

Minutes: of the meeting of Surrey County Council's Local Committee in Epsom and Ewell held at 19.00 on Monday 27th February 2006 at the Ebbisham Centre, Derby Square, Epsom.

Members Present – Surrey County Council

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

Members Present – Epsom and Ewell Borough Council

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

PART ONE

IN PUBLIC

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

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

Apologies were received from Jan Mason and Michael Richardson. No substitutions were made.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2006 were agreed.

A Member asked for an update under Item 14 regarding the Christ Church Mount Safe Routes to Schools scheme.

The Officer responded an update would be provided to the Committee tomorrow, although it was hoped that the work would start in March.

19/
06 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]**

Jean Smith declared a personal interest in Item 4 by virtue of being a member of the Friends of Ewell Court House Library. Nigel Pavey declared a personal interest in Item 4 by virtue of being the treasurer of the Friends of Ewell Court House Library and having chaired a public meeting regarding the closure of the library on the 22nd February. Pamela Bradley declared a personal interest in Item 4 by being a member of the Ewell Court House Management Advisory Committee.

20/
06 **BUSINESS DELIVERY REVIEW [Item 4]**

The Officer representing the Library Service made a brief presentation on the proposals put forward for the Library Service under the Business Delivery Review (BDR). The Officer explained that the number of people using libraries had declined in recent years. The Government and the public would like to see libraries modernised, which would mean longer opening hours to meet people's lifestyles and increased access to technology. The review's criteria for selecting which libraries should be proposed for closure was not based upon usage numbers but on location. Libraries that were clustered together were considered for closure because the public would still be able to access other nearby libraries.

The Officer representing the Youth service made a brief presentation on the implications of BDR for the Youth Service. The proposals would see a reduction of 14.5 full time employees and a loss of 15 youth centres. The Youth Service was judged by Ofsted to be one of the best in the Country. This is because the service has continued to meet and evolve with the demands of the youth work agenda. The majority of youth work is now not carried out in traditional youth centres but through a variety of methods including detached, school based, mobile provision, café type drop-ins, residential etc. The Government's driver is for more joined up service provision and looks to youth services to be more educational/ targeted and less leisure base. There may have been the need to close some of youth centres regardless of BDR as there is a need to achieve a better balance between centre based and other methods of delivery.

Jean Smith put forward a motion regarding the proposed closure of Ewell Court Library seconded by Colin Taylor and requested that the motion be forwarded to the Executive of the County Council. The Member stated that the library provided a social hub for the community in Ewell Court ward. Ewell Court ward has the second highest elderly population in the Borough and the library is accessible by foot for four schools and is within walking distance for Ruxley ward which is one of the County's self reliance areas. The other libraries within the vicinity are not easily accessible because the surrounding roads are heavily congested.

The motion put forward was:

The Epsom & Ewell Local Committee urges the Executive not to confirm the Business Delivery Review proposal to close Ewell Court Library, on the grounds that its closure would:

- have an adverse effect on local residents particularly the elderly, young children and the disabled, not only in Ewell Court but also in the adjoining areas of West Ewell and Ruxley, the latter being one of the most deprived wards in the County;
- contribute to social exclusion;
- damage the image of the County Council as a provider of a much valued local service;
- not achieve a large enough saving to justify the many disadvantages of its closure.

Members discussed the proposed alterations to Surrey History Services and expressed concerns that the proposed cuts would mean that the service would not be able to survive. Nigel Petrie put forward a motion seconded by Colin Taylor regarding the Surrey History Services and requested that it be forwarded to the Executive of the County Council:

The motion put forward was:

The Epsom & Ewell Local Committee deprecate the proposed budget reductions for the Surrey History Services and asks that the Executive note the importance of the Surrey History Services, the concern of the Local Committee and consider revising the levels of cuts proposed for the Surrey History Service.

A Member raised concerns regarding the proposed increase to the cost of music lessons across the County and asked that it be monitored to ensure that the price increases do not have an adverse effect on the take up of music lessons. A motion was put forward by Colin Taylor, seconded by Jean Smith, regarding the pricing of music lessons and requested that the motion be forwarded to the Executive:

The Epsom & Ewell Local Committee ask the Executive to ensure that the proposed increase in charges for music lessons do not have a detrimental effect upon the take up of music lessons across the County.

Members discussed the proposals for closing YoYo's youth centre and were supportive of the developments in youth work away from traditional youth centres' towards outreach work. Members expressed concern about the certainty of the future of the Linton's Lane youth centre. The Institute of Surrey Art & Design own the site and are currently considering selling it. This would mean either the temporary closure or re-location of the youth centre, leaving the Borough with only one youth facility. Colin Taylor put forward a motion, seconded by Jean Smith, that the closure of YoYo's be postponed until the future of the Linton's Lane youth centre was more certain.

The Epsom & Ewell Local Committee ask the Executive to re-consider the proposed closure of YoYo's youth centre in Epsom Town centre in the light of possible alterations to the facilities at the Lintons Lane Youth Centre. The Lintons Lane site is owned by the Surrey Institute of Art & Design who are considering selling the site. This would mean that the youth centre would have to close for a period of time whilst the site was re-developed or be re-located. The Local Committee feel that it would be prudent to maintain the facility at YoYo's until the future of the youth centre at Lintons Lane is known.

Members put forward a motion in response to the question raised by Mrs Jean Steer (Mrs Steer is a Borough Councillor and was speaking on behalf the West Ewell and Ruxley Residents Association) about the proposed discontinuation of the 467 bus route by Transport for London. Colin Taylor proposed the motion, seconded by Chris Frost.

Transport for London (TfL) are proposing to discontinue the 467 bus route, which will have a detrimental effect upon Surrey residents who live in the Chessington Road, Epsom area. The discontinuation of this service would prevent residents from accessing essential services and local amenities such as:

- Health centres
- Libraries
- Schools
- Shops
- Rainbow Leisure Centre
- Railway Station

The Epsom & Ewell Local Committee ask that the Executive consider ensuring that local residents can access the above services by negotiating a diversion of an existing bus service or by taking on the financial responsibility for the part of the 467 service that runs in this area to ensure that residents can access essential services via public transport.

It was then

RESOLVED

That the Committee noted the report and put forward to the Executive of the County Council the five motions mentioned above regarding the 467 bus route, the proposed closure of Ewell Court Library, proposals regarding Surrey History Service, proposals regarding increased prices to music lessons and the proposed closure of YoYo's Youth Centre.

21/ 06 **PETITIONS [Item 5]**

A petition was presented to the local committee on behalf of the Friends of Ewell Court Library opposing the proposed closure of Ewell Court Library. The petition will be referred to the Executive of the County Council on 14th March 2006.

22/ WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTION TIME [Item 6]

06

No written public questions were received.

23/ MEMBERS' WRITTEN QUESTION TIME [Item 7]

06

No written Members' questions were received.

24/ ADJOURNMENT [Item 8]

06

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

25/ SELF RELIANCE REPORT [Item 9]

06

The Officer introduced the report.

A Member enquired as to how the outcomes of the work would be evaluated.

The Officer responded that it was difficult to measure the outcomes because the work was primarily focused on preventative work. However, Communities that Care would re-evaluate the area in comparison to the evaluation carried out prior to work having began in the area.

A Member asked for how long was the work funded.

The Officer responded that the self reliance programme had funding for 3 years and was 18 months through the programme.

A Member enquired about the number of paid staff involved with the self reliance work.

The Officer responded that he was the solely dedicated paid member of staff working on self reliance, but that professionals from all of the statutory agencies working in Court & Ruxley were involved. Increased resident and community involvement was being actively encouraged. Two community partnerships have been established on both wards, currently the residents that attend these meetings are being trained so that they are able to lead and sustain these community groups rather than the statutory agencies.

A Member wished that the hard work of the local County Councillor, Jan Mason, on self reliance be noted. The Member enquired about the progress being made with the development of children's centres.

The Officer responded that the development of new children's centres was a huge opportunity for the area and for the self reliance programme as many of the projects within the Action Plan could be based out of a new children's centre. The process of developing the children's centre needed to be managed sensibly, because a huge amount was expected to be achieved in a short space of time with limited capital resources.

It was then

RESOLVED

That the Committee noted the report.

26/
06 **STONES ROAD TUNNEL STRENGTHENING [Item 10]**

The Officer introduced the report.

It was then

RESOLVED

That approval be given to enter into a works agreement with Network Rail to carry out the works.

27/
06 **ST MARGARET DRIVE, ST ELIZABETH DRIVE, EPSOM, ADOPTION AND INTRODUCTION OF WAITING RESTRICTIONS [Item 11]**

The Officer introduced the report.

Members requested that the report be deferred until next meeting of the Local Committee on the 10th April 2006, to see if an agreement between the developer and local residents could be reached. At present the developer wishes the roads to be adopted but the residents would like to see the roads remain private. Members felt that by deferring the decision it would be possible in that time scale to find an agreement between the two parties.

Members requested that under recommendation iii) it be included that the local County and Borough Councillor be authorised to consider any objections in conjunction with the Local Transportation Manager.

It was then

RESOLVED

That the Committee deferred the report to the next Local Committee meeting on the 10th April 2006.

28/ MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES [Item 12]

06

The Officer introduced the report.

It was then

RESOLVED

That the Committee agreed to fund:

Funding from the members' Allowances Budget:

- i) £1,200 towards a new lamp column that will be erected along the footpath that runs at the back of the Ebbisham Centre (Colin Taylor);
- ii) £400 towards the Handshake Club which will enable the club to subscribe to their national association (Colin Taylor);
- iii) £600 towards Disability Challengers to purchase additional hours for the Saturday play scheme run in Epsom (Colin Taylor);
- iv) £592 towards the Epsom & Ewell Karate Club to purchase additional mats (Colin Taylor);
- v) £2,000 towards installing a new gate and signs at Chalk Lane (Chris Frost);
- vi) £2,500 towards the Lower Mole Countryside Management Trust to enable the Trust to purchase a new mini bus (Chris Frost);
- vii) £792 towards the John Clarke Memorial Fund (Chris Frost);
- viii) £1,500 towards a new interactive whiteboard for Epsom & Ewell High School (Jan Mason);
- ix) £1,500 towards a new interactive whiteboard for Danetree School (Jan Mason);
- x) £492 towards additional seating for the Bonesgate Open Space and Horton Country Park (Jan Mason);
- xi) £1,846 towards additional laptops for West Ewell Infant School (Jean Smith);
- xii) £1,846 towards a new interactive whiteboard for Riverview Primary School (Jean Smith); and
- xiii) £2,197 towards environmental projects within the Epsom & Ewell North East Division (Nigel Petrie).

Funding from the £35k Capital Grant Allocation:

- i) £10,443 towards Variable Messaging Signs for the Borough's Town Centre.

29/ FLEXIBLE FORWARD PROGRAMME [Item 13]

06

The Officer introduced the report.

It was then

RESOLVED

That the Committee noted the report.

Meeting Ended: 21.25

Chairman

**Informal Minutes of Public Question Time at
Surrey County Council's Local Committee
In Epsom & Ewell
27th February 2006**

Derek Eade, Ewell Court Library

Mr Eade asked how would the County Councillors be voting when it came to deciding if Ewell Court Library should be closed or not.

Officer Response

The Officer responded that the library proposals were being removed from the main Business Delivery Review recommendations and new proposals would be put forward to the Executive by Chris Norris on the 14th March. Members of the public are welcome to attend the Executive meeting.

Chairman Response

The Chairman responded that the Local Committee has a right to express a view to the Executive which will be to oppose the closure of Ewell Court Library.

Jean Steer, Discontinuation of the 467 Bus Route

Jean Steer asked if the County Council would consider providing some form of financial assistance to ensure that the 467 bus route operated by Transport for London (TfL) continued to run in the Chessington Road area, Epsom. The 467 bus route provides residents of the Chessington Road area with access to Epsom Town Centre and to Ewell Village. The cessation of the service would isolate the community from essential services such as health centres, libraries, schools, shops, the Rainbow Centre and the railway station.

Chairman Response

The Chairman responded that the Committee would put forward a motion to the Executive requesting that the County Council takes financial responsibility for the part of the 467 service that runs in this area to ensure that residents can access essential services via public transport (Please see Item 4 above for the exact wording of the motion).