



## **Update on the Hog's Back Action Plan**

### **Surrey County Council Local Committee for Guildford**

**8<sup>th</sup> December 2010**

#### **Key Issue**

The Committee is asked to consider the progress to date and what support it wishes to give to the future implementation of the Action Plan.

#### **Summary**

At its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> September the Committee agreed in principle to endorse the Action Plan, to monitor its progress and to consider any funding that it might wish to contribute towards implementation of the Plan. At its subsequent meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> October, the Committee clarified the minutes to read that SCC should continue to centrally fund its elements of the Action Plan. Progress since September and possible resource implications are contained within this report.

#### **Officer Recommendations**

The Local Committee is asked to:

- a) Comment on the progress being made on the Action Plan
- b) Agree to take a further report in March 2011 when the medium-term resource implications are clear.

## **1 Introduction and background**

- 1.1 Since the September Committee meeting significant progress has been made by various parties working together to continue to shape and then implement the Hog's Back Action Plan. Some elements of the Action Plan were actually implemented before September and further actions have been progressively worked through since then.
- 1.2 The various partners involved are local residents, Puttenham Parish Council, Guildford Diocese Board of Education, Tony Rooth (as the local Member), Mark Brett-Warburton (Chairman of the Local Committee), Surrey Police, Guildford Borough Council, Surrey County Council and private landowners.
- 1.3 The partners, referred to in para 1.2, formally met on 10<sup>th</sup> November to consider progress, to comment on the positive progress being made and on the need to sustain these developments. The updated Action Plan is attached as Annex 1 and the Local Committee are asked to comment on the progress being made.

## **2 Analysis**

- 2.1 It is important to acknowledge the co-operation that is now happening amongst the partners. It is planned that engagement be stepped up to ensure that an increasingly "whole site" approach is implemented.
- 2.2 The main improvements since September include increased patrolling activity by Surrey Police and by SCC's security contractors, Knights Security. These different patrols are being coordinated and will be linked to the residents' own more informal checks in the area.
- 2.3 Warning signs have been installed in the lay-by and cafe area advising of the patrols to reduce anti-social behaviour. Further coordination will happen in the New Year to ensure that residents can input directly both by reporting incidents and in using the environmental visual audit forms of Surrey Police.
- 2.4 Different groundworks have been undertaken to better manage the area and to increase visibility in order to deter anti-social behaviour. The sunbathing field has been flailed and some of the adjacent private land has been ploughed and also had "ditch and bund" around its perimeter. There could be further ditching work in the area.
- 2.5 The northern edge of the Bonfire Field has been cut back to increase visibility for deterrence purposes. It is recognised that cutting back vegetation in the winter months is a good opportunity, but fresh impetus will be given to future cutbacks in the vegetation during the growing season.
- 2.6 The other main activity under active consideration is whether to install closing barriers to be used in conjunction with the café's opening hours.

An initial draft assessment has been produced by engineers and this will be considered at a joint site visit prior to the Local Committee. It is hoped that officers can verbally update the Committee at the meeting.

### **3 Options**

- 3.1 The Action Plan is now in full operation and significant progress is being made along with an on-going need to maintain momentum. Nearly all of the key partners are engaged and discussions continue to involve all partners who might be able to positively contribute.
- 3.2 The Local Committee has a key role in monitoring the Action Plan both in providing comment through these regular update reports and in considering the resource implications for sustaining these interventions.
- 3.3 Each of the partners has a contribution to make to the resources needed to fully deliver the Action Plan and this includes funding. To date SCC's costs have been absorbed centrally and until specific costs are agreed for the access barrier to the lay-by (see para 2.6) and future vegetation clearance on SCC land (see para 2.5), there are no further direct costs associated with the Action Plan for the Local Committee to consider. However, at the September Local Committee meeting Tony Rooth has previously indicated his willingness in principle to propose £3.5k of his Members Allocation to support the Action Plan.

### **4 Consultations**

- 4.1 The wide range of partners listed in para 1.2 has been fully consulted throughout the development and implementation of the Action Plan.

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

- 5.1 The medium to long-term financial requirements is still being considered and will be clarified and reported to the next Committee meeting in March 2011.

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

- 6.1 The Action Plan considers the position of all partners and users of the Hog's Back area. There are some differences and tensions between the perspectives of these stakeholders and the principles of collaboration and partnership working will continue to be used to mediate positive outcomes.

### **7 Crime and disorder implications**

- 7.1 This whole initiative is in response to significant anti-social behaviour issues in the Hog's Back area.

### **8 Conclusion and reason for recommendations**

- 8.1 Some notable progress is being made and the Committee as part of its on-going monitoring role is asked to comment on this progress.

**9 What happens next**

- 9.1 Partners will continue to manage the Action Plan and a further progress report with clearer cost implications will come to the March 2011 Local Committee meeting.

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**Background papers:** None

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