

Minutes: of the meeting of Surrey County Council's Local Committee in Epsom and Ewell held at 19.00 on Monday 23rd January 2006 at St Paul's Church, Northey Avenue, Cheam, Surrey, SM2 7HS.

Members Present – Surrey County Council

NRM Petrie Esq MBE (Epsom and Ewell North East) (Chairman) Mr Colin Taylor (Epsom and Ewell South West) (Vice-Chairman)
Jean Smith (Epsom and Ewell North)

Members Present – Epsom and Ewell Borough Council

Cllr Pamela Bradley (Ewell) Cllr Nigel Pavey (Stamford)
Cllr Graham Dudley (Cuddington) Cllr Derek Phillips (Ruxley)

PART ONE

IN PUBLIC

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

01/ **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]**
06

Apologies were received from Chris Frost, Jan Mason and Michael Richardson. Derek Phillips substituted for Michael Richardson.

02/ **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING [Item 2]**
06

The minutes of the meetings on the 31st October and 28th November 2005 were agreed with an amendment to the minutes of the 31st October on page 9 of the informal minutes of public question time. The Officer response is amended to say:

The Officer responded that the report was written by the Officers, with advice from the Members Working Group and that there were no dissensions to the Members Working Group report. **It is the Local Committee who own the report.**

03/ **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]**

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Jean Smith declared a personal interest in Item 15 by virtue of being a member of the Friends of Ewell Court House Library. Nigel Pavey declared a personal interest in Item 15 by virtue of being the treasurer of the Friends of Ewell Court Library.

04/ **PETITIONS [Item 4]**

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No petitions were received.

05/ **WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTION TIME [Item 5]**

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No written public questions were received.

06/ **MEMBERS WRITTEN QUESTION TIME [Item 6]**

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No written Members' questions were received.

07/ **ADJOURNMENT [Item 7]**

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The Committee agreed to adjourn for up to half an hour for questions from the public. A record of the questions received from members of the public and the answers is attached as an annexe to these minutes.

08/ **DE-CONGESTION STRATEGY FOR EPSOM & EWELL [Item 8]**

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The Officer introduced the report.

Members asked what was the definition of zero rated roads.

The Officer responded that the definition of zero rated roads was that no changes were proposed to the waiting restrictions along those particular roads.

Members asked if the proposed additional parking attendants would focus purely on on-street parking and would the existing parking attendants be able to cover the extended waiting restriction times of Sundays and evenings.

The Officer responded that once the proposed two additional parking attendants had been recruited there would be a total of 10 parking attendants in post. Three of the attendants will be underwritten by the County Council and will focus entirely on on-street parking. The 7 parking attendants underwritten by the Borough Council will do both on and off street parking. The existing parking attendants are being consulted on possible alterations to contracts to cover evenings and Sundays.

A Member asked that it be noted that in paragraph 3.2 (j) it was the Borough Council which agreed not to pursue a Residents Permit Parking Scheme after extensive public consultation in 2000. The Member also asked when would the PARAMICS traffic modelling system be ready, as it would be very useful when considering what type of waiting restrictions would be most beneficial along some roads.

The Officer responded that the PARAMICS traffic modelling system would be ready within the next month.

It was then

RESOLVED

- i) that the Committee continue to support the aims and objectives of the De-congestion Strategy for Epsom & Ewell through the measures contained in the Local Transport Plan for the Borough;
- ii) that the introduction of Waiting Restrictions as set out at 4.1 (Town Centre) and on drawing on display, and at 4.4.to 4.12 (Hotspots) be approved;
- iii) that authorisation be given to the making and advertising of the associated Traffic Regulation Order(s);
- iv) that the Local Transportation Manager be authorised to consider any objections received, in consultation with the Chairman and the Members Working Group for the Review of Waiting Restrictions;
- v) that the further proposed Waiting Restriction amendments as set out at 3.4 be brought for consideration to meetings of the Local committee in the course of the next 12 months;
- vi) that approval be given to amend Bus Stop Clearway signing to operate "At Any Time", as detailed as 5.3;
- vii) that Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, as agents for the County Council in respect of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement, be requested to increase the present on-street enforcement of waiting restrictions to a level more commensurate with the scale of contravention and the increased network to be enforced, by the employment of two additional full time on-street Parking Attendants; and
- viii) that any deficit in the Epsom & Ewell on-street parking account arising from the increased level of enforcement set out in resolution (g), shall be reimbursed from the funds delegated and devolved to the Local Committee. Any such deficit shall exclude those deficit costs previously guaranteed by the County Council under the terms of the Agency Agreement relating to the Decriminalised Enforcement of Parking in Epsom & Ewell.

09/
06 **SURREY SAFETY SPEED CAMERA PARTNERSHIP [Item 9]**

The Officer introduced the report.

It was then

RESOLVED

That the Committee noted:

- i) the benefits of the creation of the Surrey Safety Camera Partnership;
- ii) the provision of an additional safety camera housing on the A24 Ewell by-pass in order to improve upon the existing road safety record at this site;
- iii) that two sites within Epsom & Ewell have been identified as possible new safety camera sites. These will be subject to further investigation, surveys and analysis prior to approval by central government in February before proposals can be confirmed; and
- iv) following 2006/07, local authorities will be provided with an enhanced grant for road safety as part of the Local Transport Plan process replacing the current system of funding for safety camera partnerships.

10/
06 **BUS STOP LOCATION POLICY [Item 10]**

The Officer introduced the report.

It was then

RESOLVED

The Committee noted the report.

11/
06 **PETITIONS REPORT [Item 11]**

The Officer introduced the report.

It was then

RESOLVED

That the Committee noted the report.

12/
06 **AMIS AVENUE & GATLEY AVENUE ROAD CLOSURE [Item 12]**

The Officer introduced the report.

Members raised some questions concerning the proposed closure:

- was there any data on the number of drivers using the route
- what are the busiest times of day for traffic
- is there any data on the speed at which cars travel along this route, as it could be difficult to speed along these roads because of the level of on-street parking
- Would the timings of traffic lights at the junction of Ruxley Lane and Chessington Road also be investigated to see if they could be altered to reduce the level of congestion

A Member requested that under 3.3 advantages of closure where it states that it would be safer for children to play outside, that this line be removed as children should not be encouraged to play on or near busy roads. The Member concluded that the blocking up of the road could exacerbate the current congestion being experienced in Ruxley Lane and Chessington Road.

A Member asked that although the Traffic Order was an experimental one, was there still not a minimum and maximum time limit attached the order.

The Officer responded that there was no minimum time limit but that there was a maximum time limit of one year.

A Member suggested that alterations be made to the recommendations to take into account the research to be carried out in to the timings of the traffic lights at the junction of Chessington Road and Ruxley Lane, the time scale for an experimental traffic order and to allow for a possible increase in the costs of the work to ensure that the emergency services have full access.

It was then

RESOLVED

- i) that authorisation be given to advertise an experimental traffic order to close Amis Avenue to vehicular traffic at its junction with Gatley Avenue for a variable period of up to a year;
- ii) that a Members Working Group (consisting of the Chairman of the Local Committee and the local County and Borough Members) be set up to consider comments received in response to the experimental closure;
- iii) authorisation be given to advertise a permanent closure if no irresolvable objections are received following the introduction of the experimental closure;
- iv) that the timings of the traffic lights at the junction of Chessington Road and Ruxley Lane be investigated to reduce the amount of congestion at this location currently; and
- v) that access for emergency vehicles be fully researched and if necessary additional funding from the Members' allowances budget of the £35k capital grant allocation be found.

13/
06 **PEDESTRIAN FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS IN EWELL VILLAGE [Item 13]**

The Officer introduced the report.

A Member enquired if the contractor could be requested to attend Local Committee meetings to respond to Members queries.

The Officer replied that under the terms of the partnership agreement it was intended that the contractor should attend Local Committee meetings, but in this instance it was not appropriate.

A Member asked why had road works on the main alternative routes to Ewell Village like Hook Road been timetabled to take place at the same time.

The Officer responded that the road works on Hook Road were unforeseen for emergency gas repairs and had taken place during the evening or on Sundays to create as little additional disruption as possible.

It was then

RESOLVED

The Committee noted the report.

14/
06 **MINOR HIGHWAYS/ LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN SCHEME
PROGRESS REPORT [Item 14]**

The Officer introduced the report.

A Member asked when would work on the proposed Toucan cycle crossing on the A240 Kingston Road/ Riverview Road/ Worcester Park Road begin.

The Officer responded that they were optimistic that construction would start within the next couple of weeks.

A Member enquired about the Christ Church Mount Safe Routes to Schools scheme and when would construction start.

The Officer responded that the scheme was in two parts and that the contractor was due to start on the Safe Routes to Schools element of the scheme within the next four weeks.

It was then

RESOLVED

That the Committee noted the report.

15/
06 **FLEXIBLE FORWARD PROGRAMME [Item 15]**

The Officer introduced the report.

Members asked for the inclusion of an item on libraries and specifically the proposed closure of Ewell Court House library at the next Local Committee meeting on the 27th February 2006.

The Officer responded that an item would be brought to next Local Committee meeting on the closure of libraries.

It was then

RESOLVED

That the Committee noted the report.

16/
06 **MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES [Item 16]**

The Officer introduced the report.

Members asked that if necessary additional funding be made available for the experimental traffic regulation order at Amis Avenue to enable the closure to be fully accessible to the emergency services.

It was then

RESOLVED

That the Committee agreed to fund:

Funding from the Members' Allowances Budget:

- i) £4,001 for two new interactive whiteboards at the Mead Infant School and Auriol Junior School (Jean Smith);
- ii) £1,000 towards purchasing new cycle racks to be placed at the rear of the Ashley Centre (Chris Frost);
- iii) £2,500 towards the stopping up of Amis Avenue at its junction with Gatley Avenue (Jan Mason);
- iv) £2,000 towards improvements to the Cherry Orchard within Nonsuch Park (Nigel Petrie);
- v) £1,000 towards Epsom Symphony Orchestra to offset their deficit for this financial year (Nigel Petrie); and
- vi) £1,000 towards updating and maintaining the Citizens Advice Bureau computer system (Nigel Petrie).

Funding from the £35,000 Capital Grant Allocation:

- i) £2,500 towards the physical works and the creation of Traffic Regulation Order to block up Amis Avenue at its junction with Gatley Avenue;

Meeting Ended: 21.10

Chairman

**Informal Minutes of Public Question Time at
Surrey County Council's Local Committee
In Epsom & Ewell
23rd January 2006**

Mr John Stevens, Howell Hill

Mr Stevens asked what could be done to improve the road safety for the residents of Howell Hill especially in light of the recent fatal car accident.

Chairman Response

The Chairman responded that the Police assessment of the scheme had yet to be completed and as such the cause of the accident is not known. Once the accident report has been completed then any safety issues that are raised will be addressed.

Mr Cyril Frazer, Bus Stop Location Policy

Mr Frazer asked when was the County intending to include facilities at bus shelters that gave computerised information on the times that buses were due at.

Officer Responses

The Officer responded that it is hoped that the introduction of intelligence systems to the Borough's bus shelters will take place within the next three years.

John Gallagher, Amis Avenue & Gatley Avenue Road Closure

Mr Gallagher expressed concern at the increase in the levels of traffic using Amis Avenue since the new dual carriageway had been constructed on Chessington Road and the new set of traffic lights at the junction of Chessington Road and Ruxley Lane and asked that the Committee take action to improve the situation.

Chairman Response

The Chairman responded that Mr Gallagher's comments would be taken into consideration when discussing the item on the agenda.

Cllr Michael Arthur, Street Lighting

Cllr Arthur asked the about the length of time it took to repair street lights particularly those along main roads like the A240, where lights have been reported as being out but have been left un-repaired for months.

Officer Response

The Officer responded that there are specific problems repairing lights that are out along main A roads because of new health and safety legislation. Legislation now requires full lane closures when lights are being repaired. Therefore, the contractor tends to wait for batches of street lights to be out before they are repaired.

Mr Bill Slaughter, Congestion Ruxley Lane/ Chessington Road

Mr Slaughter asked that the timings of the traffic lights at the junction of Chessington Road and Ruxley Lane be closely investigated as the timings of the lights and the design of the junction have led to the increased congestion on these two roads.

Officer Response

The Officer responded that the Local Transportation Service was constantly reviewing the timings of the traffic lights so as to ease the congestion.