

**DRAFT MINUTES TO BE FORMALLY APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE AT
ITS MEETING ON 20 JANUARY 2005**



SURREY
COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting

GUILDFORD LOCAL COMMITTEE

Date: THURSDAY DECEMBER 9TH 2004

Time: 2.00 pm (The formal Committee began at 2.30pm.)

Place: COUNCIL CHAMBER, GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL,
MILLMEAD HOUSE, GUILDFORD GU2 4BB

Members present:

Surrey County Council

Mr Nick Brougham (Guildford East)
Mr John Ades (Ash)
Mr Tom Sharp (Guildford South)
Mrs Mary Laker (Worplesdon)
Dr Joe Bullock (Guildford West)
Mr Bill Barker (Horsleys)
Mrs Veronica Stiastry (Shalford)
Mr David Davis (Shere)

Guildford Borough Council (for Transportation matters)

Mr Keith Chesterton (Stoke)
Ms Liz Hogger (Effingham)*
Ms Jenny Wicks (Clandon & Horsley)
Ms Diana Lockyer-Nibbs (Normandy)
Mr Terence Patrick (Send)
Ms Merilyn Spier (Merrow)*
Mr Mike Nevins (Pirbright)
Mr Nigel Manning (Ash Vale)
Ms Vivienne Johnson (Christchurch)

* Substitute

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The following issues were raised during the informal public questions session:

- Condition and maintenance of the Guildford road network (Mr Jim Crawford – Surrey Tax Action Group)
- National Cycle Route 22 (Item 9) (Mr Tim Harrold – Tyting Society, Holy Trinity Amenity Group)
- Reconstruction of Vale Road Bridge, Ash (Mr Peter Monk – Ash Vale resident)

All references to Items refer to the Agenda for the meeting.

IN PUBLIC

115/04 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]

Apologies for absence were received from Dr John Hobrough, Dr Robert Blundell (substituted by Liz Hogger) and Tony Phillips (substituted by Merilyn Spier).

116/04 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (21 October 2004) [Item 2]

Agreed and signed by the Chairman.

117/04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

Nick Brougham declared a personal interest in Item 9 as a member of the Tyting Society. Mary Laker declared a personal interest in relation to Item 16 being a member of the Surrey Hants Borders Mental Health Trust and the Guildford & Waverley Primary Care Trust. She is also a governor of Pirbright School.

118/04 PETITIONS (Item 4)

None received.

119/04 WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS (Item 5)

A question had been received from Geoff Whittle, Acting Chairman of G4 residents association (residents of Artillery Road, Artillery Terrace, Church Road and George Road). The question related to Item 7 and was taken under this Item. (Both question and answer are appended to these minutes.)

120/04 WRITTEN MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (Item 6)

None received.

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TRANSPORTATION MATTERS

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS FOR DECISION

121/04 ON-STREET PARKING REVIEW (ITEM 7)

The Guildford Borough Council Parking Manager responded to the written question (see minute 119/04 above). Geoff Whittle (Acting Chairman of the 4G Residents Association, David Goodwin (GBC Councillor for Friary and St Nicolas) and Gordon Bridger (GBC Councillor for Holy Trinity) addressed the Committee and made a number of points.

Members discussed a range of issues including:

- The painstaking approach taken to consultation by officers to date
- Different experiences of the CPZ by residents in different areas, and the different needs for future consultation

David Davis proposed an eighth recommendation:

(viii) that the cost of the surveys referred to in paragraph 17 and recommendation (ii) of the report be met from the on-street account.

Members agreed the officer recommendations in the report and the eighth recommendation as above.

122/04 PROPOSED NEW STATION AT MERROW (ITEM 8)

Members made a number of points including:

- The different conclusions by separate consultants' reports
- The need to retain the opportunity to promote alternative and sustainable transport in Guildford
- The need to retain SCC's land at the proposed site for the time being
- The current status of the land and the availability of alternative sites
- The apparently small number of parking spaces being proposed

The Local Transportation Director and the Rail Development Officer responded to Members comments and questions.

David Davis proposed that either recommendation (iii) in the report should be deleted or it should be reversed to read "that Surrey County Council should continue to safeguard land in the Merrow depot site for use as part of the proposed new station".

Members agreed recommendations (i) and (ii) in the report:

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- (i) **that the conclusion of the feasibility study, i.e. that the cost benefit case for the proposed new station at Merrow cannot be made, be noted**
- (ii) **that the County Council undertakes no further work to progress the new Merrow station unless there is, at some future date, a material change in the situation making it possible to justify the provision of a new station**

Recommendation (iii) was not agreed.

123/04 NATIONAL CYCLE ROUTE 22 (ITEM 9)

Members made a number of comments. Tim Harrold (see above) addressed the Committee and expressed concern that various stakeholder organisations be fully consulted before any decision of the Committee be made.

The Local Transportation Director proposed an **amended recommendation, which was agreed by Members:**

- (i) **that the proposed route through the borough of Guildford for National Cycle Network Route 22 as shown on the plans in ANNEXE A and described in the text of the report be approved in principle for implementation subject to funding being made available and to consultation on the detailed design of the route with appropriate organisations as and when each part of the route is implemented.**

124/04 A322 WORPLESDON ROAD ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME (ITEM 10)

Members agreed the officer recommendation in the report.

125/04 MINOR IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAMME REVIEW 2005/6 (ITEM 11)

Some Members inquired about specific schemes listed in the report. The Principal Engineer and Local Transportation Director responded and undertook to provide further information about the proposed timing of schemes.

Members agreed the officer recommendations.

126/04 SPEED LIMIT PRIORITISATION 2005/6 (ITEM 12)

Members agreed the officer recommendations.

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127/04 EGERTON ROAD IMPROVEMENTS (ITEM 13)

[A revised version of the report was circulated before the start of the meeting and is available on request and also on the SCC website: www.surreycc.gov.uk/guildford.]

Keith Chesterton and the Local Transportation Director proposed a recommendation to reduce the costs of the scheme, and refer part of the scheme to the Transportation Task Group for further consideration.

Members agreed the officer recommendations in the revised report with an amended recommendation (iv) and an additional recommendation (viii):

(iv) that the revised proposal for cycle facilities on Egerton Road as described in the report be approved subject to Safety Audit and to the necessary funding being made available (but see additional resolution (viii) below).

(viii) that the new part of the cycle path network between the underpass and the cathedral roundabout (shown in dark blue on the plan no SK-23 which was on display at the meeting) be deleted from the proposals approved by recommendation (iv) in order to reduce the cost of the proposal; instead this part of the proposal, or alternatives to it, be referred to the Transportation Task Group to be considered for addition to the future minor schemes programme.

128/04 MAJOR MAINTENANCE (ITEM 14)

This Item was for information only.

GENERAL MATTERS

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

FOR DECISION

**129/04 SURREY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE PERFORMANCE IN
GUILDFORD (ITEM 15)**

The service Borough Manager presented the report and answered the comments and questions put by Members on a range of issues including:

- smoke detectors
- nursery school activity boxes
- insurance
- the level of financial support for the service from all 11 Local Committees.

Members agreed the officer recommendations.

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**130/04 ADULTS AND COMMUNITY CARE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE (ITEM
16)**

The South West Area Director presented the report and answered the comments and questions put by Members on a range of issues including:

- the number of residential and nursing home places at SCC fee levels
- the success of the service in meeting its strategic aim of providing home-based care for people with disabilities where appropriate.
- The progress towards integrated health and social care teams
- The decreasing numbers of private homes and the action taken by the service to address this in Surrey and in Guildford.

Members agreed the officer recommendations.

**131/04 PLANNING AND COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE – ANNUAL REPORT
(ITEM 17)**

The Head of Transportation Development Control Division presented the report and answered the comments and questions put by Members on a range of issues including:

- The overall state of the Rights of Way network in Guildford, staffing and volunteer management of this part of the service
- The number of Minerals and Waste enforcement notices issued
- The need for future reports to include details of the work of Surrey Wildlife Trust, and the consideration of GBC and SCC working more closely together.

Members noted the report.

132/04 CHILDREN'S SERVICE PERFORMANCE REPORT (ITEM 18)

The South West Area Manager presented the report and answered the comments and questions put by Members on a range of issues including:

- The future of Thornchace School (Nick Brougham declared a personal interest as a governor of the school)
- education performance of Looked After Children
- Counselling services for children under 11 years old
- Allocation of Child Protection cases to qualified social workers
- Services offered to families post-adoption
- Facilities at the Children's Centre in North Guildford
- The engagement of the service with schools in Guildford

Members agreed the officer recommendations.

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133/04 MEMBERS REVENUE BIDS (ITEM 19)

Tom Sharp and Veronica Stiasny proposed £4,000 each towards two Vehicle Activated Signs at Tillingbourne Bridge. Tom Sharp proposed up to £3,716 for improvements at Sandfield School.

Members agreed both bids.

134/04 FORWARD PROGRAMME (ITEM 20)

Members agreed the Forward Programme.

[Meeting ended 5.05 p.m.]

.....(Mr Bill Barker - Chairman)

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Item 5: Written Public Questions

**GEOFF WHITTLE & CAROLINE REEVES on behalf of G4,
the Residents Association of Artillery Road, Artillery Terrace,
Church Road & George Road**

Q A large majority of residents of the above area have expressed great concern over the rapidly increasing problem of parking under current council restrictions, which is compounded by its proximity to the town centre, and would ask that the committee give urgent attention to the following:

1. That over 1000 permits have been issued for 326 permit only spaces. This begs both a review of potential additional spaces, a revision of the resident/dual use imbalance and verification of eligibility for permits.
2. That this area is more heavily used by out of town visitors wishing to avoid car parking charges within the town shopping centre than perhaps any other zone – with the result that dual use bays are monopolised by them and their use is inadequately monitored.
3. That consideration be given to extending controlled times of residents parking bays to 8pm in order to give those returning from work a fighting chance of parking near their homes.
4. That dual use bay waiting times be reduced to one hour.
5. That current ‘scratch card’ allocations be increased in number, but not cost, as only residents acquire and pay for these on behalf of their visitors.
6. That under no circumstances should a waiting list be introduced for permits as this merely acknowledges a problem created by the planning department’s inability to consider on-street parking as part of a planning application. By sanctioning increased parking provision with approval of planning permissions the council passes the penalty on to the resident who then finds that subsequent sale of their property will be undermined by an inability to offer a ‘parking right’ with it; with a resultant loss of property value. We are aware of the fact that parking is not considered as a planning issue, but we suggest that a dialogue be instigated with planning to introduce the notion of ‘no new permits’ for new/refurbished properties beyond the spaces previously available for a property, or provided for within their own boundary. The situation in our area would also be improved greatly if all new build properties had to provide sufficient on site parking, so that there would be no need to take up on street parking spaces.

[continued overleaf]

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Item 5: Written Public Questions

Q
(cont'd) 7. That the above area should be regarded as a prime example of how the current town centre parking system both fails to provide adequate parking facilities and fails to discourage on street parking in residential areas. This then impacts on the resident, who is obliged to suffer increasing indignities imposed by the council, rather than this be a catalyst for sensible positive action between planning and parking to resolve a problem that will only escalate.

A The report on the agenda for this meeting (item 7) addresses a number of these questions. Paragraph numbers below refer to that report.

1. The report proposes a review of the balance of spaces (paragraph 15) and a survey of residents' views on tighter controls on the eligibility for permits (paragraph 17).
2. The Parking Services Manager and On-Street Co-ordinator met with a group of residents from the Association and are aware of their concerns and will take them into account when formulating proposals for altering the balance of spaces.
3. The report (paragraph 17) recommends a survey of residents in catchment areas A,B,C,D & E to establish whether they have problems and when these occur. From this information a picture can be developed and further analysis carried out to try to establish the cause of the problems and the best solution.
4. This is part of a list of measures that it is suggested that are consulted on (paragraph 17).
5. This could be considered depending on the views expressed as a result of a survey in (paragraph 17).
6. GBC's Head of Planning and Development Services has advised that issues surrounding new permits are not a planning matter and in her view cannot be controlled through the land use planning framework
7. As 6.