncontrolled pedestrian crossing facilities on either side of the junction with Lushington Drive, with both facilities having good sight lines and an island refuge with tactile paving to assist the visually impaired. However, Highways accepted that some

DRAFT

of the road markings had become worn and informed the Committee that this would be refreshed. However, he did not believe there was justification to introduce additional traffic calming measures at this point in time.

Councillor Dorothy Mitchell stated that she had sympathy with residents and had concerns about the way in which shoppers at Waitrose would “swing in” to the car park. She added that whilst average speeds appeared to be quite slow, you didn’t have to drive very fast to cause serious injury, particularly if the victim was elderly. The Councillor suggested that the introduction of “elderly people crossing” signs in the area might help the situation.

Councillor John Butcher stated that he also had concerns about cars making right turns into the Waitrose car park, particularly as the road could become congested when the car park was full. He suggested that consideration be given to introducing a “no right turn” restriction off Oakdene road into the Waitrose car park.

Following discussion, the North East Area Highways Team Manager stated that Highways was able to ban right turns into the car park or erect a physical barrier, but that this would naturally have a financial cost attached.

RESOLVED: That

- i. The petition be noted;
- ii. The officer response to the petition be noted;
- iii. Highways officers check whether sufficient “elderly people crossing” signs were in place on Oakdene Road and, if not, look to add more;
- iv. Highways officers work with local councillors to further explore the feasibility of preventing right turns off Oakdene Road into the Waitrose carpark.

One Letter of Representation was submitted as follows:

Westcar Lane – Request to install traffic calming measures: 75 signatures

Craig Clark spoke at the Committee and explained that he and other petitioners were requesting that Surrey County Council introduce traffic calming measures in Westcar Lane to address speeding, heavy truck usage and cut-through traffic.

The North East Area Highways Team Manager stated that Highways had received the petition and would be conducting a traffic survey to

DRAFT

better understand the vehicle flow in Westcar Lane. Based upon this data, officers would then make recommendations to the next meeting of the Elmbridge Local Committee.

RESOLVED: That

- i. The Letter of Representation be noted;
- ii. An officer response be provided at the next meeting of the Local Committee.

75/11 PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 6]

There were two public questions received as set out in Annex A with the answer. Supplementary question were asked and answered on these questions.

76/11 MEMBER QUESTIONS [Item 7]

There were two member questions received as set out in Annex B with the answer. Supplementary question were asked and answered on these questions.

77/11 YOUTH TRANSFORMATION AND LOCAL PREVENTATIVE FRAMEWORK [ITEM 8]

The Committee received a report from the Assistant Director of Young People, Gareth Symonds, which asked Members to consider and approve SCC Officers' recommendations to provide local preventative services to young people in Elmbridge.

The Head of Youth Support Services, Ben Byrne, outlined the report and explained that the award of contract was the culmination of several months' work by the Youth Task Group which would result in services being commissioned by the Local Committee in response to local need. The focus of the work would be to reduce the risk factors that were predictors of young people becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) or becoming involved in the criminal justice system in Elmbridge.

As detailed in the report, the Head of Youth Support Services explained that the provider being put forward for recommendation was the Surrey Youth Consortium, an umbrella organisation representing 11 Surrey-based voluntary and not for profit organisations, which work with young people. It was explained that officers and the Youth Task Group believed that Surrey Youth Consortium was in a position to deliver, without delay, a range of high quality, locally sensitive services through

DRAFT

provider organisations that would share expertise, draw on members' activities and deliver at a local level.

Councillor Nigel Cooper thanked all those that had supported the work of the Youth Task Group.

RESOLVED: That

- i. SCC Officers' recommendations to award a contract for a twelve month period to Surrey Youth Consortium for 100% of the contract value of £117,000 to prevent young people becoming NEET or first time entrants into the criminal justice system in Elmbridge be approved.

78/11 YOUTH SMALL GRANTS [ITEM 9]

The Committee received a report from the Assistant Director of Young People which asked Members approve the process for decision-making on Youth Small Grants.

The Head of Youth Support Services outlined the report and explained that, as part of the transformation of Services for Young People, the Local Committee had been given a new Youth Small Grants fund to deploy in 2012/13. He explained that the Committee was being asked to consider and agree the methodology for approving these bids from April 2012.

RESOLVED: That

- i. The process for approving Youth Small Grants, as set out within paragraphs 2.3 to 2.6 of the officer report, be approved.

79/11 ON-STREET PARKING AMENDMENTS [ITEM 10]

The Committee received a report from the Parking Project Team Leader, Rikki Hill, which requested that the Committee agree a number of amendments relating to parking controls and traffic regulation orders in Elmbridge.

Detailing the contents of the report, the Parking Project Team Leader explained each amendment and the intended effect. Members were also asked to consider an addendum to the report which contained a recommendation to make a small change to the proposed amendment to parking controls in West Grove, Hersham, and to review the hours of operation of the resident permit scheme in Hurst Grove, Walton.

In relation to the recommendation that residents of Ash Island should be removed from eligibility for permits in the East Moesey controlled

DRAFT

parking zone (CPZ) and included in eligibility for permits in the Area G permit scheme, Councillor Nigel Cooper raised an objection.

The Councillor stated that he did not believe it was fair to residents of Hurst Road, Riverbank and Feltham Avenue to widen the Area G permit scheme, particularly as Ash Island residents already had sufficient parking in close proximity to their homes. He stated that there was already limited availability of parking spaces in and around Feltham Avenue, and requested that the Committee not agree the recommendation. Members of the Committee agreed not to support this particular recommendation.

The Parking Project Team Leader stated that the proposal to include residents of Ash Island in the Area G permit scheme had already been advertised and any decision that varied from the recommendation in the report needed to be carefully worded. He suggested that, rather than simply not agreeing the recommendation, Members might wish to agree that any objection to the advertised proposal be acceded to and that the traffic regulation order remain unaltered. Members agreed with this wording, provided that the effect was the same.

A number of Members raised concern about the addendum to the report being tabled on the day of the meeting, giving them little time to digest the information or speak to their residents. It was stated that, if information was not available when the agenda was published, officers should liaise with ward Members to ensure that they were kept informed.

The Parking Project Team Leader accepted that the use of a late addendum, whilst necessary, was not ideal, and agreed to take the comments on board.

RESOLVED: That

- i. Any objections to the advertised proposal that residents of Ash Island be removed from eligibility for permits in the East Molesey controlled parking zone and included in eligibility for permits in the Area G permit scheme be acceded to and the traffic regulation order remain unaltered in this regard;
- ii. Changes to the TRO be advertised to bring the area G business permits in line with the East Molesey CPZ ones, as described in paragraphs 1.5 and 1.6 of the report;
- iii. Changes to the visitor permit allocations be advertised, as described in paragraph 1.7 and 1.8 of the report;
- iv. An amendment to the previously agreed proposals for French Gardens in Cobham be advertised, as described in paragraph 1.9 of the report;

DRAFT

- v. Eligibility for permits in the Cedar Road/Spencer Road CPZ in Cobham being extended to residents in premises in the High Street, Cobham be advertised;
- vi. The additional changes that have already been advertised and are described in paragraph 1.12 of the report be noted;
- vii. Bus stop clearways be installed in Walton Road, West Molesey (outside and opposite the Royal Mail sorting office), and in New Road, West Molesey (outside number 14 and opposite number 8);
- viii. The revised proposal for West Grove, detailed in the addendum, be formally advertised in place of the proposal included in the report considered by the Local Committee on 28 November 2011;
- ix. The parking team consults with the residents of the Hurst Grove permit scheme in Walton on whether they would like any changes to the times of operation of the scheme;
- x. Following the consultation, the Parking Strategy and Implementation Team Manager, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Local Committee and with the relevant County Councillor decide whether any changes to the times of operation of the scheme should be advertised.

80/11 SURREY'S DRIVE SMART ROAD SAFETY AND ANTI-SOCIAL DRIVING STRATEGY AND ELMBRIDGE'S LOCAL SPEED MANAGEMENT PLAN [ITEM 11]

The Committee received a report from the Road Safety Team Manager, Duncan Knox, which invited comments on the Drive SMART Road Safety and Anti-Social Driving Strategy and the Local Speed Management Plan for Elmbridge.

In response to questions and comments from Members, the Road Safety Team Manager clarified the following points:

- The provision of drama workshops in schools to educate pupils was available in all schools. Individuals would be required to pay a small fee to help cover the cost of providing the service. Schools had been informed of the scheme and had the necessary contact details.
- The cost of a road traffic accident was high, with a death costing society in the region of £1.7 million, with even minor accidents costing an average of £21,000. Improving road safety had the

DRAFT

potential to create significant savings, and it was agreed that this should be drawn out in the final documents.

- It was acknowledged that speed awareness courses did produce positive outcomes and the fact that offending drivers were required to pay for their attendance was a good deterrent.
- The number of children (under 16) killed or seriously injured in Surrey did fluctuate and there was often no clear pattern. However, cycling safety was one area where there was a potential link.
- It was acknowledged that there was some concern about the speed limit on Manor Road in Walton and this would be taken into account when developing the speed management plan for the area. The speed management plan was not a static document, and roads could be added as issues became apparent.
- The loss of the lollypop lady at Long Ditton Primary School and the need for possible contingency plans was noted.
- The issues surrounding the school exit on Leatherhead Road were acknowledged and was of prime concern.

Councillor John Butcher raised a number of concerns over some of the phrasing used within the Road Safety and Anti-Social Driving Strategy. Specifically:

- There were occasions where the document appeared to be prioritising increasing confidence in the Police and partner agencies over reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured. It was felt that reducing accidents and injury should always be seen to be taking priority.
- There was some ambiguity over what was meant by the term “older people”, and the document needed to be more specific if it were to be a useful document.

The Road Safety Team Manager stated that the objectives in the document were not listed in priority order, and reducing accidents and injuries was always naturally the central aim. This was reflected in the executive summary. Use of the phrase “older people” would be better defined in the final document.

RESOLVED: That

- i. The draft Drive SMART Road Safety and Anti-Social Driving Strategy be noted;

DRAFT

- ii. The latest version of the Local Speed Management Plan for Elmbridge be noted.

81/11 HIGHWAYS SCHEMES PROGRESS REPORT [ITEM 12]

The Committee received a report from the North East Area Highways Team Manager which updated Members on the progress of highways schemes in Elmbridge.

Following a question from Councillor Chris Sadler, the officer stated that Members could be provided with a list of all major maintenance schemes, should they request one. A list of roads scheduled to receive surface treatment was also available.

Councillor Nigel Cooper raised concern that the work due to be undertaken on Walton Road had the potential to cause significant disruption. The officer stated that some disruption was inevitable, but the use of diversions would help minimise issues.

RESOLVED: That

- i. The contents of the report be noted;
- ii. A Members Workshop be held to determine the 2012/13 Programme.

82/10 MEMBERS' ALLOCATIONS REPORT [ITEM 13]

The Committee received a report from the Community Partnership Team Leader (East) which outlined the proposed criteria and process for the use of Members' Allocations and made recommendations on a number of proposals.

RESOLVED: That

- i. The criteria and guidance for the use of members' allocations as set out in Annex A and B of the report be noted;
- ii. The items submitted for funding from the 2011/12 Local Committee revenue budget that have already been agreed under delegated authority in section 2 of the report be noted;
- iii. The items submitted for funding from the 2011/12 Local Committee revenue budget detailed in section 3 of the report be agreed;
- iv. The items submitted for funding from the remaining 2011/12 Local Committee capital budget be awarded as follows:

DRAFT

- St. Pauls Church PCC (£100) with the remaining budget (£2505) being split equally between the Walton Methodist Church and the Second Molesey (St Pauls) Scout Group.
- v. A late bid from Councillor Ian Lake for £3960 towards the illumination of the Weybridge War Memorial be agreed.

The meeting concluded at 18:15.

Chairman's signature

APPENDIX A

SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN ELMBRIDGE – 27 February 2012

AGENDA ITEM 6

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Question 1 : Gerald Gilbert, Weybridge

Is there any provision for carry-over of unused parts of Members' Allocations? If none, can you please indicate the percentage of the total available spent prior to this meeting, and the forecast outcome at the end of the year?

The Chairman will give the following response:

There is no provision for carry-over of unused Member allocations for the 2011/12 budget.

In 2011/12 the local committee's member allocations budget for capital projects was £35,000 of which £32,395 (92%) had been spent prior to the committee meeting on 27 February 2012.

The local committee's member allocations budget for revenue funding was £75,690 of which £42,089 (56%) had been spent prior to the committee meeting on 27 February 2012.

In terms of forecasting the outcome for the end of the year, it is anticipated that the committee's capital budget will be fully spent. It is anticipated that at least 74% (£56,195) of the committee's revenue budget will be spent. However, councillors are able to spend their revenue allocations after the committee has met on projects up to a maximum value of £1,000. It is possible that the amount of revenue spent will increase prior to the end of the current financial year.

APPENDIX A

SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN ELMBRIDGE – 27 February 2012

AGENDA ITEM 6

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Question 2: Stephanie Barton

The Committee will recall that at the SCC Local Committee in Elmbridge held on 20 June 2011, they voted unanimously in favour of reducing the speed limit along Stoke Road from the current 40mph to 30mph. The Committee will also recall that this vote followed a series of representations made by the residents of Stoke Road who registered their safety concerns over the speed of traffic along the Stoke Road in a formal petition, signed by over 300 local residents, which was submitted in September 2009. In light of the Committee's vote and the on-going safety concerns of the local residents, could The Cabinet Member for Transport, Mr Ian Lake, please provide an update as to the proposed plans for reducing the speed limit along Stoke Road?

The Chairman will give the following response:

Further to the decision of the Local Committee the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment met with SCC officers and the Police and agreed that given the ongoing utility works in the area we would review the situation in the new financial year. It has recently been requested that officers implement a change to the existing speed limit on Stoke Road between the Blundel Lane junction and the existing 30mph entry point at Tilt Road, subject to the Committee agreeing funding allocation to it as part of next year's programme.

APPENDIX B

SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN ELMBRIDGE – 27 February 2012

AGENDA ITEM 7

MEMBER QUESTIONS

Question 1 : Cllr Barry Fairbank – Long Ditton

At the meeting of the Elmbridge Local Committee held on Monday 28th November 2011 it was resolved that:-

- (i) The whole of Windmill Lane, Long Ditton be recognised as a public maintainable vehicular highway.
- (ii) The bridleway section be added to the list of vehicular highways that are maintainable at public expense kept pursuant to section 36(6) of the Highways Act 1980.

Following these resolutions can Highways Officers please advise:

- (a) What action has been taken to bring Windmill Lane, Long Ditton, and its verges up to Surrey's highway standards?

And

- (b) What further action is proposed to bring Windmill Lane, Long Ditton, and its verges up to Surrey's highway standards?

The Chairman will give the following response:

As stated in the Officer report at the November Committee under the heading 'financial implications':

“If the recommendation is agreed the cost of maintaining the bridleway section of Windmill Lane as a vehicular highway will fall on the County Council as highway authority. As the road is in poor condition, this will involve considerable expenditure over coming years.”

Funds for highways maintenance schemes are fully allocated in 2011/12 and schemes have already been identified for 2012/13 from Countywide budgets. Highways officers are therefore looking to obtain an indicative price for the cost of the works required for consideration of the Local Committee.

APPENDIX B

SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN ELMBRIDGE – 27 February 2012

AGENDA ITEM 7

MEMBER QUESTIONS

Question 2 : Cllr Barry Fairbank – Long Ditton

Following the discharge of foul water into the pedestrian underpass joining Woodstock Lane North with Woodstock Lane South (under the A309) and some of the surrounding drainage ditches, can Highways Officers please explain:

(a) What was the cause of the problem?

And

(b) What has been done to resolve the problem?

The Chairman will give the following response:

Works at the location are ongoing. However, I can report that:

a) It would appear that there may have been illegal discharge of sewage at the location in the past. However, this cannot be confirmed as there is no evidence as yet of the source (no illegal connection has been found). The situation has been exacerbated by numerous blockages to the drainage system, some of this blockage being due to illegal dumping.

b) SCC contractors have been working hard to resolve the problem and are in their second week of works. Ditches and gullies have been cleared using JCBs, specialist jetting equipment and specialist contractors have been able to remove foul. The Environment Agency has also provided local knowledge of the location benefiting the works. At the time of writing there is still a blockage to the drainage system which once cleared should free the system to flow correctly. On clearing drainage chambers it has become clear that covers have been lifted and materials (eg. building materials and concrete) illegally dumped inside worsening the blockage beyond that expected. Therefore, lockable covers are being requested for installation.