SURREY
COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting

GUILDFORD LOCAL COMMITTEE

Date: THURSDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2005

Time: 7.00 pm

Place: ASH MANOR SCHOOL, MANOR ROAD, ASH GU12 6QH

Members present:

Surrey County Council

Mr John Ades (Ash)
Mr Bill Barker (Horsleys)
Ms Sarah Di Caprio (Guildford South-East)
Mr David Goodwin (Guildford South-West)
Mr Edward Owen (Guildford East)
Mr Tony Rooth (Shalford)
Ms Pauline Searle (Guildford North)
Ms Fiona White (Guildford West)

Guildford Borough Council (for Transportation matters)

Mr Keith Chesterton (Stoke)
Ms Vivienne Johnson (Christchurch)
Ms Liz Hogger (Effingham)
Ms Merilyn Spier (Merrow)
Mr Sheridan Westlake (Merrow)
Mr Tony Phillips (Onslow)
Ms Jenny Wicks (Clandon & Horsley)
Ms Diana Lockyer-Nibbs (Normandy)
Mr Terence Patrick (Send)

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

- Traffic in Manor Road outside Ash Manor School (Bob Linnell, Head teacher, Ash Manor School)

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

IN PUBLIC

70/05 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]

Apologies for absence were received from David Davis, Mike Nevins and Nigel Manning.

71/05 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (26 May 2005) [Item 2]

Agreed and signed by the Chairman.

72/05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

David Goodwin declared a personal interest in relation to Item 10 as he has a parking permit.

73/05 PETITIONS [Item 4]

No petitions were received.

74/05 WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 5]

Two questions had been received from Mr Peter Hattersley. (Both questions and answers are appended to these minutes.)

75/05 WRITTEN MEMBERS' QUESTIONS [Item 6]

No written Members' questions were received.

76/05 LOCAL ISSUES IN ASH AND TONGHAM [Item 7]

John Ades (for Ash) and Tony Rooth (for Tongham) raised various local transportation issues.

GENERAL MATTERS [*LIGHT GREEN*]

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS FOR DECISION

77/05 MEMBERS' REVENUE BIDS [Item 8]

Members agreed the following bids:

David Davis: £2,500 for refurbishing Holmbury St Mary Village Hall
David Davis: £1,000 for equipping the new Shere Village nursery
Fiona White: £1,500 for Park Barn Youth Café
Bill Barker: £2,000 for curbing at Georgelands

78/05 FORWARD PROGRAMME [Item 9]

Members noted the Forward Programme and called for a number of further items to be included in the Programme.

NON-EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

79/05 DISCUSSION ON TOPICS TO BE RAISED BY MEMBERS [Item 10]

Members discussed a number of issues including:

- Transportation revenue spending across Surrey
- Management of maintenance work
- White lining on roads, particularly for cycling
- Recent maintenance works in Wanborough
- The performance of SCC's Highways contract
- Operation Locust
- How Members and public can report highways problems
- Progress on Merrow Park and Ride
- Speed management policy
- Pegasus bus project
- The Controlled Parking Zone in Guildford
- Safe Routes to School
- The Provisional Local Transport Plan 2006-2011
- Local Area Agreements

In relation to Safe Routes to School the following motion was proposed by Bill Barker and seconded by Fiona White:

"that the Surrey County Council Executive be asked, in relation to children aged 8 to 11 who walk to school, to delegate the decision, to declare the route from H. M. Prison at the Spinney to St Bede's Junior School as unsafe, to the Local Committee in Guildford."

Members agreed the motion.

[Meeting ended 9.15 p.m.]

……**(Mr Bill Barker - Chairman)**

Contact:

Dave Johnson (Area 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

Peter Hattersley
Resident of West Horsley

Q1 This question concerns the SCC ROW department. I refer to my earlier question on ROW budgets and correspondence in the Surrey Advertiser from Denis Holmes, Ramblers' Association (copies attached).

Would you please advise on the situation with ROW department and its budget?

A This financial year, due to overall reductions in the County Councils spending in this area of work, there has been a reduction in rights of way staff undertaking legal work and a reduction this year in the budget available for path maintenance. Overall throughout the County, the maintenance budget has gone down from about £400,000.00 to about £300,000.00.

The basic maintenance allocation for the Guildford area has stayed the same (about £40,000 pa for 580km / £70 per km), so work such as vegetation clearance, signing and small surfacing projects have stayed the same, but some larger projects have been put off/on-hold. These larger projects have previously been funded from the remaining 'central pot' of around £100,000.00. It is this funding that is not available during the current year.

Item 5: Written Public Questions

Peter Hattersley
Resident of West Horsley

Q2

This question concerns Ragwort and its control. I refer to correspondence in the Surrey Advertiser between Clare Dawson, a West Horsley resident, and John Neate, Area Manager, Surrey Wildlife Countryside Services, for the Sheepleas. In John Neate's letter of reply defending the retention of Ragwort, he refers to the fact that a different set of rules now apply because the Sheepleas is a Nature Reserve. I do not recall this being brought to the Committee before the decision to vote for the Nature Reserve. I further understood, in view of the lack of consultation, that the SCC Executive would be asked to delay its decision pending consultation – this did not happen.

1. Why was the decision taken in such haste?

2. Were the Committee fully aware that the designated Nature Reserve would change the Rules under which it was managed at the time they voted?

A 1. Below is the minute from the Guildford Local Committee of 27/05/05. Given the support in principle and the concern about the Worplesdon group of Commons, these were deleted and the declaration of the remaining seven Local Nature Reserves was made by Surrey County Council's Executive on 19 July.

45/05 PROPOSED DECLARATION OF 8 SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL OWNED SITES AS LOCAL NATURE [Item 9]

Members expressed concern that there had not been adequate consultation on the proposals, and the effect of the proposals on access to the commons. There was particular concern that the details of the proposal in relation to the Worplesdon group of commons was not clear in the report.

Members supported the proposed designations in principle but agreed that:

i) SCC Executive be asked to defer their decision on the proposals until individual Members and the Local Committee have been properly consulted

ii) if SCC Executive does consider the proposals on 5 July 2005, they be asked to note the concern by Members of Guildford Local Committee regarding the costs of the proposals and the access to the sites

iii) if SCC Executive does consider the proposals on 5 July 2005, they be asked to delete the Worplesdon group of commons from the list of proposed sites for the time being, due to lack of clarity on the details of the proposals for this site.

2. Re Ragwort, I have not seem the correspondence about this but the management of ragwort at Sheepleas has not changed as a result of the LNR delaration. Sheepleas has been a Site of Special Scientific Interest since 1975 and it is managed to ensure this interest is maintained in consultation with English Nature and Surrey Wildlife Trust. While it is not possible or desirable to eradicate ragwort in every situation, it is a legal requirement of the Weeds Act 1959 to prevent the spread of ragwort onto agricultural land. Such ragwort removal is carried out along the south east boundary of the Sheepleas with land used for horse grazing.

We have available a copy of the code of practice which explains the management in more detail.