Minutes of meeting

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL’S LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE AREA)

Date: Monday, 15 November 2004
Time: 4.00pm
Place: Lecture Hall, Weybridge Library

Members present:

Surrey County Council

Mrs Margaret Hicks (Hersham)
Mr Ian Lake (Weybridge) – In the Chair
Mrs Maggie Martin (The Dittons)
Mrs Dorothy Mitchell (Cobham and Oxshott)
Mr David Morris (Molesey West)
Mr Anthony Pegler (Esher & Molesey East)
Mr John Pincham (Claygate and Hinchley Wood)

Elmbridge Borough Council (for transportation matters)

Mr Gordon Chubb (Walton Central)
Mrs Rosemary Dane (Walton South)
Mr Glenn Dearlove (Weybridge South)
Mrs Janet Turner (Hinchley Wood)
Mr Graham Winton (Weybridge North)

Also present:

Richard Bolton, Principal Engineer
Janet Cooke, Local Director
Hannah Fogell, Local Committee and Partnership Officer
Geoff Glassup, Head of Transportation Development Control Division
Jerry Marsh, Chief Emergency Planning Officer
Mark Newman, Emergency Planning Officer, Elmbridge Borough Council
Richard Nowacki, Policy and Information Manager, Trading Standards
Chris Paisley, Senior Principal Engineer
Chris Smith, Local Transportation Director
Christina Smith, Rights of Way Assistant
All references to items refer to the agenda for the meeting.

PART A: County and Borough Members

IN PUBLIC

42/04 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item 1)

Apologies for absence had been received from County Councillors Andrew Crisp and Rachael Lake.

43/04 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (Item 2)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of Surrey County Council’s Local Committee (Elmbridge Area) held on 21 September 2004 be approved and signed as a correct record.

44/04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

No declarations of interest were made.

45/04 PETITIONS (Item 4)

No petitions were submitted.

46/04 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND LETTERS OF REPRESENTATION (Item 5)

No public questions or letters of representation were submitted.

47/04 MEMBERS’ QUESTIONS (Item 6)

No questions had been submitted by Members.

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

PART B: County Members

48/04 SURREY HIGHWAYS PARTNERSHIP (Item 7)

The Chairman introduced this report, which raised concern over the performance of the Surrey Highways Partnership (SHiP). Mr Lake noted that the thirty-nine action points of the Transportation Select Committee were appreciated, but that the Local Committee would like to see action taken on these as soon as possible.

Members endorsed the Chairman’s comments and also highlighted concern over the shifting of liability onto Surrey County Council and the lack of genuine partnership working. Chris Smith thanked Members for their support on this issue and expressed regret over the difficulty he has experienced in providing Members with information on some projects being undertaken within the contract. Mr Smith emphasised that paragraph 2.1 of the report captured the salient points of the argument, notably point 6, which referred to the need for improved communication.
Mr Winton informed the Committee that Elmbridge Borough Council has also experienced problems with SHiP and expressed interest in being kept informed of progress on this issue.

RESOLVED

That the Transport Select Committee and Portfolio Holder be requested to urgently reconsider the operation of the Surrey Highways Partnership and the implementation of the Improvement Action Plan.

49/04  PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO. 6, WALTON AND WEYBRIDGE – PROPOSED EXTINGUISHMENT (Item 8)

The Chairman informed the Committee that Mrs Lake, within whose division this footpath is located, no longer has any difficulties with this proposal, and he thanked Christina Smith for attending this meeting on behalf of the Rights of Way team.

RESOLVED

That the Surrey County Council Footpath No.6 (Walton and Weybridge) Public Path Extinguishment Order 2004 be submitted to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for confirmation.

50/04  PLANNING & COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT (Item 9)

Geoff Glassup introduced this report and highlighted the achievements of the Planning and Countryside Service over the past year. Mr Glassup emphasised that the service has good working relations with the Local Transportation Service and the Borough Council Planning and Enforcement officers. A Surrey Structure Plan for the service was approved in October 2004, although this will be replaced by the South East Plan in due course.

Members queried what the £10,000 for travel vouchers noted on page 3 of the report referred to. Mr Glassup explained that the vouchers are for the 54 residential units at The Precinct, Hurst Road, West Molesey and that they are given to people when they move in to encourage them to use public transport. The cost of the vouchers is funded by the developer. Members expressed their concern, and that of residents, over the cumulative effect of new residential units and the impact they have on the roads and parking. It was felt that more time should be given to assess applications for new units. It was suggested that the Local Committee should be consulted on certain development decisions.

With regard to the parking concern, Mr Glassup explained that this does not generate a safety problem sufficient to warrant refusal of planning applications, although officers do highlight the lack of parking amenities to the Local Transportation Service. On the consultation issue, Mr Glassup explained that the Planning and Regulatory Committee exists to consider applications. Furthermore, Chris Smith emphasised that the timescales for planning applications would not fit with Local Committee meetings, as the Committee does not meet often enough.
RESOLVED

i) That the report be noted;

ii) Comments made by the Committee be fed into the ongoing work of the Planning and Countryside Service; and

iii) Mr Glassup to submit a report in the future to the Local Committee responding to their comments on Transportation Development Control.

51/04 PROPOSALS FOR EXPENDITURE OF LOCAL REVENUE BUDGET (Item 10)

The Committee received a report setting out details of six new proposals for expenditure from the Local Revenue Budget.

Janet Cooke explained that this year the Committee has a budget of £35,000 for capital funding for the voluntary sector. We have received our first bid for this funding from the Brooklands Auto Project (BAP), which has been running successfully for the past 10 years, but has recently been relaunched following problems with its location. The funding application from BAP is for £7,500, of which £6,000 would be spent on new tools and equipment for the project, and £1,500 would be spent on a new personal computer, fax and scanner.

RESOLVED

That the proposals for expenditure from the Local Revenue Budget be agreed as follows:

i) £1,000 from Ian Lake’s allocation for enhancements to the Christmas lights in Weybridge town centre;

ii) £5,000 from Tony Pegler’s allocation, of which £3,000 to be for First Gear sessions and £2,000 to be for targeted projects with children in the Lower Green area;

iii) £500 from John Pincham’s allocation for improvements to the Bentley Copse Scouts Campsite;

iv) £2,500 from each of Maggie Martin’s and Tony Pegler’s allocations to fund the publication of a Directory of Services for Disabled People in Elmbridge;

v) £2,500 from Maggie Martin’s allocation towards the Concern and Help for East Elmbridge Retired (CHEER) befriending scheme.

vi) £1,104 from Ian Lake’s allocation to fund the cost of a salt bin and spreader for Heathside School.
The Committee also agreed to contribute £7,500 from its Members’ Allocations Budget for capital projects for the voluntary sector to the Brooklands Auto Project, and requested that a full report be brought to the next Committee meeting.

52/04  **ANNUAL REPORT FROM SURREY TRADING STANDARDS (Item 11)**

Richard Nowacki introduced this report, which highlighted the problems of unsolicited traders. Mr Nowacki explained that Trading Standards is working with the Police on the issue of underage sales and they plan to do more work on this in Elmbridge. Trading Standards is also working with the Borough Council on this as the borough takes over licensing in the New Year. Mr Nowacki highlighted that Elmbridge has the highest number of Surrey Curry Club members in the county. These are restaurants and catering establishments that prepare their food within the legal guidelines and use the minimum of food colourings. Mr Nowacki informed the Committee that Trading Standards intends to establish a ‘Buy With Confidence’ good trader scheme, which will vet and approve traders so that consumers can use the services of traders they know can be trusted. From March there will also be Consumer Direct, a national consumer advice service which will also deal with consumer complaints.

Members queried whether Elmbridge receives its fair share of Trading Standards’ Mobile Advice Centre (MAC). Mr Nowacki responded that in 2003/04 the MAC visited Elmbridge twice and although the service would like to take it further, resources do not permit this. However, the service is open to suggestions as to where they should take the MAC.

The Chairman thanked Mr Nowacki and congratulated Trading Standards on their good work.

**RESOLVED**

That the Local Committee:

i) Help Surrey Trading Standards combat the menace of ‘uninvited workmen’ preying on elderly people by encouraging other agencies to carry Trading Standards campaign material;

ii) Encourage other agencies / individuals to pass any information to Surrey Trading Standards which may prevent the sale of age-restricted goods to under age teenagers.

53/04  **ANNUAL REPORT ON EMERGENCY PLANNING (Item 12)**

Jerry Marsh explained that the Emergency Planning Unit (EPU) has a wide brief, which involves working with borough councils and the Surrey Emergency Services Major Incident Committee (SESMIC). There is good information sharing, with the help of a secure extranet which allows partners to have access to a variety of emergency related information, such as an emergency contacts database and emergency plans. Mr Marsh highlighted that the Civil Contingencies Bill will become law in
2005, which will enable the government to announce emergencies in regions rather than just nationally. The EPU is looking at what to do in Surrey if there is an emergency in London. This includes planning for mass evacuation from London.

Members queried whether there is sufficient funding for emergency planning. Mr Marsh replied that the government has said that next year there will be extra funding for this, but given that the Civil Contingencies Bill allocated extra duties to local authorities, the Executive has been approached for extra funding.

**RESOLVED**

That the report and comments made by the Committee be noted.

**PART C: County and Borough Members**

**54/04 ELMBRIDGE ACCIDENT WORKING GROUP (Item 13)**

Chris Paisley informed the Committee that this item was just for information. Mr Paisley also updated the Committee on some of the items noted in the report.

Mr Dearlove commented that the red backed SLOW patches on the B374 Heath Road on the approaches to Elgin Road are not very clear and since June there have been accidents at this site. The Chairman and members of the Local Transportation Service agreed to arrange a site visit.

**RESOLVED**

That the report was noted.

**55/04 ELMBRIDGE CYCLE FORUM (Item 14)**

This report informed the Committee of the content and matters discussed at the recently held third meeting of the Elmbridge Cycle Forum.

Members were pleased to see so many cycle lanes being established. However, concern was raised over the need for more joined-up cycle routes. It was noted that it can be very dangerous for cyclists if routes just stop and that this is particularly important to enable children to cycle to school. Mr Smith acknowledged the gaps in the cycle ways infrastructure, but explained that putting in cycle lanes can be problematic if there is a lack of space. There is now a joined-up cycle route between The Dittons and Kingston, so progress is being made.

Members also raised concern over the maintenance of cycle routes. Mr Smith responded saying that they are aware of the need to maintain the cycle ways and are working on this, hopefully with the help of the Cycle Forum.
RESOLVED

That the report was noted.

56/04  ELMBRIDGE LOCAL AREA TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMME – PROGRESS FOR 2004/05 AND BID FOR 2005/06 TO 2010/11 (Item 15)

Chris Smith introduced this report and referred Members to a revised ‘Appendix C’, which had been made available to Members during the meeting. Mr Smith explained that the bid highlights some of the Local Transportation Service’s flagship projects, which have responded to issues in innovative ways. Mr Smith outlined the progress made by the Local Transportation service this year, highlighting a number of key programmes.

RESOLVED

The Committee:

i) Endorsed the Elmbridge Local Transportation Service bid as submitted by the Local Transportation Director (LTD);

ii) Approved the construction of the Safe Routes to School scheme for St Andrews School (Lockhart Road, Cobham) in partnership with the Elmbridge Housing Trust.

The meeting closed at 5.55pm

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