

Minutes: of the meeting of Surrey County Council's Local Committee in Epsom and Ewell held at 19.00 on Monday 24th January 2005, at the Stoneleigh Methodist Church, Stoneleigh Crescent.

Members Present – Surrey County Council

Mr Chris Frost (Epsom and Ewell South East)	Jean Smith (Epsom and Ewell North)
Mrs Jan Mason (Epsom and Ewell West) (Chairman)	Mr Colin Taylor (Epsom and Ewell South West)
NRM Petrie Esq. MBE (Epsom and Ewell North East) (Vice Chairman)	

Members Present – Epsom and Ewell Borough Council

Cllr Pamela Bradley (Ewell)	Cllr Nigel Pavey (Stamford)
Cllr Graham Dudley (Cuddington)	Cllr Michael Richardson (Woodcote)

PART ONE

IN PUBLIC

[All references to items refer to the agenda for the meeting]

01/ **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS (Item 1)**

05

Apologies were received from Cllr Alan Carlson.

02/ **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS (Item 2)**

05

The minutes of the 25th October and 29th November 2004 were confirmed.

03/ **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)**

05

Cllr Colin Taylor declared a personal interest in respect of item 10 by virtue of being a resident of Christ Church Mount and a governor of Stamford Green Primary School. Cllr Jean Smith declared a personal interest in respect of item 14, by virtue of her membership of the Training Grounds Management Board and being Chairman of the Epsom & Walton Downs Conservators. Cllr Jan Mason declared a personal interest in respect of item 14, by virtue of her membership of the Epsom & Walton Downs Conservators,

04/
05 **PETITIONS (Item 4)**

No petitions were received.

05/
05 **WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (Item 5)**

A written public question was received from Mr Stephen Dyke, the question was circulated at the meeting (attached as annexe to these minutes) and was responded to via the report on the agenda at item 19.

06/
05 **MEMBERS WRITTEN QUESTION TIME (Item 6]**

A Members written question was received from Graham Dudley (the question is attached as an annexe to these minutes), no answer was received from the Chairman of the Surrey County Council Transportation Select Committee. The question has now been forwarded to the Local Transportation Service who will respond.

07/
05 **ADJOURNMENT [Item 7)**

The Committee agreed to adjourn for up to half an hour for questions from the public. The questions and responses are attached as an annexe to these minutes.

08/
05 **STONELEIGH TRAFFIC CALMING – RESULTS OF RESIDENTS SURVEY [Item 8]**

The Officer introduced the report.

Members thanked Officers for their hard work on the residents survey.

Members explained that they did not feel that the survey provided a clear mandate for the removal of the traffic calming. Members requested that the working group consider the possibilities for amending the traffic calming by perhaps drilling further down in to the results of the survey.

It was then

RESOLVED

That the Members Working Group consider further detailed analysis of the Stoneleigh survey and that it reports back to a subsequent meeting of the Local Committee.

09/
05 **KLIN LANE LINK [Item 9]**

The Officer introduced the report.

The Members congratulated the Officer on the exemplary and professional way with which the work on the link has been carried out.

Members were concerned about projects associated with the link. Such as the footbridge at Stones Road that urgently needs repairing, the footbridge at West Ewell Station and the work on the Quality Freight Partnership. Members requested an additional report be brought to the Committee on the wider measures affected by the deferment of the Kiln Lane Link.

The Officer reassured Members that the wider measures were being considered, the footbridge at Stones Road was being monitored by the Structures Department. The Officer suggested that the wider measures be considered at the Local Transport Plan Programme 2005/2006 workshop.

Members requested that the Committee write to GOSE (Government Office of the South East) expressing their concern over the change in how the Government assesses major highway schemes. Members proposed that a joint representation from both the County Council and Borough Council should meet with the Government, to demonstrate the commitment from both Councils to the scheme.

It was then

RESOLVED

- i) that the report be noted;
- ii) that the Committee write to GOSE regarding the Government changes in major scheme assessment; and
- iii) that the development of the wider measures be added to the Members workshop to consider the 2005/2006 Local Transport Programme.

10/
05 **SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENT – CHRIST CHURCH MOUNT [Item 10]**

The Officer introduced the report.

A Member expressed concern about the lack of consultation with local residents in regards to this scheme. The Member put forward some possible modifications to the scheme which would satisfy both local residents and the wishes of the school and parents.

Members were not happy to agree to design and construct the scheme. It was suggested that a working group be established to consider the design and the suggested amendments put forward by various groups. The working group should then report back to the next Transportation Committee meeting.

It was then

RESOLVED

That a Working Group be established to include representation from the school and local residents association, to review the design and to consider the variety of comments received and to report back to the next Transportation Committee meeting.

11/
05 **SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENT – WORPLE ROAD [Item 11]**

The Officer introduced the report.

The two Members funding the scheme from their Members Allowances, wanted it noted that the funding had originally been intended to fund footway feasibility studies in Church Road, Church Street and Worple Road to see if footways could be constructed. The Members stated that they were happy to fund the proposed Safe Routes to School scheme, but feel that the lack of footways along the above mentioned roads still needs to be addressed.

Members requested that the recommendation be changed to include statutory consultation and that the method of consultation should be agreed with local Members.

It was then

RESOLVED

- i) that approval be given for detailed design of pedestrian scheme on Worple Road outside St Martin's Church of England Infant School as shown in Annexe 1;
- ii) that subject to funding being available through the Local Transport Plan devolved Capital allocation, the scheme be approved for statutory consultation and construction in 2006/06 and;
- iii) that the method of consultation be agreed with local Members.

12/
05 **WATERSEDGE ESTATE – TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES TO SUPPORT THE SELF RELIANCE PROJECT [Item 12]**

The Officer introduced the report.

A Member suggested that the proposed scheme lent itself to a 'home zone' which may not be achievable in the short term but could be possible in the future, therefore the scheme should be designed with this in mind.

The Officer responded that parts of the scheme would lend themselves to a 'home zone' and this would be borne in mind.

It was then

RESOLVED

- i) that detailed design of each of the improvement measures requested on behalf of residents by Rosebery Housing Association (as detailed in Annexe 1) be undertaken;
- ii) that following completion of the detailed design, a Members Working Group (consisting of the Chairman of the Local Committee, the local County and Borough Members, and a representative from Rosebery Housing Association) be set up to determine the consultation arrangements with the Watersedge Action Group and priority for the introduction of the individual measures in consideration of the available finances;
- iii) that authorisation be given to advertise the required statutory notice detailing the measures agreed for introduction; and
- iv) that the Local Transportation Director be authorised to consider any objections in response to the statutory notice in consultation with the Members Working Group.

13/
05 **ASHLEY ROAD/ LANGLEY VALE ROAD – TRAFFIC SIGNALS
IMPROVEMENT (Item 13)**

The Officer introduced the report.

A Member was surprised that this scheme had taken precedence over other schemes on the Local Transport Plan.

The Officer explained that the junction had the highest rate of accidents out of the junctions within the Borough that do not already have measures in place to address their accident records.

It was then

RESOLVED

- i) that the new signals arrangement proposed at the junction of Ashley Road and Langley Vale Road (detailed in Annexe 2) is approved for detailed design and installation; and
- ii) that funding for the proposals is sought through the Local Transport Plan devolved capital allocation for 2005/2006.

14/
05 **EQUESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS AT TATTENHAM CORNER (Item 14)**

The Officer introduced the report.

Members were concern at the estimated cost of the scheme and asked if the trainer who had increased the capacity of his stables at Tattenham Corner could be asked to contribute towards the costs of the scheme.

The Officer responded that the increased cost was for engineering reasons and that it was not appropriate to ask the trainer to contribute as the crossing was beneficial to all of the community including cyclists and pedestrians.

A Member asked that the scheme be developed so that it is environmentally sympathetic.

It was then

RESOLVED

That the scheme in Annexe 1 be approved for detailed design and construction.

15/
05 **PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO.78 (Item 15)**

The Officer introduced the report.

Members asked if the graffiti had been removed from along the footpath.

The Officer replied that the graffiti removal was due to have started on the 15/01/01 but that the removal may occur over a period of time because the groups removing the graffiti were only working in 4 hour shifts.

Members stated that it was important that the level of lighting was improved along the footpath, so as to increase the general use of the footpath.

It was then

RESOLVED

That the Committee noted the report.

16/
05 **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE RENEWAL OF AGENCY AGREEMENT
(Item 16)**

The Officer introduced the report.

Members enquired about the maintenance of grass verges and if the County Council had an up to date list of all sites that required some form of maintenance in the Borough.

The Officer responded that the new contract would mean that grass verges would be cut according to the height of the grass and that the County Council had an up to date site list.

It was then

RESOLVED

That the Committee agree that the Executive Committee be asked to approve the setting up of the Agency Agreement, under Section 19 of the Local Government Act 2000, whereby Epsom & Ewell Borough Council manage the grounds maintenance function until the termination of the County Council's Surrey Highways Partnership contract.

17/0
5 **MINOR HIGHWAYS/ LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN SCHEME
PROGRESS REPORT (Item 17)**

The Officer introduced the report.

A member enquired why had the A240 Kingston Road/ Riverview Road/ Worcester Park Road toucan cycle crossing been held until funding available.

The Officer responded that the original cost of the scheme had increased dramatically and different options were being considered to ensure that the scheme could continue.

It was then

RESOLVED

That the Committee noted the report.

18/0 **FLEXIBLE FORWARD PROGRAMME (Item 18)**
5

It was then

RESOLVED

That the Committee noted the report and agreed the dates for Local Committee meetings in the municipal year 2005/2006.

19/
05 **PROPOSED CLOSURE OF A MENCAP HOME (Item 19)**

The Officer introduced the report.

Members expressed concern about the proposals for the future of the home and its residents and wanted reassurances that the current residents would experience the least amount of distress as possible.

The Officer reassured Members that residents would experience as little distress as possible. It is proposed that the home will be re-developed as supported living accommodation. Currently it is not known if the residents will be able to remain at The Parade. If residents need to be re-homed they will if possible be re-homed in friendship groups. The assessments which will determine the level of support each resident requires have not been completed yet and have taken longer than expected because they are completed by multi-professional teams including health.

Members requested that a report be brought to the Local Committee meeting in March updating them on situation.

It was then

RESOLVED

- i) that the Committee noted the discussions which have taken place concerning the future of 28 The Parade, Epsom ; and
- ii) that Adults & Community care be recommended to continue to negotiate with MENCAP to ensure that the needs of the existing residents are appropriately met and that the recommendations of 'Valuing People' be followed.

20/0 **ADULT & COMMUNITY LEARNING REPORT (Item 20)**
5

The Officer introduced the report.

Members enquired about the loss of tutors and if this was related to the amount of bureaucracy placed on tutors.

The Officer responded that there was a dire shortage of Adult & Community Learning tutors in the Borough, which was partly due to staff retirements and the pressures placed on tutors due to increased bureaucracy.

Members asked about the work of the Widening Participation Officer and in particular links with the Self Reliance Programme and the Traveller community in Epsom.

The Officer responded that the Widening Participation Officer was working closely with the Community Learning Partnership in Epsom & Ewell and will check what links have been established with the Traveller community.

It was then

RESOLVED

That the Committee noted the report and requested that a subsequent report be brought back to the Committee when the new funding system for the service has been agreed.

21/05 MEMBERS' ALLOWNCES (Item 21)

It was then

RESOLVED

That the Committee agreed funding from the Members allowances budget;

- i) £2,621 for a new plasma screen at Epsom & Ewell High School (Mrs Jan Mason);
- ii) £1,000 towards Epsom Symphony Orchestra (Mr Nigel Petrie);
- iii) £1,000 towards the Borough Council's tree planting programme (Mr Nigel Petrie);
- iv) £1,000 towards updating the Citizens Advice Bureau computer system (Mr Nigel Petrie);
- v) £400 towards the Youth Café (Mr Colin Taylor);
- vi) £1,000 towards the Targeted Speed Management Campaign (Mr Colin Taylor);
- vii) £3,000 towards a part-time football coach based at Court Recreation Ground (Mr Colin Taylor); and
- viii) £970 towards a new sign and additional seating facilities at Horton Country Park (Mrs Jan Mason).

Funding from the £35k Capital allocation grant:

- i) £4,000 towards new security fencing for the 2nd Cuddington Scout Group;
- ii) £5,000 towards a new vehicle for the Lower Mole Countryside Management Project;
- iii) £10,000 towards speed tables on the Watersedge Estate; and
- iv) £10,000 towards the establishment of a Multi Use Games Area in Court ward.

Meeting Ended: 23.00

Chairman

Surrey County Council's Local Committee in Epsom & Ewell
24th January 2005
Public Question
Stephen & Helen Dyke

Closure of Mencap Residential Care Home at 28 The Parade, Epsom

Q1) 'The thought that three of the current residents will be able to transfer into a supported living scheme, even if it comes from Mencap, prejudices the assessments in just the same manner as the answer given to committee on 29th November.

The relatives of the Parade residents have strong concerns about any supported living proposal as it currently exists. The Parade has appeared in the Supporting People Strategy Consultation with a proposed budget of £25,000. This implies a minimal part time staffing support which would not meet our relatives needs for 24 hour staffing presence, given:

- (1) There are up to 300 people with learning disabilities living at home with family carers, not all of whom will be suitable for supported living.
- (2) There seems to be no trace in the answer from Guy Hall of the other 3 people who were asked to consider the Parade as an option.
- (3) Another residential home for people with learning disabilities in the Epsom area has announced its intention to close last week. It seems we can ill afford to lose care home capacity here.
- (4) The above inflation rate increases on fees received some time ago for 2 out of the 5 residents still leave their fees well below the market average for what inspection identify as a high quality of care.
- (5) Some of the assumptions officials have previously been negotiating on have come into question e.g. a misinterpretation of the Laing & Buisson market research report

We ask the officials to seriously look into the proposal we have put forward to renegotiate numbers and fees for the existing residents with Mencap for the Parade to remain a registered care home.'

Surrey County Council Local Committee in Epsom & Ewell
24th January 2005
Members' Question
Cllr Graham Dudley

"May I please have a reply to my letter dated 11 November 2004 (written as Chairman of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council's Scrutiny Committee) to Councillor Brougham Chair of SCC Transportation Select Committee in which I drew attention to the number of street lights not working in the Borough and the length of time taken to repair non-functioning lights - some of which are taking an average of 14 weeks to repair - and asked for street lights in Epsom and Ewell to be included in its service review programme and for an investigation into whether the contractors were carrying out their obligations?"

**Informal Minutes of Public Question Time at
Surrey County Council's Local Committee
In Epsom & Ewell
24th January 2005**

Mr Ruston, Christ Church Mount

Mr Ruston asked about the consultation process regarding the Christ Church Mount Safe Routes to School scheme. Specifically what procedures do the Local Transportation Service have for consulting with the public, what consultation was carried out in regard to this scheme and were individuals contacted and if so who was contacted.

Officer Response

The Officer responded that the Surrey County consultation process differed according to the requirements of each proposed scheme. The consultation method for each scheme is decided by the Local Committee.

Mr Wheatley, Christ Church Mount

Mr Wheatley asked why had the scheme been presented with such haste and little consultation.

Officer Response

The Officer responded that the scheme had taken priority over other Safe Routes to Schools (SRtS) schemes because a pre-requisite for a SRtS scheme being developed is that the school must have a school travel plan in place. Stamford Green has a travel plan in place, whereas other schools that had been prioritised did not.

Mr Good, Christ Church Mount

Mr Good asked how was his suppose to gain access to his property when according to the plans for the scheme the entrance to his property would be blocked by a guard rail.

Officer Response

The Officer responded that a meeting with Mr Good had taken place and the proposed guard rail, would be replaced by bollards outside Mr Good's property allowing access to the property.

Mr Taylor, Bus stop in Ewell Village and Magazine Provision in Libraries

Mr Taylor asked if any more progress had been made re-locating the bus stop outside a property known as 'Tresco' in Ewell Village. Mr Taylor also asked if the Committee had met his request to ask the library service to re-install the provision of magazines at libraries.

Officer Response

The Officer responded that the funding for re-positioning of the bus stop was not available in this financial year.

Councillor Response

The Councillor responded that the Community Services Select Committee had expressed regret that it had not been consulted about the decision to withdraw magazines from libraries. The Select Committee had therefore decided to review the situation after a 6 month period.