



Surrey County Council  
Guildford Local Committee

**THE HOG'S BACK ACTION PLAN**

**22 September 2010**

**Key Issue**

The Committee is asked to agree its role in monitoring the Hog's Back Action Plan.

**Summary**

At its meeting on 13 August 2010 the County Council's Cabinet decided to keep the Hog's Back café and lay-by open but with active management of the lay-by. In particular the Cabinet recommended that the Guildford Local Committee work with partners to ensure active management of the wider area, using Local Committee funding to do so and to involve landowners of the adjacent sites in the active management plan.

**Officer Recommendations**

**The Local Committee is asked to agree:**

- (i) That it is prepared, in principle, to endorse the Hog's Back Action Plan once finalised.
- (ii) That it will monitor progress via regular reports to the Committee.
- (iii) To identify what funding it is prepared to contribute as appropriate to the Action Plan implementation.

## 1 Introduction and background

- 1.1 The situation of the public sex environment at the Hog's Back is well known and is the subject of intense local scrutiny and media interest. The matter was raised informally by local residents and Puttenham Parish Council at the Local Committee on 23 June 2010. At that time the Committee agreed that, if an appropriate resolution has not been agreed meantime, the issue would come back on the agenda of the Local Committee.
- 1.2 Since then, Tony Rooth (Shalford Division) raised a motion at the Council meeting on 20 July 2010, which was referred to the Safer and Stronger Select Committee on 5 August 2010. At the Select Committee evidence was taken from a range of witnesses, including local residents, the Parish Council, Puttenham School, Surrey County Council, Surrey Police and NHS Surrey.
- 1.3 The Safer and Stronger Select Committee recommended to the Cabinet that immediate steps be taken to close the lay-by (and in effect the café). The Select Committee felt that closure could be more significant, over-and-above the active management steps that should be taken to otherwise manage access to the site.
- 1.4 In considering the recommendation from the Select Committee and hearing from Tony Rooth and Bill Barker (The Horsleys Division), the Cabinet decided:
  - i) That the recommendation of the Safer and Stronger Communities Select Committee to close the lay-by on the A31 be not agreed because closure would not necessarily remove the activity, as there are other access points to the wider area, especially around the school, which would allow activity to continue.
  - ii) That active monitoring of the use of the lay-by is undertaken to identify those who might be engaged in anti-social behaviour.
  - iii) To recommend to the Surrey Strategic Partnership that it considers the wider strategic issue of Public Sex Environments
  - iv) To recommend to Guildford Local Committee that it work with partners to ensure active management of the area, especially around the School and that it uses the appropriate Local Committee funding to achieve this.
  - v) To write to the landowners of the privately owned sites in the area, which are currently unmanaged and/or not secure, to encourage the active management and screening across the whole area subject to the anti-social behaviour.
- 1.5 The Cabinet believes that the Local Committee can play a significant leadership role in ensuring that the active management of the wide Hog's Back area is developed and delivered effectively on the ground. In the light of this, the rest of this report concentrates on expanding items (ii), (iv) and (v) of the Cabinet's decision.

## 2 Analysis

- 2.1 Prior to the Safer and Stronger Select Committee and then the Cabinet's decision, a number of meetings were convened by the County Council to begin to bring partners and landowners together. The principle of an active management plan, hereafter to be referred to as the Hog's Back Action Plan, has been under discussion since January 2010. Most, but not all, of the partners have been involved, but the opportunity now exists to bring, hopefully, all of the partners and landowners together to agree the detail and delivery of the Action Plan. To date those involved in the discussions have been local residents, Puttenham Parish Council, Puttenham School, Tony Rooth, Mark Brett-Warburton (Chairman of the Local Committee), Guildford Borough Council, Surrey County Council, Surrey Police, the Hampton Estate and hopefully the other key landowners.
- 2.2 The draft Action Plan been pulled together from elements drawn up by Surrey County Council and Surrey Police. The overall aim of the Action Plan is "To reduce levels of reported incidents connected to the site". It has five key areas of activity:
- Increase awareness that active surveillance of the area is taking place
  - Manage the County Council-owned land
  - Encourage enforcement on the privately owned land
  - Manage the area around the school
  - Actively encourage residents and visitors to positively reclaim and use the site and increase reporting
- 2.3 The draft Action Plan is due to be discussed at a meeting of the partners on 15 September 2010. Unfortunately, this will mean that the Action Plan is not yet ready to be included with this agenda, but will be circulated prior to the Local Committee meeting. In any event, Tony Rooth, Mark Brett-Warburton and the Area Director will be able to verbally update the Committee on progress to date.
- 2.4 Surrey County Council and Surrey Police have already started on a number of specific activities contained within the Action Plan. For example, Surrey Police have increased their visible patrolling of the area. The County Council has engaged a private security company, who will have a reporting link to Surrey Police. Warning signs are being agreed between the County Council, Surrey Police, the Parish Council and imminently the landowners, to increase awareness that the area is under surveillance.
- 2.5 The Action Plan has over 14 areas of activity that will hopefully be added to and agreed in the next few weeks. The critical issue will be that all the partners input into the Plan making explicit their own responsibility to work together and to contribute their own resources. It is anticipated that

the Action Plan will be fully implemented from the end of September onwards.

### **3 Options**

- 3.1 As recommended by the Cabinet, the Local Committee is asked to work with partners to ensure active management of the area, especially around the school and that it uses the appropriate Local Committee funding to achieve this. (See para. 1.4 (iv) of this report).
- 3.2 Officers suggest that the Local Committee endorses the Hog's Back Action Plan once the details have been agreed. It should then formally monitor the Action Plan, say, twice a year and require key partners to provide updates on the progress being made and for those partners to be accountable to the Local Committee.
- 3.3 It is proposed that the key partners to report to the Local Committee should be Surrey County Council (through the Area Director), Surrey Police, Guildford Borough Council and Puttenham Parish Council. There is a case to be made for others (such as the private landowners, NHS Surrey, etc.) to also report to the Local Committee, but at this stage it is important to start with the main accountable players.
- 3.4 On the issue of resources, it is important that all of the partners contribute a range of resources (and not just finance) to deliver the Action Plan. Nonetheless, the Local Committee is asked to consider and agree, in principle, what funding it is willing to contribute to underwrite at least part of the Action Plan.

### **4 Consultations**

- 4.1 In developing the Action Plan, consultation has been undertaken with Tony Rooth (Shalford Division), Mark Brett-Warburton (Chairman of the Local Committee), Guildford Borough Council, Puttenham Parish Council, Puttenham School and the private landowners.

### **5 Financial and value for money implications**

- 5.1 As the Action Plan is fully agreed, there will be specific financial implications identified, not just for Surrey County Council and Guildford Borough Council. The Local Committee is asked to identify any funding it will put towards the Action Plan (see para 3.4).

### **6 Equalities and diversity implications**

- 6.1 The Action Plan has a number of inter-related equality and diversity implications. This would impact for local residents, the school, the café owner, the various users of the lay-by and café and the users of the Public Sex Environment. It is therefore proposed that officers complete a

full Equalities Impact Assessment that will inform and guide the Action Plan.

**7 Crime and disorder implications**

- 7.1 Clearly, the whole of this report and the emerging Action Plan, have fundamental crime and disorder implications for the local and wider community.

**8 Conclusion and reason for recommendations**

- 8.1 The Local Committee is being asked to respond positively to the decisions of the Cabinet to keep the lay-by and café open and for the Local Committee to have a formal role in the active management of the site via the Hog's Back Action Plan.

**9 What happens next**

- 9.1 Once the Action Plan has been finalised, it should be endorsed by the Local Committee and regularly monitored on a twice-a-year basis by the Committee.

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**Background papers:** None

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