

Minutes: of the meeting of Surrey County Council's Local Committee in Epsom and Ewell held at 19.00 on Monday 4 December 2006 at Bourne Hall, Ewell Village.

Members Present – Surrey County Council

Mr Chris Frost (Epsom & Ewell South East)

NRM Petrie Esq MBE (Epsom & Ewell North East)

Jean Smith (Epsom & Ewell North) (Chairman)

Mr Colin Taylor (Epsom & Ewell South West) (Vice-Chairman)

Members Present – Epsom and Ewell Borough Council

Cllr Brian Angus (Ewell)

Cllr Pamela Bradley (Ewell)

Cllr Graham Dudley (Cuddington)

Cllr Nigel Pavey (Stamford)

Cllr Michael Richardson (Woodcote)

PART ONE

IN PUBLIC

The Chairman introduced the new Area Director (Julia Penfound) and Local Committee and Partnership Officers (Lynda Tarling and, just for this meeting, Diccon Bright). The Chairman also introduced Mr Ken Lavey who was observing the meeting on behalf of the Independent Review Panel.

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

75/ APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]

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Apologies were received from Mrs Jan Mason.

76/ MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING [Item 2]

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The minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2006 were agreed.

77/ DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

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No declarations of interest were made.

78/ PETITIONS [Item 4]

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No petitions were received.

79/ WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTION TIME [Item 5]

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Written public questions were received from Mr Barrie Taylor. The questions and answers were circulated at the meeting (attached as an annexe to these minutes).

80/ MEMBERS WRITTEN QUESTION TIME [Item 6]

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Cllr Graham Dudley submitted a written question. The question and answer were circulated at the meeting (attached as an annexe to these minutes).

81/ 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 questions received from members of the public and the answers are attached as an annexe to these minutes.

82/ IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HIGHWAYS CONTRACT [Item 8]

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The Officer due to make a presentation to the Committee did not arrive; the item was therefore deferred to a future meeting.

83/ KILN LANE LINK [Item 9]

06

The Local Transportation Manager introduced the report, advising Members of recent indications from Government that the scheme is now to be included in the 2016 – 2026 Regional Transport Board indicative programme. He advised that he would continue to lobby for funding from SCC and central government, but that short- to medium-term solutions were needed to tackle the problems of safety, congestion and accessibility. While the main scheme is estimated at £18 million, mitigating measures might cost over £2 million.

He argued that while Hook Road is unsuitable for its present use, measures should not be taken that would displace traffic onto less suitable roads. He asked Members to meet again as a working group to consider a range of measures.

He described the issues concerning the Blenheim Road waste management site and confirmed that there are proposals in the Surrey Waste Management Strategy to relocate civic amenity activities, but not waste transfer activities, to another site

In response to public questions the Local Transportation Manager said he would consider school signing and signalling modifications. He agreed to have the speed and volume of traffic measured. He said he would consider replacing or installing new bollards in the footway to deter vehicles mounting the kerb.

In response to questions from Members, the Local Transportation Manager made the following points:

- There is a balance to be struck between measures addressing safety and congestion, and the needs of drivers and pedestrians
- Government are well aware of the details of the scheme and the needs of the area
- SCC has been working for some time to remove any obstacles that might cause a public enquiry; however if the scheme is delayed there may now be a need to reconsult local residents all over again
- About £600,000 has been spent to date on preparations for the scheme.

Mr Colin Taylor suggested amending the officer recommendation so that Surrey Waste Management should be asked to relocate waste transfer activities from the Blenheim Road site, rather than civic recycling activities.

The officer recommendations, shown below, with the amendment to recommendation (d) in italics, were considered by the Members

- (a) To request that the County Council write to the Department for Transport to request that they re-consider the decision not to fund the Kiln Lane Link major improvement scheme in the period 2006 to 2011.
- (b) That, if the DfT decline to re-consider their decision not to provide the necessary funding required to progress the scheme, currently estimated at approximately £18 million, the County Council be requested to seek alternative sources of funding for the Major Improvement.
- (c) That, if the County Council fails to secure the necessary funding to progress the major scheme, the Council is requested to support the progression of an Intermediate Transportation Scheme (£500,000 to £5million) to develop and implement a range of measures to mitigate the impact of not proceeding with the Kiln Lane Link. The Intermediate Scheme to be funded from the annual Local Transport Plan settlement from Government.
- (d) That, in its consideration of the development of The Surrey Waste Plan, the County Council gives the highest possible priority to the re-location of the *waste transfer station activities away from the Blenheim Road site.*

Cllr Michael Richardson pointed out that Epsom and Ewell Borough Council could not support the amendment as it had signed up to the Surrey Waste Plan which did not propose re-location of the waste transfer station activities away from the Blenheim Road site.

It was then **RESOLVED** that the Committee agreed the above recommendations.

The Chairman proposed the following recommendation to the Executive, Mr Colin Taylor seconded:

“A 17-year-old girl cyclist was killed by an HGV on the narrow road under the Hook Road railway bridge. This death might not have happened had the Kiln Lane Link been built. The Executive is therefore requested:

- to write to the Department for Transport to urge them to re-consider the decision not to fund the Kiln Lane Link Major Improvement Scheme in the period 2006 to 2011.
- if the DfT decline to re-consider their decision not to provide the necessary funding required to progress the scheme, currently estimated at approximately £18 million, to seek alternative sources of funding for this Major Improvement;
- alternatively if the necessary funding for the Major Improvement is not secured, to support the progression of an Intermediate Transportation Scheme (£500,000 to £5 million) funded from the annual Local Transport Plan settlement from Government to develop and implement a range of measures to mitigate the impact of not proceeding with the Kiln Lane Link.
- in consideration of the development of The Surrey Waste Plan, to give the highest possible priority to the re-location of the waste transfer station activities away from the Blenheim Road site.”

It was then **RESOLVED** that the Committee agreed the above recommendations to the Executive.

84/
06 **BOROUGH YOUTH PLAN [Item 10]**

Officers from Epsom and Ewell Borough Council (Head of Policy and Partnerships) and SCC Youth Development Service (Youth Development Officer for Epsom and Ewell) introduced the report and responded to Members' questions.

The Youth Development Officer reported that young people had met recently with Surrey Police and discussed the following issues:

- Reporting incidents to Crimestoppers
- How Police processes work
- Young people's involvement in local or youth panels
- Involving young people, including those from different cultures, in the town centre focus group
- Improved lighting e.g. Mounthill Gardens.

The Youth Development Officer also reported that the Starbucks project, now at the end of its 3rd year welcomed about 40 young people on each Friday evening. Funding is needed for the project mainly to pay for door staff.

The Chairman congratulated the young people on the articulate way in which

they expressed themselves at the meeting with the Police.

The Head of Policy and Partnerships advised that the meeting of the Local Strategic Partnership (which is linked to the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership) in February 2007 will involve young people.

The Youth Development Officer then showed a short video highlighting the activities of the Youth Leisure Day 2006, the Euphonic youth music festival, the YELL residential in March 2006 and Local Democracy Week in October 2006.

It was then **RESOLVED** that the Committee noted the report.

85/ MEMBERS' ALLOCATIONS [Item 11]

06

Mr Nigel Petrie advised that his proposals in paragraphs 2.2. and 2.10 of the report should be deferred.

The proposal in paragraph 2.8 was amended to include 2 sets of dropped kerbs at the junctions of Randolph Road and Lynwood Road with Burgh Heath Road, at an estimated total cost of £2,500.

Members agreed that proposals in paragraphs 2.6 and 2.7 should be funded from the Capital Allocation.

It was then **RESOLVED** that the Committee agreed the following funds:

Funding from the Members' Allocation budget;

- i) £3,000 for the Disability Trampolining Club (Jean Smith, Mr Nigel Petrie and Mr Chris Frost - £1,000 each). A further £1,000 was agreed subject to Jan Mason agreeing to use her allocation in this way.
- ii) £2,538 for a Smartboard for Linden Bridge School (Jean Smith)
- iii) £1,583.50 for Surrey Fire and Rescue Firefighter for a Day event (equally shared between Jean Smith and Mr Chris Frost)
- iv) £2,550 for an Interactive Whiteboard for St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Mr Colin Taylor)
- v) £2,500 for dropped kerbs at the junctions of Randolph Road and Lynwood Road with Burgh Heath Road (Mr Chris Frost)
- vi) £500 for Alexandra Park Old Playground Re-development (Mr Chris Frost)

Funding from the £35k Capital Allocation Grant:

- i) £4,000 for VAS sign in Longdown Lane South
- ii) £4,000 for VAS sign in Alexandra Road.

86/ FORWARD PROGRAMME [Item 12]

06

The Officer introduced the report.

The following extra items were proposed for future meetings:

- A report on vehicle crossovers
- Adult Education

- A presentation on Improvements to the Highway Contract (deferred from this meeting)
- A briefing on the new Families Directorate (for an informal committee meeting)
- A presentation by the YELL youth forum (at the Lintons Lane centre at the March 19th meeting)
- An update on Childrens Centres
- A presentation about Looked After Children [for an informal committee meeting]

The Area Director agreed to reissue the Forward Programme to include the above items.

Meeting Ended: 9.20 p.m.

Chairman

Surrey County Council's Local Committee in Epsom and Ewell
4 December 2006
Public Question
Barrie Taylor

Question 1 - Installation of lights in Snakey Alley:

(a) What is the total final cost of this project; (b) how does this compare with the original estimate; (c) what are the causes of any increases in the original estimates?

Officer Response

There are no final costs for this project available yet.

Question 2 - Pedestrian Facility Improvements in Ewell Village:

Accepting the caution contained in the Officer Response to a similar but unanswered question at the October Meeting of the Local Ctte - which stated (See Page 9 of the Minutes) that amendments to the original design will need to be considered when making cost comparisons — can we now please have a complete breakdown of the expenditure to date together with a report on the perceived success or otherwise of this "long-running" pedestrian facility improvement scheme? Is any action being taken to reduce the unfortunate (but predicatable) side-effects of the frequent long traffic queues through Ewell village?

Officer Response

There is no complete breakdown of the expenditure to date from the contractor and there will not be a report on "perceived success" of the scheme. Safer crossing points have been provided in Ewell village for the benefit of vulnerable road users. The increased congestion due to the installation of the traffic signal controlled pedestrian crossings is the compromise that has to be made to balance the needs of all road users.

**Surrey County Council's Local Committee in Epsom and Ewell
4 December 2006
Member Question
Graham Dudley**

Question

At the Local Committee meeting on 15th December 2003 I tabled a question about the removal of a damaged street light on the corner of Fairford and Inveresk Gardens in Worcester Park and the failure to install the second of the two agreed replacement lights. The reply indicated that the damaged street light would be removed shortly thereafter and the agreed second replacement light provided early in the next financial year. Despite further reminders both these actions are still outstanding and I would appreciate knowing when if ever these actions will be completed.

Officer Response

This refers to a replacement lamp column that was installed two years ago in Inveresk Gardens; at the time it was indeed hoped that an extra lamp would be installed in the road. However since then funds have not been identified to install a new column in Inveresk Gardens and there are no funds available at present.

Unfortunately Surrey County Council do not have funds available at present to carry out this sort of lighting improvement. Surrey County Council is in the process of procuring a PFI Contract using £65 million from the Department of Transport, which will replace upwards of 85% of the County's street lighting over a 5-year period between 2007 and 2012.

This Project will bring huge economies of scale and as such the County has made the decision not to replace any of its old lighting until then, with minor exceptions made to this rule. Your request will be placed on record and will be reviewed when the contract is let early next year. Further Details of the project can be found on Surrey County Council's web site.

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

Robert Walker, Congestion and dangers to pedestrians on Hook Road

Mr Walker referred to his question from the previous meeting about congestion and asked what had been done since the previous meeting, and what was planned to be done. Due to the congestion and the narrowness of the road (particularly the right of the road as one travels into Epsom), lorries mount the pavement causing danger to pedestrians, particularly schoolchildren using the route. He said there is no school sign and someone had recently been struck by a vehicles wing mirror. Other street furniture (a flashing green man sign) had been hit by a vehicle. He said that something should be done to avoid a further tragedy. (He reported that there had not yet been a police report about the recent fatal accident on Hook Road.)

Councillor Response

The Chairman thanked Mr Walker and said that his points would be considered under Item 9 on the Agenda.

Andrew Reynolds, Dangerous traffic on Hook Road

Mr Reynolds reported that although for some hours of the day the road is congested, at other times (i.e. early morning and late at night) vehicles including large trucks do travel at excessive speeds. Vehicles mount the pavement and kerb stones are frequently displaced. An iron bollard has been flattened and then broken off, but not yet replaced. Mr Reynolds asked that the bollard be replaced and other bollards installed along the road to prevent vehicles mounting the pavement. He also asked that the road be part of a 20 mph zone. He cautioned of the dangers that were posed by a lorry jack-knifing, and asked that steps be taken to protect the pavement and pedestrians.

Councillor Response

The Chairman thanked Mr Reynolds and said that his points would be considered under Item 9 on the Agenda.

Stephen Dyke, Mid- Surrey Mencap, Closure of Wells House

Mr Dyke circulated the question below:

“The County Councils executive committee agreed on 21st November to the suspension of respite care for children with disabilities at Wells House. Final closure occurred on 1st December.

This is despite Andrew Crisps answer to the full County Council on 17th October that the closure would only be confirmed when " every option has been considered ...and alternative arrangements are in place which are acceptable to the family and suitable for the child"

At time of writing there are at least 2 families not yet in receipt of suitable and acceptable interim arrangements. The document officials prepared for the executive showed that few practical alternatives to their plan to sequence the movement of Freemantle School and Karibu House were considered. The executive meeting itself lasted only 40 minutes and the item for Wells House was completed in 7 shows this plan has come under no scrutiny.

Given (a) the proposed new respite home in Tadworth has not yet received planning permission and is not expected to be ready until between August and November 2007 at the earliest meaning less respite care for everyone across the County for at least the next year.

(b) Additionally the poor use of public money for example in spending £240,000 to remove disability equipment from Wells House that has only been in place for less than 2 years .

(c) The stress and hardship caused to the disabled children ,their families and carers by these changes which have been rushed and allowed no time for orderly transistions to new services for children with profound and multiple disabilities and severe autism.

Can this committee recommend the closure of Wells House is put on hold until the decisions have been properly scrutinised and other alternatives such as finding rented or permanent accomodation for the Karibu House children within Surrey nearer to Woking have been properly investigated.”

Mr Dyke refered to a specific family with a child with severe autism, who had taken 2 years to settle at Wells House. He asked whether the closure could even now be put on hold. Mr Dyke said there was confusion about the exact date for closure, the 8th December having been given, but the manager at Wells House saying 1st December.

Councillors' Responses

The Chairman said that Mr Dyke would receive a written response in 5 days.

Colin Taylor said that he had been in discussion with officers about this issue.

Nigel Pavey said that he attended the Executive meeting in question and confirmed that there was little time given to the item.

Chris Frost said that he would speak to the Executive Member for Children about this issue.