

Minutes: of the meeting of Surrey County Council's Local Committee in Epsom and Ewell held at 19.00 on Monday 19th September 2005 at the Ebbisham Centre, Epsom.

Members Present – Surrey County Council

Mrs Jan Mason (Epsom and Ewell West)
NRM Petrie Esq. MBE (Epsom and Ewell
North East) (Chairman)

Jean Smith (Epsom and Ewell North)
Colin Taylor (Epsom and Ewell South West)
(Vice Chairman)

Members Present – Epsom and Ewell Borough Council

Cllr Pamela Bradley (Ewell)
Cllr Graham Dudley (Cuddington)

Cllr Nigel Pavey (Stamford)
Cllr Derek Philips (Ruxley)

PART ONE

IN PUBLIC

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

72/
05 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]**

Apologies were received from Cllr Alan Carlson, Cllr Chris Frost and Cllr Mike Richardson. Cllr Derek Philips substituted for Cllr Mike Richardson.

73/
05 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 2]**

Jan Mason declared a personal interest by virtue of being a governor at Epsom & Ewell High School.

74/
05 **PETITIONS [Item 3]**

No petitions were received.

75/
05 **WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTION TIME [Item 4]**

One written public question was received from Mr Barrie Taylor the question and answer were circulated at the meeting (attached as an annexe to these minutes).

76/
05 **MEMBERS WRITTEN QUESTION TIME [Item 5]**

Two written questions were received from Cllr Colin Taylor and the question and answer were circulated at the meeting (attached as an annexe to these minutes).

77/
05 **ADJOURNMENT [Item 6]**

The Committee agreed to adjourn for questions from the public.

78/
05 **COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY ACTION PLAN –
QUARTER 1 PROGRESS REPORT [Item 7]**

The Officer introduced the report.

Members enquired about the use of Section 30s in the borough and if they simply moved the problems on to other areas.

The Officer responded that the implementation of a section 30 can mean that some of the problems are dispersed to neighbouring areas, the Police are aware of this and respond appropriately.

A Member enquired about how many section 30s could be implemented at one time and how large could the area covered by a section 30 be.

The Officer responded that the designation of a section 30 and the size of it had to be determined by evidence and available resources. The Police have to have enough resources to make an impact on that area and to prove that at the end of the section 30 that crime levels have gone down.

A Member congratulated the Officers on the success of the 'Safe Drive Stay Alive' campaign aimed at educating Surrey's young drivers, the Member asked if the campaign could be demonstrated at a Local Committee meeting.

The Officer thanked the Member and highlighted that it was a Surrey Fire & Rescue scheme and that she would make enquiries about a demonstration of the campaign.

It was then

RESOLVED

That the Committee noted the report.

79/
05 **PRESENTATION BY RELATE [Item 8]**

The Manager of Relate Reigate Epsom & Districts made the presentation.

A Member enquired about the number of full time paid staff and volunteers that run the centre.

The Manager responded that at present there were 21 counsellors, this figure is a large increase from the 11 counsellors that were employed 18 months ago. The counsellors are paid staff. Although whilst qualifying as counsellors they do have to carry out a set number of voluntary hours. The service that Relate runs is not free and clients are asked to make a contribution of £35 towards each session. There is a charity shop in Reigate and it is hoped to open one in Epsom by the middle of next year.

A Member enquired about the gender ratio split of counsellors and of clients who make the request for counselling.

The Officer responded that the majority of counsellors are female; currently there are 3 male counsellors. In the majority of cases people request to be seen by a woman and usually clients prefer to continue seeing the same person through out the course of counselling. Out of the total number of people that make the first contact with Relate 65 - 70% are male, usually it is men because the relationship has reached breaking point.

A Member suggested that Members of the Committee may want to visit the premises in Epsom.

The Manager asked that her contact details be circulated to the Members of the committee.

It was then

RESOLVED

That the Committee noted the report and that the contact details for the Manager of Relate Reigate Epsom & Districts be circulated to Members of the Local Committee.

80/ 05 **SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND A BOROUGH YOUTH PLAN FOR 2006/07 REPORT [Item 9]**

The Officers introduced the report.

A Member enquired about the number of youth workers within the Borough and if there were enough to meet the demands placed on the Youth Development Service.

The Officer responded that recruitment and retention remained a problem for the service, but the service was taking the approach of growing their own youth workers and currently two of their part time non qualified youth workers are being trained.

A Member congratulated the Youth Development Service on their good Ofsted inspection and asked if young people were consulted on the Ofsted inspection and the Borough's Best Value Review of Improving Services for Young People.

The Officer responded that a key part of the Ofsted inspection is the level of involvement of young people. To achieve a good rating the involvement of young people is essential.

It was then

RESOLVED

That the Committee noted the report.

81/
05 **MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES [Item 10]**

The Officer introduced the report.

Members agreed to fund £1,000 towards the Epsom & Ewell Karate Club and that the remaining funding that had been asked for of £1,500 would be considered at a later stage in the financial year.

Members agreed to contribute towards a part time domestic violence support worker for the Family Support Proposal. A Member suggested that the total sum of £13,000 be split equally between all 21 members from each of the Committees in the North Area (Elmbridge, Epsom & Ewell, Spelthorne), which would be a total of £619 per Member.

It was then

RESOLVED

- i) £1,000 towards new mats for the Epsom & Ewell Karate Club based at Cox Lane (Jan Mason)
- ii) £3,095 towards the Family Support Proposal at the Ashford Centre for a part time domestic violence support worker (Chris Frost, Jan Mason, Nigel Petrie, Colin Taylor, Jean Smith at £619 each).

82/
05 **FLEXIBLE FORWARD PROGRAMME [Item 11]**

The Officer introduced the report.

Members asked if a report on the Safer Camera Partnerships could be brought to a local committee meeting. Members also asked if it would be possible for other charities to attend Local Committee meetings as Relate had done.

It was then

RESOLVED

That the Committee noted the report.

Meeting Ended: 21:00

Chairman

Surrey County Council's Local Committee in Epsom & Ewell
19th September 2005
Public Question
Barrie Taylor

Safety Improvements in Ewell Village

Q1) "Since April, after we had been told that the work would start immediately after Easter, I have repeatedly asked the officers to provide answers to the Local Committee regarding the much delayed and frequently postponed work to improve and make safer the traffic flow in Ewell Village. Each time we have been given promises and convoluted explanations for the delays but each time these have not resulted in any discernible action. Checking the situation today (September 12) there has still been no commencement of work! Will the officers please provide us — yet again! — with some anticipated start and finish dates? In addition, will the Committee chairman with his special interest in Ewell Village, please ensure that, this time, the officers abide by their forecasts?"

Officer Response

The works to improve Spring Street/ Ewell High Street will begin the week commencing 31st October 2005. The works are estimated to last between 6 - 8 weeks although this will be subject to a detailed discussion with the Contractor in relation to his works construction programme.

This is a complicated scheme to both design and build. Officers have needed to ensure that the design is correct prior to issuing the construction order and it is for this reason that the scheme has been delayed beyond the originally estimated start date. It is unfortunate that these delays have occurred - however Officers feel that it is appropriate that a correct and functioning scheme is installed as opposed to one that did not meet the needs of the community.

Surrey County Council's Local Committee in Epsom & Ewell
19th September 2005
Members' Question
Cllr Colin Taylor

Commuter Parking

Q1) "Now that EEBC are charging for the use of the short-term car park in West Hill, commuters seeking free parking for Epsom Station have now spread even further along West Hill Avenue and Meadway. What can residents be told about the timetable for the possible introduction of additional yellow lines, now that Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) has started and its effects can be judged?"

Officer Response

A report will be brought to the Local Committee meeting on 31st October outlining how a review of parking restrictions will be carried out throughout the Borough. The review will assess how the effectiveness of all waiting restrictions has been affected by the introduction of DPE. The review will have to look at waiting restrictions in their totality not just at individual areas.

Vehicle Activated Sign

Q2) "When traffic safety improvements for West Hill and Christ Church Road were discussed, it was noted that for funding reasons the main works would have to follow work on new housing on the West Park site, but smaller urgent improvements could be made sooner. I understand that a vehicle activated speed warning sign is expected to be installed soon. Is there a date for this? What other early steps can be taken to reduce speed and improve safety at the junctions with Stamford Green Road, Manor Green Road, Park Lawn Avenue, Meadway and Hookfield?"

Officer Response

The interactive vehicle sign (VAS) for the top of west Hill / Christ Church Road should be installed towards the end of September. The chosen lamp column has been fitted with the appropriate socket, which will ensure easy erection upon delivery of the sign.

Whilst it was always anticipated that funding of Highway Improvements would come via the West Park hospital development it is understood that this development may not occur for some time. The potential measures suitable for Christ Church Road were presented to this Committee at its meeting on 5th April 2004. Prior to reconsidering the options for funding these measures it would be prudent to clarify any improvements made to vehicle speeds as a result of the installation of the VAS and supporting police enforcement.

**Informal Minutes of Public Question Time at
Surrey County Council's Local Committee
In Epsom & Ewell
19th September 2005**

Mr Barrie Taylor, Ewell Village Road Safety Improvements

Mr Barrie Taylor asked why had the work on the Ewell Village road safety improvements been so severely delayed and why had the work now been planned to start at perhaps one of the most inconvenient times of the year at the end of the October. Mr Taylor asked that the Councillors make a statement about the delays in starting the scheme.

Councillor Response

The Councillor referred Mr Taylor to the response he had received on the same subject and as no Transportation Officer was present at the meeting that he would ask the Officers about the inconvenient timing of the scheme.

Bert Barnhurst, Stoneleigh Traffic Calming

Mr Barnhurst enquired why had the Chairman of the Local Committee not responded to the two letters he had sent to him regarding Stoneleigh traffic calming.

Councillor Response

The Chairman responded that a report is being brought to the Local Committee meeting on the 31st October, the report should bring the issues surrounding the traffic calming in Stoneleigh to a close. The Chairman offered to meet with Mr Barnhurst prior to the meeting.