

**Minutes of the meeting of Surrey County Council's  
Local Committee in Epsom and Ewell held at  
19.00 on Monday 19 March 2007 at the  
Lintons Lane Youth Centre, Epsom**

**Members Present – Surrey County Council**

Chris Frost [Epsom & Ewell  
South East]  
Jan Mason [Epsom & Ewell West]  
NRM Petrie Esq MBE [Epsom  
& Ewell North East]

Jean Smith [Epsom & Ewell North]  
[Chairman]

**Members Present – Epsom and Ewell Borough Council**

Cllr Brian Angus [Ewell]  
Cllr Pamela Bradley [Ewell]  
Cllr Michael Richardson [Woodcote]

Cllr Graham Dudley [Cuddington]  
Cllr Nigel Pavey [Stamford]

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**PART ONE**

**IN PUBLIC**

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

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

**07**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Colin Taylor.

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

**07**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2007 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

Julia Penfound, Area Director, noted that the Children Centres Report would not be presented to the March meeting of the Local Committee as recorded in Minute Number 16/07.

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

**07**

Councillor Nigel Pavey declared a personal interest in respect of item 11 as he was a Governor at Danetree Junior School.

**20/  
07**     **PETITIONS [Item 4]**

No petitions were received

**21/  
07**     **WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTION TIME [Item 5]**

There were no written public questions received.

**22/  
07**     **MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME [Item 6]**

Two Members questions were received as set out in the annex attached together with the answers given.

**23/  
07**     **YELL [Item 8]**

The Committee agreed at the beginning of the meeting to change the order of Agenda items to take the YELL presentation before the adjournment.

The Committee received a presentation from YELL – Epsom and Ewell Youth Forum. The presentation was made by several young people involved in YELL who reported to the Local Committee on their activities in the past year and their plans for 2007.

**24/  
07**     **ADJOURNMENT [item 7]**

The Committee adjourned between 7.50pm and 8.00pm to receive questions from the public but none were received.

**25/  
07**     **LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN [Item 10]**

The Committee agreed to change the order of the Agenda to take the item on Looked After Children next.

Janet Forster, Area Manager Surrey Childrens' Service – North East Surrey, presented the report.

The Committee were also given a verbal update on an analysis of the Epsom and Ewell Borough as of the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2007. This update included informing the Committee that there were currently 20 Looked after Children in the Borough.

Janet Forster was asked to send Members literature on fostering. Members also asked for details of how they could monitor the progress of a Looked After Child.

It was then **RESOLVED** that:

- i)       Elected Members be aware of their role as Corporate Parents.

- ii) Elected Members support officers in their work to support Looked after Children and improve their attainment.

**26/07 LONGMEAD ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY ROSEBERY HOUSING ASSOCIATION [Item 9]**

David Bayliss, Rosebery Housing Association, and Sioned Williams, Groundwork, gave a presentation to the Committee on the Environmental Strategy for the Longmead Estate. The presentation detailed the main issues with the area and their plans for improvement.

It was then **RESOLVED** that:

- i) The Committee was broadly in support of the general findings and proposals.
- ii) The Committee in principle supports the involvement of Surrey County Council and Epsom & Ewell Borough Council in developing the opportunity for strategic environmental improvements on the Longmead Estate by relevant partners.

**27/07 EDUCATION SERVICES [Item 11]**

The Committee was reminded by Julia Penfound of the protocol for discussing school performance.

Helen Nowicki, North East Local Education Officer, presented the report relating to the education of pupils within the Borough. The Committee were particularly interested to clarify how they could support schools and pupil groups to facilitate further improvements. Helen Nowicki stressed that one of the ways they could do this was to encourage local schools to join the Epsom and Ewell Confederation.

Mrs. Jean Smith declared a personal interest in this item as she was a Governor of Riverview school.

It was **RESOLVED** that Members would identify ways in which their support of schools, and/or pupil groups, can facilitate further improvements to education within the Borough.

**28/07 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT [Item 12]**

Julia Penfound presented the Chairman's Report to the Local Committee.

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

**29/07 MEMBERS' ALLOCATIONS [Item 13]**

Julia Penfound presented in the report and asked Members to note that if all the requests were approved it would mean an overspend for certain Councillors which would impact the 2007/08 budget.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Committee agree the following:

Funding from the Members' Allocation Revenue budget:

- i) £500 – Mead School – Enhancing PSHE (Jean Smith)
- ii) £500 – Cuddington School – Garden Project (Jean Smith)
- iii) £500 – West Ewell Infant School – Conservatory (Jean Smith)
- iv) £500 – Riverview School – ICT Project (Jean Smith)
- v) £370 – Young People's Arts Award (Jean Smith)
- vi) £1000 – The Lighthouse Project – Resource Centre Improvements (Jan Mason)
- vii) £500 – Community Fun Day – Ruxley Community Partnership (Jan Mason)
- viii) £900 – Danetree School – Kitchen Refurbishment (Jan Mason)
- ix) £500 – Benches and Sign for Horton Country Park (Jan Mason)
- x) £242 – Environmental Improvements - Bulb Planting (Jan Mason)
- xi) £2000 – Bollards in Dorking Road (Chris Frost)
- xii) £2500 – Vehicle Activated Sign in Woodcote Green Road (Chris Frost)
- xiii) £2500 – Vehicle Activated Sign in Ashley Road (Chris Frost)
- xiv) £1500 – Howell Hill Land Development – Ecology and Wildlife Reports for Woodland to the Rear of Beverley Close (Nigel Petrie)
- xv) £1360 – Local Committee Publicity – Newspaper Advertising (£272 each – Jan Mason, Chris Frost, Jean Smith, Colin Taylor, Nigel Petrie)
- xvi) £6,500 – Footpath Improvement – Ewell East Station to Nescot (Nigel Petrie) subject to the following conditions:
  - i. The project would be reviewed by the Local Committee in six months (September 2007), by which time;
  - ii. The scheme is to have been fully designed with full costs submitted;
  - iii. All interested parties to have formally agreed to the scheme; and
  - iv. Balance of funding from partners to have been confirmed.

The Committee agreed to fund the following from their Capital Budget:

- xvii) £7,050 – Drainage in Meadow Walk – under railway bridge
- xviii) £9,050 – Drainage in Reigate Road – vicinity of Downs Farm

**30/ FORWARD PROGRAMME [Item 14]**

07

Julia Penfound presented the Forward Programme for the consideration of the Committee. The following extra items were proposed and agreed for the next formal Local Committee meeting:

Report on Roads and Street Lighting  
Report on Children's Centres  
Report on Green Ark  
Report on Drainage issue in High Street

**31/  
07**     **DATE OF NEXT MEETING [Item 15]**

The Committee noted the date of the next meeting on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2007 at Bourne Hall starting at 7.00pm.

**32/  
07**     **REVIEW OF ADULT EDUCATION [Item 16]**

Linda Piercy, Head of Adult and Community Learning, and Yvonne Rees, Head of Libraries and Culture, presented the report on the Review of Adult Education to the Committee.

It was then **RESOLVED** that the Committee agree to:

- i) Note the proposals made by the Learning and Skills Council for the delivery of adult and community learning in Epsom and Ewell from August 2007.
- ii) Advise Officers of any local issues or concerns that the Learning and Skills Council should take into account in planning adult and community learning in Epsom and Ewell.

**33/  
07**     **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC [Item 17]**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Committee would exclude the press and public for consideration of the next item by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Paragraph 3 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

**PART TWO**

**IN PRIVATE**

**34/  
07**     **REVIEW OF ADULT EDUCATION IN EPSOM & EWELL [Item 18]**

Linda Piercy, Head of Adult and Community Learning, and Yvonne Rees, Head of Libraries and Culture, presented the report on the Review of Adult Education to the Committee

Mrs. Jean Smith declared a personal interest in this item as she was a member of the WEA.

It was the **RESOLVED** that the Committee agree to:

- i) Note the additional information and to advise officers of any local issues or concerns that the Learning and Skills Council should take into account in planning adult and community learning in Epsom and Ewell.

Meeting Ended: 10.20pm

## **ANNEXE A**

### **SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN EPSOM & EWELL – 19 MARCH 2007**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6**

#### **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

##### **Question 1 – Mr Chris Frost (Epsom and Ewell South East)**

###### **Bus Stop**

A bus stop has been erected in Woodcote Side. Buses are using it to park until it is time to start their next journey; often drivers are leaving their engines running. There was no consultation with local residents or me. Not surprisingly, residents are not happy. Not only are they upset at not being informed this was going to happen, and having diesel fumes created near their front doors, but they are concerned that the stop is too near the blind bend and could cause an accident.

There is a long straight stretch of Woodcote Side, with a grassed area on one side and Epsom Common on the other that could have been used to site the stop.

Why was another stop deemed necessary, when there are bus lay-bys in Dorking Road that have been used for years to park buses?

Why was no-one consulted so that their local knowledge could have been used?

Will Officers consider moving it to the area indicated?

###### **Officer Response:**

In accordance with Surrey County Council's agreed procedure for locating bus stops, a site meeting was arranged by the Passenger Transport Group to discuss a proposed bus stop in Woodcote Side (invitation email dated 30 Nov 2006). The meeting took place on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2006, and the list of invitees included the local County Councillor, the local Borough Councillors, the Police, the Bus Company running the 293 service, and an Engineer from the East Area Local Transportation Service.

Under the procedure no consultation with residents takes place. However before the bus stop is installed, there is a requirement that the County Council write to the residents in the immediate vicinity to explain why the location was selected. In this instance, a letter was hand delivered to the adjoining

property, and the resident has subsequently contacted the Passenger Transport Group to discuss the matter.

The request for the bus stop was made by a local resident of Wilmerhatch Lane, who has a son who attends Glynn School, and for whom the nearest bus stop is either in Dorking Road or by the Hospital in Woodcote Green Road. In addition a resident of Woodcote Side had asked if a bus stop could be provided in Woodcote Side.

The 293 service terminates at the Epsom Hospital and there is a bus stand provided on Dorking Road for buses to wait. In order to return towards Epsom, the buses have always travelled up Dorking Road, into Woodcote Side, and down Woodcote Green Road emerging back on to Dorking Road before heading on to Epsom.

The bus stop in Woodcote Side is not a designated bus stand, and therefore there should never be a situation when a bus is left with its engine running. If details of the times when this practice happens are forwarded on to the Passenger Transport Group (08456 009 009), the County Council will take up the matter with the Bus Company.

All who attended the site meeting, including the police, felt that the location of the bus stop would not compromise road safety, as the service was fairly infrequent in terms of use.

## **Question 2 - Mr Chris Frost (Epsom and Ewell South East)**

### **Streetlights**

Some lights in Avenue Road have been out of action for nearly a year. Despite many requests from local residents and me, no news has been forthcoming to explain why it is taking so long to get them repaired. Just round the corner in Worple Road another three lights have also been out of action for many months. Again, no-one knows why they cannot be repaired.

Please give me an explanation that I can pass onto residents.

### **Officer response:**

The problem with the street lighting columns in Worple Road and Avenue Road concerns private electrical cable faults.

Raynesway, the County Council's lighting contractor, has attended the site to investigate the faults. The contractor found that the existing cable is an old paper / lead cable type. Unfortunately Raynesway no longer have staff whom are accredited to work on this old type of cable.

Therefore the County Council has placed an order with Raynesway to excavate and run new private electrical supplies to the unlit lamp columns from the nearest points of power supply.



Although a new power supply was installed for one of the affected lamp columns, Raynesway have yet to connect power to the remaining defective lamp columns, as the major trenching works that are required lie outside of their normal maintenance contract.

Following continuing pressure from Surrey County Council, Raynesway has agreed to engage specialist subcontractors to carry out the required work. Regrettably, as indicated in the replies from the East Area Transportation Service provided in January and February 2007, the work has still yet to take place. It is understood that Raynesway now wish to programme the work in Worple Road and Avenue Road to coincide with similar work on other sites elsewhere.

The County Council have advised Raynesway that this situation is totally unsatisfactory and require the necessary reconnections carried out as a matter of urgency.