



Minutes of meeting

GUILDFORD LOCAL COMMITTEE

Date: THURSDAY MARCH 3RD 2005

Time: 6.00 pm (The formal Committee began at 6.20pm.)

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)

Mr David Davis (Shere)

Dr John Hobrough (Guildford North)

Guildford Borough Council (for Transportation matters)

Mr Keith Chesterton (Stoke)

Ms Jenny Wicks (Clandon & Horsley)

Ms Diana Lockyer-Nibbs (Normandy)

Ms Marilyn Spier (Merrow)*

Mr Mike Nevins (Pirbright)

Mr Nigel Manning (Ash Vale)

Ms Vivienne Johnson (Christchurch)

Mr John Garrett (Lovelace)*

* Substitute

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

- Parking on pavements in the Horsleys (Mr Peter Hattersley)
- Repair and resurfacing to part of Ockham Road North (Mr John Garrett)

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

IN PUBLIC

18/05 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]

Apologies for absence were received from Veronica Stiastry, Tony Phillips, Dr Robert Blundell (substituted by Merylyn Spier), and Terence Patrick (substituted by John Garrett).

19/05 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (20 January 2005) [Item 2]

Agreed and signed by the Chairman.

20/05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

Nick Brougham declared a personal interest in relation to Item 17 as a governor of Thornchace School. Keith Chesterton declared a prejudicial interest in relation to Item 8, as the Footpath Secretary of the Ramblers Association (Guildford Branch) at the time of the consultation. John Ades declared a personal interest in relation to Item 15 as GBC's Executive Member for Community Safety. David Davis declared a personal interest in relation to Item 8 as a member of the SCC / Surrey Wildlife Trust Partnership Management Committee.

21/05 PETITIONS (Item 4)

None received.

22/05 WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS (Item 5)

Questions had been received from GBC Councillor Sheridan Westlake and Craig Hills (Event Director for the Ambient Picnic Festival). (Both questions and answers are appended to these minutes. The response to part 2(ii) of Cllr Westlake's question was provided subsequent to the meeting.)

23/05 WRITTEN MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (Item 6)

None received.

TRANSPORTATION MATTERS

NON-EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

FOR DECISION

24/05 RIGHTS OF WAY AND DEVELOPMENT (ITEM 7)

Members made the following comments:

- SCC should be more proactive in adopting footpaths in new developments.
- Footpaths are important not only to link communities on the edges of towns and villages to the countryside, but also within towns and villages to help pedestrians access nearby amenities and other forms of transport.
- GBC should identify opportunities for useful footpaths in new developments as part of the planning process.
- The balance of improvements to walking and cycling and on-site parking facilities in new developments.
- The need for footpaths to be maintained and cleansed to prevent a downward spiral in their appearance and utility.

25/05 PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY DIVERSION AT OCKHAM (ITEM 8)

Keith Chesterton left the room during this item.

Members agreed the officer recommendation.

[John Garrett left the meeting.]

26/05 REQUEST TO CONSIDER PROHIBITION OF ALL VEHICLES ON BYWAYS OPEN TO ALL TRAFFIC 518 & 520 IN ASH (ITEM 9)

Members agreed that the criteria for the making of a Traffic Regulation Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Section 1(4) and the County Council's policy are met, and that a notice of intention to make an order in accordance with the regulations be published.

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

FOR DECISION

27/05 FOX CORNER PETITION (ITEM 10)

Mary Laker welcomed the report and the officer recommendations. Mike Nevins requested that specific timescales be attached to the proposals in the report.

Members agreed the officer recommendations in the report.

[Mary Laker left the meeting.]

28/05 **A25 SHERE ROAD JUNCTION WITH A248 THE STREET,
SHERBOURNE: PROPOSED JUNCTION IMPROVEMENT (ITEM 11)**

David Davis suggested that the proposals be agreed subject to the views of Albury Parish Council who had not yet had the opportunity to respond formally to the consultation. GBC Cllr Keith Childs, addressing the Committee, added that Shere Parish Council was in a similar position. Mr Childs felt that on balance the scheme would be an improvement.

Members agreed the officer recommendations, subject to the views of Albury and Shere Parish Councils.

29/05 **NORMANDY VILLAGE SAFETY SCHEME: PROPOSED HGV BANS
(ITEM 12)**

Joe Bullock stated that it made no sense to close the road to coaches and buses which were under contract to SCC for transporting children attending SCC schools, since the subsequent cost of these vehicles taking the alternative route would have to be born by the bus company or passed on to SCC. These bus companies had not been consulted about the proposals. He proposed that all buses be exempt from a ban along Cobbett Hill Road.

Diana Lockyer-Nibbs welcomed the proposals. The Local Transportation Director stated that those vehicles that used the former wireless station site on Cobbett Hill Road would be exempt from any ban since they would require access to premises on the road. He said that the proposals sought to balance the safety, amenity and environmental considerations for residents and some road users, with the inconvenience and cost to others. The Head of Environmental Policy and Design (GBC) stated that there had been no planning permission granted or sought for use of the former wireless station site by buses and enforcement action is being considered.

The Local Transportation Director suggested an amended recommendation, which **Members agreed, that**

the officer recommendations be agreed in relation to School Lane and Hunts Hill Road only. Cobbett Hill Road will be reconsidered and a report brought back to a future meeting of the Committee if necessary.

GENERAL MATTERS

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

FOR DECISION

30/05 MILFORD HOSPITAL – ‘Modernising Your Local Healthcare’ (ITEM 13)

This item was withdrawn, due to Guildford and Waverley PCT’s intention to pause the consultation. A Press Statement issued by the PCT on 28 February 2005 and giving the background to this decision, was circulated. The item will come back onto the Committee agenda in Autumn 2005.

[Nigel Manning left the meeting.]

31/05 SOUTH EAST PLAN (ITEM 14)

GBC Cllr Tony Rooth addressed the Committee, challenging a number of issues in the consultation.

Members made various comments, including:

- The need to protect the Green Belt
- Objecting to Guildford borough being divided into 3 geographical units
- Guildford borough being considered as ‘London Fringe’, ‘a regional hub’, and ‘an area of economic potential’.
- The need for improved infrastructure for past and future developments
- The final location of any housing developments in the borough, GBCs Local Development Framework
- Causes of the need for more housing: social change, migration, skills shortage/key worker housing
- The simplicity of the public consultation questionnaire

The Committee endorsed the contents of the report to the Executive. In particular the Committee supported the strong objection to the treatment of regional hubs in the consultation draft.

32/05 DRAFT SAFER GUILDFORD STRATEGY 2005-8 (ITEM 15)

The Committee welcomed and endorsed the general thrust of the Strategy. Members made various specific comments, including:

- The absence of Anti-Social Behaviour as an explicit priority in the draft strategy. While it is understood that ASB comes under Safer Neighbourhoods & Town Centre, that greater prominence be given to this issue, even if the 6 priorities of the Strategy remain unaltered

- The benefits of reducing the number of project groups in the current strategy to 6 in the new strategy, while reducing the number of meetings, to concentrate on actions
- The need for all agencies to fully embrace partnership working to make sure that the Strategy is delivered
- The extent of disorder in Guildford town centre and in particular the incidence of violence, especially with young people as victims.
- The positive contribution of community policing in tackling crime, fear of crime and low level anti-social behaviour
- Benefits of concentrated action via different agencies supporting Members in specific communities, such as Stoughton
- The need for a holistic view of managing the safety aspects of traffic, speeding and congestion (particularly in relation to peak times at the start and end of school days)

The Chief Superintendent stated that speeding issues were being tackled through the Local Strategic Partnership. Anti-social driving will be included in the Policing Plan for the next 3 years and will attract more resources for enforcement.

The Local Director said that more focussed, intelligence-led meetings were in place and it was expected that this would direct and support more effective action.

Finally, the Committee agreed that the Local Director update the Committee in 2005/6 on more joined-up responses by SCC services to deliver the Safer Guildford Strategy and the SCC Crime & Disorder Reduction Strategy.

[Keith Chesterton left the meeting.]

33/05 **EDUCATION IN GUILDFORD BOROUGH AREA (ITEM 16)**

John Hobrough suggested that a protocol is used to guide Members and School Heads as to the purpose and effectiveness of Member visits to schools.

The Local Education Officer accepted the suggestion, saying that such visits would benefit both Members and Heads. He also provided some backgrounds to the school confederations in Guildford. The confederations are voluntary groupings of schools, usually in geographic areas but sometimes including special schools in other areas.

Tom Sharp asked that future reports capture the key education issues that required a Local Committee response or support.

34/05 **EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES (ITEM 17)**

Nick Brougham expressed concern that sufficient provision for vulnerable children at Thornchace School had not been made. He urged the Guildford Local Committee to keep a local watching brief on developments at the school, which has been a resource for the whole County.

Members made various comments, including:

- The definition of 'School Action Plus'
- The timetable for health professionals joining Multi-professional teams
- The performance of the Ethnic and Language Minority Achievement service
- Transport issue for primary school children attending Pupil Referral Units outside Guildford borough area

35/05 **MEMBERS REVENUE BIDS (ITEM 18)**

Members agreed the following bids, including a number tabled at the meeting:

Nick Brougham - £6,616 for youth facilities in Sutherland Park
Joe Bullock and John Hobrough - £3,500 each for co-ordination of Self Reliance activities
Joe Bullock - £1,430 for revamping Park Barn Community Centre
John Ades - £1,000 for Ash Museum storage facilities
John Ades - £700 for Ash Manor literacy and numeracy summer school
John Ades - £950 for Ash Parish Council
John Ades - £2,630 for building at Holly Lodge Primary School
John Ades - £750 for CCTV at Shawfield School
John Ades - £5,000 for repairs at St Marys Church
John Ades - £200 for Surrey Clubs for Young People
John Ades - £600 for Jack and Jill Nursery
John Ades - £700 for Ash Grange School Community room
David Davis - £671 for Chilworth School ICT suite
David Davis - £670 for Clandon School environmental areas
David Davis - £500 for East Clandon Parish Council environmental improvements
David Davis - £1,250 for Lychgate Youth Trust motor project
David Davis - £550 for equipment at the Villages Medical Centre
David Davis - £750 for improvements in St Martha Parish Council area
David Davis - £670 for Shere School IT equipment
Veronica Stiasny - £3000 for landscape enhancements on the Hog's Back
Veronica Stiasny - £3,227 for building at Puttenham School
John Hobrough - £4,000 for Disability Challengers
John Hobrough - £3,046 for landscaping and fencing at Stoughton Infants School

36/05 **FORWARD PROGRAMME (ITEM 19)**

David Davis requested a progress report on delayed discharges from hospital and a joint health and social care report on the care of adults in the community.

Tom Sharp asked for an update on the Controlled Parking Zones in Guildford.

The Local Director briefly outlined changes to the structure of the Community Support Team in 2005/6.

Members agreed the Forward Programme.

[Meeting ended 8.15 p.m.]

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

Contact:

Dave Johnson (Local Director) 01483 517301
dave.johnson@surreycc.gov.uk

Diccon Bright (Local Committee & Partnership Officer) 01483 517336
diccon.bright@surreycc.gov.uk

Item 5: Written Public Questions

CRAIG HILLS EVENT DIRECTOR, AMBIENT PICNIC FESTIVAL

Q The Eighth Ambient Picnic will be held on Sunday July 31. The Ambient Picnic festival is an annual, regional event held at Shalford Park with a focus on the arts, music, social & environmental issues. The event is a "not for profit" affordable family day out. The aim is to educate and raise awareness through enjoyment and interactivity. Workshops encourage hands on activities aimed at young people and families. Last year's event attracted around 10,000 people. This year all contributors must complete a basic environmental audit.

After introducing a popular Park & Ride service from Artington to the festival site last year, the Picnic organisers are now well on the way to initiating a car-free policy, thus reducing the carbon footprint of the festival. The aim this year is to support further developments to transport integration, services & facilities. These may include:

- Strategic North & South Park & Ride services using Artington & Cornhill, the latter including a rail passenger pick-up / drop-off.
- Cycling networks, safe walking routes and existing bus services
- Public Information Services (Web & Display boards)
- Hydrogen Powered buses – a first for Guildford

Would the Committee actively support the aims of the Ambient Picnic, particularly the developments in the area of sustainable transport as detailed above? Can the Committee provide details of how its current priorities might fit with or be promoted by the Ambient Picnic event? In what ways could the Local Committee assist the Ambient Picnic in its objectives by working in partnership?

A Many of the objectives being pursued by Surrey County Council and Guildford Borough Council are in harmony with the aims of the Ambient Picnic. Such objectives include sustainable transport initiatives, such as bus priority at traffic signals, Guildford's growing network of bus lanes, a range of projects seeking to encourage more people to walk or cycle, and the joint parking strategy, including the expansion of park and ride facilities. Members of this Committee have used their modest revenue allowances to fund sustainable projects, including installation of photovoltaic cells on the roof of a new school building together with a rainwater harvesting system.

The two authorities together with other partners in the Local Strategic Partnership meet regularly to discuss sustainability issues where the partners can add value over and above their individual responsibilities. Recent and future topics to be discussed include traffic speeds and road safety, the Local Development Framework and Local Transport Plan, and school admissions & transport policies and safe routes to schools

SCC and GBC already have joint strategies on walking, cycling and parking, all of which have sustainable transport objectives at their core. GBC as planning authority and SCC as transport authority work closely to increase the proportion of major developments located in accessible urban locations. Furthermore, in the past 6 months GBC has adopted its Climate Change and Energy Strategies and has in place its 10 year Recycling Plan

The Committee therefore warmly welcomes the Ambient Picnic, and wishes it every success in informing and educating its visitors, and in promoting sustainable lifestyles, both in the field of transport and more widely.

Item 5: Written Public Questions

**CLLR. SHERIDAN WESTLAKE
GBC MEMBER FOR MERROW**

Q I would like to ask the Local Committee:

- 1 What work is being undertaken to clean or improve the drains and gullies in Trodds Lane, Merrow?
- 2 What assessment or safety audit has been made of speeding or dangerous traffic in (i) Trodds Lane, Merrow, and (ii) opposite Merrow Village Hall on the Epsom Road, Merrow?
- 3 What the typical capital cost is of the following traffic calming measures: (1) a permanent Vehicle Activated Sign, (2) a toucan crossing, (3) a traffic island, (4) a Home Zone?
- 4 If a statement will be made on the anticipated temporary or permanent closure of Trodds Lane, Merrow.

A 1 The gullies in Trodds Lane are cleansed 3 times a year; the work was last carried out on the 15th October 2004. Arrangements for gully cleansing in the west of the County are currently being revised, and from next financial year the Trodds Lane gullies will be cleansed four times a year.

- 2 The speed and safety of traffic using Trodds Lane has been extensively studied over several years. The issue was first raised by the Accident Working Group during 1998. Low Cost Remedial Measures were investigated and implemented, but the accident rate continued to give cause for concern. In autumn 2000, the project was referred to the Transportation Task Group for inclusion in the Minor Improvements list. A design brief was issued in February 2001, and the feasibility study report recommending traffic calming measures was completed in August 2001. This included assessment of the speed and volume of vehicles and further analysis of the accident record. Local residents were consulted in October 2001 and the GPATS Committee approved the scheme early in 2002. The works were implemented in 2004. The scheme was independently safety audited three times during this period - at the 'concept' and detailed design stages and following construction. No safety study has been carried out on the section of Epsom Road by Merrow Village Hall.
- 3 (1) Vehicle Activated Signs cost £10 - 20,000 for each sign. Two signs currently on order for Shalford are estimated to cost £12,000, but these will use existing posts and electricity supplies, substantially reducing the cost.
(2) A toucan crossing typically costs £70 - 90,000.
(3) A traffic island may cost as little as £25,000, but if it is necessary to widen the road to accommodate the island, and if this in turn requires work to utilities' plant, the cost can be much greater. A scheme on Shawfield Road, Ash to provide three traffic islands with associated widening and utilities diversions was estimated recently to cost £140,000.
(4) Home Zones typically involve block paving, landscaping and complete redesign of the streetscape. There is currently only one Home Zone under construction in Surrey, at Nutley Lane in Reigate. This is funded by the Department for Transport as one of several national pilot schemes. At £447,000 for a 230 metre length, this represents some £2000 per metre.

Item 5: Written Public Questions

- 4 An updated copy of the briefing note on the temporary / permanent closure of Trodds Lane is attached below. A decision regarding temporary closure during the Merrow roundabout's construction awaits discussions with the appointed contractor. There are no plans to close Trodds Lane permanently.

BRIEFING NOTE (updated 03.03.05)

WORKS IN THE MERROW AREA DURING 2005 & TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF TRODD'S LANE

A number of highway projects have already taken place, or will take place shortly, each of which will have some effect on Trodds Lane. The projects are as follows:

1. Ringway Highway Services are currently installing a toucan crossing (for pedestrians and cyclists) across the A246 Epsom Road, in the vicinity of St. John's Church. This involved works to install dropped kerbs and drainage alterations in Trodds Lane itself. In order for this to take place safely, both for road users and contractors' personnel, it was necessary to close Trodds Lane temporarily to through traffic at its northern end. Although the toucan crossing works are not yet complete, the need to close Trodds Lane for this reason has passed.
2. Secondly, the Trodds Lane traffic calming works were recently safety audited, and as a result minor adjustments were required. These works, too, required temporary closure of Trodds Lane, this time in the vicinity of the traffic calming, i.e. in the central section of the road. These works, and the associated road closure, have now been completed.
3. Work will commence early in 2005/06 on a roundabout which will provide access to a new Park and Ride site immediately east of the Merrow Lane Roundabout. The works are likely to take between 3 and 6 months. The works may cause some traffic congestion for traffic travelling towards Guildford. This in turn is likely to mean that a great deal of traffic from the A25 will use Trodds Lane instead. Trodds Lane is a residential, unclassified road which until recently had a poor accident record. This was the reason for the traffic calming works we carried out in 2004. We do not want to undermine the positive effect of these, so we are considering closing Trodds Lane to through traffic at its southern end during the construction of the Merrow roundabout. A final decision on this has not yet been taken, and awaits formal appointment of the contractor for the Merrow roundabout and subsequent discussions regarding his construction method statement.

In order to enable these closures, the advertised temporary traffic order is for the entire length of Trodds Lane, and covers an 18 month period - the maximum allowed by law. The actual duration will be much shorter than 18 months, but we advertise in this way to give ourselves flexibility and to cover unforeseen eventualities. In practice we will not close the whole length of the road, only a short section in each case. Nevertheless, the closures will prevent the use of the road by 'through' traffic. Access will be maintained for residents, their visitors and deliveries and emergency services' vehicles at all times, although this will have to be from one end of Trodds Lane only.

Some of the residents of Trodds Lane have asked us to consider permanent closure of Trodds Lane. There is no commitment to do so. No scheme is included in our five-year forward programme, no funds have been allocated, the Local Committee has not considered this and we would not recommend such a proposal without first consulting with those affected. We are well aware of the controversy regarding this, and would wish to proceed cautiously on this. Nevertheless, we have been asked to consider this proposal by local residents, and have a responsibility to them to give this due consideration. The temporary closures of Trodds Lane during 2005 will enable local residents, users of the road and the County Council to make an informed judgement.

For further information regarding any aspect of this, please telephone 08456 009 009.