



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE**  
**[Epsom & Ewell]**

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

**7 March 2011**

**KEY ISSUE:**

This report examines the work of the Local Committee in Epsom & Ewell over the last year.

**SUMMARY:**

The report describes the work of the Local Committee and the Local Partnerships Team during 2010/2011, and the work of the Local Strategic Partnership and Community Safety Partnership [known as the Crime, Disorder & Reduction Partnership in other areas across Surrey].

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Local Committee [Epsom & Ewell] is asked to note this report for information.

**1. INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Epsom & Ewell Local Committee has held 4 formal meetings and 3 informal meetings during 2010/2011.

**2. ANALYSIS and COMMENTARY**

- 2.1 The meetings have been well attended by the public with an average of 10-15 people attending each Local Committee meeting to ask informal questions, and listen to the Officers reporting on parking restrictions, speed limits, and local issues. Some meetings have had higher numbers in response to particular issues such as: the introduction of waiting restrictions, the proposal for a mini roundabout in Downs Road to slow down the traffic, and a proposed traffic restraint and crossing at a local school.

- 2.2 **Public question time** is held at each of our formal meetings, when the formal meeting is suspended to take informal public questions. Members of the public and local businesses may pose questions to the Officers and Members present, and if they are unable to answer the questions then a written response is provided after the meeting.

Having an informal public question time at the Local Committee meetings has

worked well in the last year, as Highway Officers in particular are able to respond to members of the public on the sometimes difficult and controversial topics such as waiting restrictions in some of the borough's narrow streets, and increased speed limits on side roads. It is evident that the public value this form of engagement.

Formal questions can be submitted prior to the meeting from members of the public, local businesses, and Members of the Local Committee, and written responses are available at the meeting.

Over the last year there have been 4 written public questions and 18 written Member questions at four Local Committee meetings. These questions have been on a variety of subjects ranging, from the bus stand in the High Street, Epsom, traffic flow through Epsom High Street, carriageway resurfacing on minor roads, national initiative to reduce street clutter, the late night taxi rank in Epsom Town Centre, increased parking problems in Ewell adjacent to a senior school, where pupils park, and speeding in a built up area. Since one Member raised the issue of street clutter, and as this issue is part of the EEBC's Plan E; a report was presented to the 10 December meeting for an initiative on de-cluttering street furniture. Subsequently a meeting involving local Members and Highways has been held, with another planned to endeavour to agree a style of new street furniture and de-clutter for example bollards no longer required in the market place.

- 2.3. **Petitions** – five petitions have been taken to the Local Committee in the last year, with one being brought to this meeting on the request for parking restrictions in Kingston Road. These petitions have covered - a local business expressing their concern regarding the new traffic flow system into Blenheim Road waste stations, the condition of grass verges with a request for a change to hard standing, traffic control at a major junction in Ewell, and a proposed traffic restraint measure and crossing facility at a local school.

The Local Partnerships Team has produced a table listing the petitions submitted to the Local Committee, to enable members of the committee to monitor this aspect of the Local Committees remit.

- 2.4. **Reports** - The Committee has taken 36 reports in 2010. An analysis of the breadth of these reports is attached as Annex A, with the Transportation/Highways reports accounting for more than half of these.

As a comparison, in 2009 - 32 reports were taken to the Local Committee, 16 of which were on Transportation/Highways, and in 2008 a total of 29. Most reports that are now taken to the formal Local Committee meetings are for decision, or of public interest. The reports that are for information only are generally taken to the informal Local Committee meetings. Therefore, Members and the public have benefited from more qualitative and topical presentations and reports specific to Epsom and Ewell.

The Local Partnerships Team has taken specific steps to ensure that members of the committee and residents have access to all relevant documentation ahead of formal committee meetings.

- 2.5. **Informal Meetings** - Members have also met at 3 Informal Local Committee meetings in 2010. These meetings have been an opportunity for some of the County's services to bring items for information to the Members attention that do

not require formal Committee approval. Some of the topics reported on have been the North East Children's Services update, Surrey Fire & Rescue annual report, neighbourhood policing and the Drive Smart campaign [an initiative between SCC and Surrey Police], the Joint Waste Strategy [SCC working together with the Borough Councils], and the new Street Lighting PFI Contract and Column replacement programme – coming to Epsom & Ewell in 2012, currently being rolled out across the county.

- 2.6. **Local issues** – The Local Committee is responsive to Local Issues and has established a number of Task Groups. In 2009 a Joint Parking Strategy Task Group was formed with County and Borough Councillors involvement alongside Officers from SCC parking team, and EEBC parking with the aim that residents of the Borough have a parking strategy that is fit for purpose and meets their needs. This group has met a couple of times in 2010, and so far once in 2011, with the proposal of an on street parking charges report coming to this meeting, the work of this group is on-going for 2010/11.
- 2.7. **Partner agencies** – The Local Committee has not taken any reports from partner agencies in 2010, but several bids were put forward for the £200k deprivation fund that SCC's Cabinet agreed in December. The successful bids for Epsom & Ewell were the debt advice of £7,500 for the Citizens Advice Bureau, and £2,000 for health champions – Surrey Primary Care Trust.
- 2.8. **Resolutions to the Cabinet** - Whilst there has not been any Resolutions to the Cabinet this year, both County and Borough Members supported the proposal through Civil Parking Enforcement to prohibit parking on a verge/footway in urban areas by means of a Traffic Regulation Order, and this has been recommended for Epsom & Ewell to Dr Andrew Povey, leader of the Council.

### 3. **AREAS OF WORK OUTSIDE THE LOCAL COMMITTEE**

James Painter, Area Director North – covering Epsom & Ewell, Spelthorne and Elmbridge, has been working with statutory and voluntary partners and liaising with SCC Officers in brokering projects with partners. He is also a member of the Local Strategic Partnership – see item 3.3 below.

Lynda Tarling, Local Committee & Partnership Officer has administered both the informal and formal Local Committee meetings, with the support of Margaret Bower, Local Support Assistant until her retirement in late September, and latterly Cheryl Poole undertaking the role on a temporary basis for 6 months. They both work alongside Members to support community engagement and deliver local improvements through the Committee.

Lynda has been brokering improvements in partnerships particularly on the stronger communities deprivation areas of Epsom & Ewell of Ruxley and Court to endeavour to ensure effective partnership working with statutory partners and the voluntary sector. She is also involved with statutory partners in the Community Safety Partnership see item 4. below.

Cheryl undertakes the pivotal role of managing the Members Allocations and capital grant funding, reporting the allocations back to SCC's financial central budgets, and preparing the papers for the Local Committee.

- 3.1 **Crime & Disorder** - James Painter is the County Council officer representative on the Community Safety Partnership, sitting alongside County Councillor Jan Mason who represents the Local Committee. Lynda Tarling is a member of the

Community Safety Partnership, and also attends the Joint Action Group and Nuisance Prevention Group meetings which report to the CSP on issues of local concern to agencies. The statutory agencies are involved in both the LSP and CSP, with the chair of the CSP currently held by the Borough Council.

The input of Lynda Tarling was key to the production of the strategic assessments identifying the priorities for 2011, which was carried out in December 2010 and the following are the recommended priority areas for 2011/12:

- Bogus callers/distractions burglary/rogue traders
- Anti social rowdy/nuisance behaviour [including issues relating to alcohol
- Anti-social use of motor vehicles [including anti-social driving and parking issues
- Dwelling burglary
- Domestic abuse remains an on-going priority issue

Successful outcomes from the work of the Community Safety Partnership in the last year include:

- The promotion of a variety of Community Safety messages at Youth Leisure Day (YLD Xtreme) including Crimestoppers, Substance Misuse, Domestic Abuse, Anti Social Driving, Name that Tag, and a talk by an ex convict on 'Life on the Inside'.
- Targeted youth diversionary activities including the Community Merits scheme, Longmeadz Kick'n football initiative, a Community BBQ, Cricket and Basketball sessions, and Parkour (free running).
- Work to tackle ASB with local Social Landlords, including the sharing of best practice through a Housing Providers Forum, and the setting up of a Family Intervention Project.
- Test purchasing for underage alcohol sales. Only one contravening sale out of 19 took place, and advice was given about fake identification.
- Work with schools, including the Safer Schools initiative at Blenheim High, ASB workbooks at Epsom & Ewell High school, Junior Citizens' booklets at Epsom Primary School, Southfield Park and Riverview Primary Schools, and Police engagement through school surgeries and Panel work.
- A borough-wide mentor scheme for young people at risk of offending
- Targeted initiatives to tackle graffiti including Name that Tag, Community Action clean up week and Community Merits work.

3.2 **Stronger Communities** – The Local Partnerships Team and support of the Local Committee is a key component of the work on Stronger Communities within the Borough. James Painter is Chairman on the Stronger Communities Partnership Board comprising Officers from EEBC, Rosebery Housing Association, Surrey Primary Care Trust, Surrey Police and the voluntary sector driving the agenda of strengthening the local community of Court and Ruxley. Lynda Tarling plays a pivotal role in relation to the working of partnership and liaising with partners locally and commands the respect of all colleagues.

A number of projects have been successfully delivered in these areas, with funding from this group, Members Allocations and other available funding. These include:

- newsletters produced and delivered to Court and Ruxley residents,
- funding towards a Family Intervention Project key worker,
- contribution towards the Longmeadz Kick'n sessions,
- Riverview Primary School – holiday play scheme,

- junior citizen booklets,
- summer activities through Homestart,
- Ruxley Fun day run by the Riverview Children's Centre – amounting to approximately £12,800.

Most of the funded projects involved children and young people as around 60% of the participants were under 16. The Stronger Communities Action Plan shows this age group as an area of need, although evidence provided by the heat maps shows there are also other areas in need of support and going forward to 2011 other projects supporting older people will be part of the focus of the Stronger Communities Steering Group, although generally the group will support all residents of these two wards. Evidence has been collected which highlighted that over 300 residents have benefited from activities instigated by the partnership to date.

- 3.3 **Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)** - The Local Partnership Team. have contributed to the LSP in Epsom and Ewell. The LSP oversees the implementation of the sustainable community strategy and the past year has seen the re-writing of this document, the setting of the various thematic groups and their early meetings reporting back to the LSP. As Chairman of the Local Committee I also sit on the LSP. The priorities of the 5 different thematic groups [Children & Young People, Health, Housing and Well-being, Economic, Environment, and Safer & Stronger Communities] were set, and leads for each of the thematic groups identified.

James chairs Children & Young People's group that sits beneath the LSP and a couple of meetings have taken place this year, with Officers from SCC and EEBC and other statutory partners and the voluntary sector sharing their areas of work, and drawing up an action plan to address short and medium term issues for the borough. Work is currently being taken forward to pilot a new approach to working with High Need Families across agencies in Epsom & Ewell in conjunction with colleagues in the Borough council.

It had been identified at the December 2009 meeting that the statutory and third sector organisation were not good at working in partnership with the faith groups within the area. A working party was set up and an event took place in June 2010 to examine the work being done and what valuable services the faith groups were offering.

This workshop used maps of the borough to position the activity and a report was produced following this workshop. A further workshop to discuss the implementation of the borough's sustainable community strategy is due to take place in March 2011 to set out the vision for the future of Epsom & Ewell.

3.4 **Work with Epsom & Ewell Borough Council**

Both James and Lynda work closely with colleagues in the EEBC on Crime and Disorder and the LSP. Highway colleagues also work with the EEBC Parking Officer and other borough officers to endeavour to solve various local issues.

4. **OTHER PARTNERSHIP WORK:**

- 4.1. The County Councillors, Chris Frost, David Wood, Eber Kington, Jan Mason and Colin Taylor have all had meetings with a Member of SCC Leadership Team, and visits to their wards and feedback. Also a visit had taken place with the lead officers of EEBC and SCC Leadership Team in September 2011 to discuss partnership working, the Epsom Hub, education and schools and Surrey First [an

initiative on more joined up working with the districts and boroughs in Surrey] and Highways.

**5. CONSULTATIONS:**

Consultation involving the community and statutory and voluntary partners from the outset has been a key principle in taking forward and developing local initiatives. All County Councillors with the assistance of Officers when required, are committed to ensure local residents are kept fully informed of issues in their areas. For example, the recent advertising of the Phase 5 waiting restrictions.

**6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Council's Local Committee in Epsom and Ewell has contributed to many of the partnership projects within the Borough, reinforcing the reputation of the Council's Members at a local level.

Each County Councillor was allocated a budget of £8250 in 2010/11 to be spent on schemes and projects, which promote social, environmental or economic well-being. The Committee as a whole was also given a £30k capital allocation grant. The Committee intends to commit all its funding for this financial year. Members have used their allowances for a wide variety of initiatives. (See Annexe 1 of Members Allocations Report Item no. 18].

The £30K capital allocation pot has been used to enable some larger scale projects. [See Annexe 1 of the Members Allocations' Report Item no 18 for further details].

**7. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

The LPT works with partner agencies to address crime and disorder issues within the borough on a regular basis. There are no crime and disorder implications regarding this report.

**8. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1. A key aspect of all initiatives is to ensure sensitivity and responsiveness to diversity. The Local Committee is sensitive to the needs of the community and positively promotes equality through our activity and communications. The Local Committee ensures that the meetings are held in a variety of venues in the Borough, chosen for their accessibility and relevance locally of the items on the agenda. If any member of the public requires the papers in large print or Braille, or another language, or special requirements such as an induction loop, this can be undertaken as required.

**9. CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

This report sets out the Chairman's view of the ninth year of operation of the Local Committee. It concludes that it has been a successful year measured against the aims and ambitions for the Local Committee as set out by the Council and by the Committee itself. The County Councillors and Borough Councillors within Epsom and Ewell work well together on the local committee.

There is work in progress on the localism agenda that through the Local Strategic Partnership and other initiatives proposed by SCC and other statutory partners in these challenging financial times and Local Committees will play a pivotal role in delivering these over the coming year.

## ITEM 17

The Local Committee [Epsom & Ewell] and the Local Partnerships Team remains the key tool for partnership working and citizen engagement within the borough acting on behalf of the Council and its Members locally.

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