



Minutes of meeting

Surrey County Council Local Committee (Guildford)

Date: Wednesday 8 December 2010

Time: 7.00 pm

Place: Guildford Methodist Church, Woodbridge Road, Guildford GU1 4RB

Members present:

Surrey County Council

Mr Mark Brett-Warburton (Guildford South-East) Chairman

Mr David Goodwin (Guildford South-West)

Ms Fiona White (Guildford West)

Ms Pauline Searle (Guildford North)

Mr Keith Taylor (Shere)

Mr Nigel Sutcliffe (Worplesdon)

Mr Bill Barker (Horsleys)

Mr Tony Rooth (Shalford)

Guildford Borough Council (for Transportation matters)

Ms Jenny Wicks (Clandon & Horsley)

Mr Nigel Manning (Ash Vale)

Ms Mary Laker (Worplesdon)

Ms Diana Lockyer-Nibbs (Normandy)

Mr Matt Furniss (Christchurch) *

Ms Wendy May (Stoughton) *

* substitute

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

- The Local Committee's approach towards Rights of Way (Mike Wheaton).
- Public speaking on Rights of Way matters (Steven Taylor).

67/10 Apologies for absence and substitutions [Item 1]

Apologies were received from Graham Ellwood, Marsha Mosely, David Carpenter, Sarah Di Caprio, Tony Phillips, Terence Patrick (substituted by Matt Furniss) and Caroline Reeves (substituted by Wendy May).

68/10 Minutes of the last meetings (22 September 2010 and 28 October 2010) [Item 2]

Agreed and signed by the Chairman.

69/10 Declarations of interest [Item 3]

Declarations of interest were made by:

- Diana Lockyer-Nibbs in relation to Item 7, because she is a member of the British Horse Society.
- Fiona White in relation to Item 11, because she is a member of the Barn Youth Project Management Committee.

70/10 Petitions [Item 4]

None were received.

71/10 Written public questions [Item 5]

Two written public questions were received. The answers are set out in **Annex 1**.

72/10 Written members' questions [Item 6]

One written member question was received. The answer is set out in **Annex 2**.

73/10 Byways Open to All Traffic 538 & 539 West Horsley: Request to consider a Traffic Regulation Order (Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984) [Item 7]

Charles Hope (Chairman of West Horsley Parish Council):

- supported the proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and highlighted that there have been accidents on the two Byways. He proposed that officers should validate the objections raised in response to the Notice of Intention to make a TRO.

The Countryside Access Officer introduced the report and updated the Committee that there have been accidents reported on the Byways. She noted mistakes were made with the original Notice of Intention to make a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) that was published. If the Committee agreed to publish a new Notice of Intention and the number of objections was maintained, it was likely that officers would recommend a public inquiry at the next meeting of the Local Committee.

The Chairman reminded the Committee that they would need to give equal consideration to all the objections received, regardless of where the objector lives.

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The Committee were concerned that spending a modest sum of money on repairing the Byways would only temporarily fix the problem and that further funding would be required to repair further damage done to the Byways. The Committee felt that better value for money would be achieved if the Byways were repaired and then closed to motor vehicles to prevent further significant damage.

Bill Barker noted that there are alternative routes that could be used if Silkmore Lane was closed. He invited all Members to visit the Byways once the planned repair work had been completed. He proposed that the Committee should approve the publication of a new Notice of Intention to make a Traffic Regulation Order prohibiting all motor vehicles on Byways Open to All Traffic 538 and 539. This was agreed by a unanimous vote. This decision went against the officer's recommendation.

The Local Committee agreed that:

The grounds for making a Traffic Regulation Order are met, and a modified Notice of Intention to make an Order should be published for Byways Open to All Traffic 538 & 539 (West Horsley) prohibiting all motor vehicles, between points A-B & C-D on drawing No 3/1/72/H12 (Appendix 1) and between points A-B on drawing No 3/1/72/H13 (Appendix 2). Gates would be installed at the above points with a 1.5 metre gap adjacent to the gates.

Reason for decision:

To prevent damage to the road or to any building on or near the road. To prevent the use of the road by vehicular traffic of a kind which, or its use by vehicular traffic in a manner which, is unsuitable having regard to the existing character of the road or adjoining property.

74/10 The Hog's Back Action Plan [Item 8]

The Assistant Chief Executive of Surrey County Council explained the progress that had been made since September, including positive discussions with local stakeholders. The proposal to install a barrier to block access to the lay-by on the A31 is ongoing. Some initial designs and a site visit have been completed, however more work needs to be undertaken to finalise a design and determine how much it would cost. The Assistant Chief Executive noted that whilst good progress has been made, the aim of stopping all anti-social behaviour at the site has not yet been achieved.

Members recognised and welcomed the progress made to date, however they raised concerns about the proposed barrier. The Committee noted the lay-by is used by a range of people, including drivers of heavy goods vehicles that by law have to take regular breaks. Members were reassured that relevant groups, including the Road Haulage Association would be consulted.

Tony Rooth highlighted that the designs for the barrier must be simple, credible and achievable. In addition, all the points in the Action Plan must be costed. The Assistant Chief Executive confirmed that no costs would be transferred to the Local Committee. She proposed that once the costs have been agreed it is likely that the Local Committee would need to make a recommendation to the Cabinet regarding funding. Tony Rooth restated his offer of £3,500 from his Members Allocation towards the cost of implementing the action plan.

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The Local Committee agreed to:

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

Reason for decision:

Some notable progress is being made. The Committee will continue to monitor this through further reports.

75/10 Priority Places [Item 9]

The Area Director for South-West Surrey highlighted the achievements of partnership working in North Guildford and Ash. He noted that residents we are working with have positive aspirations for the areas in which they live and wish to be recognised as developing communities, rather than deprived communities.

Members welcomed the positive nature of the report and the progress made. The Committee was reassured that the statutory agencies are working with local communities. In particular, Pauline Searle thanked the Assistant Manager at the Guildford Children's Centre, the Community Safety Warden for North Guildford and the Local Committee and Partnership Officer for their contributions to the Planning for Real exercise in Bellfields.

Members were concerned about the number of, and provision for, young people that are not in education, employment or training (NEET). The Committee noted that the wards with the highest numbers of NEET young people are Westborough, Stoke, Holy Trinity and Merrow. The Area Director explained that work is being undertaken to ensure that local committees would have a role in commissioning services for young people in the future. Members stated they would welcome an opportunity to influence the services provided.

The Local Committee agreed to:

- a) note and endorse the progress made in North Guildford and Ash.
- b) continue to use the resources at its disposal to promote the development of stronger, more self-reliant communities in Guildford.
- c) comment on the challenges facing partnership work in North Guildford and Ash.

Reason for decision:

The work in North Guildford and Ash is undertaken to empower individuals and communities to develop local solutions to the problems that face them, and address a number of key issues for public services.

76/10 2009/10 Local Committee Budgets Spending Update [Item 10]

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The Local Committee thanked the Local Support Assistant for her hard work to efficiently administer Member allocations.

The Local Committee agreed to:

- i) note this review of the Capital & Revenue allocations for 2009/10
- ii) comment on progress made and any concerns about delayed projects
- iii) note the update on the Climate Change Fund project.
- iv) ask the Leader if the Climate Change Fund project will be repeated.

Reason for decision:

To formally acknowledge the range of outcomes achieved from this use of Surrey County Council funding.

77/10 2010/11 Local Committee Budgets [Item 11]

The Area Director for South-West Surrey noted that we had received two additional Member allocations from Mark Brett-Warburton and Pauline Searle. These are attached at **Annex C**. He also noted that Fiona White's allocation to the Barn Youth Project needed to be amended from £4,000 to £3,000.

Members were concerned about the high cost of grit bins and agreed to write to the Chairman of the Winter Task Group.

The Chairman highlighted to the Committee that Members would not be able to carry-forward any unspent funds from their allocations.

The Local Committee agreed to:

- a) note the actions carried out under delegated authority.
- b) the proposed expenditure from the Members' Capital and the Members' Revenue allocation budgets. With the proviso that no cheaper alternative to purchase grit bins is available. With the amendment to allocate £3,000 to the Barn Youth Project.
- c) write to the Chairman of the Winter Task Group to communicate their concern over the price agreed to provide grit bins.

Reason for decision:

To enhance the wellbeing of Guildford residents. The Committee is required to ensure the timely and appropriate deployment of its budgets.

78/10 Forward Programme [Item 12]

The Local Committee agreed to:

- a) add the following items to the Forward Plan:
 - The Hog's Back Action Plan

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- School capital expenditure
- Speed limits and the future of Drive SMART.

b) hold an engagement event with residents associations and parish councils.

c) ask the Area Highways Manager to capture the views of Members and the Police regarding the response to the recent weather conditions.

Reason for decision:

To enable preparations to be made for future meetings, reflecting members' wishes.

[Meeting ended at 8.30pm]

.....(Mr Mark Brett-Warburton – Chairman)

Contact:

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The next meeting of the Committee will be on Wednesday 9 March 2011 at 7pm. The venue is to be confirmed.

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Annex 1 Written public questions [Item 5]

Question from Maurice Barham, on behalf of the Guildford Society

'We understand that work on Transport for Guildford has been suspended as a result of the identified funding not becoming available as originally expected. We also understand that a considerable amount of work has been completed towards the submission of the project. We believe that the benefits of this work should be put to good use.

Firstly, we ask that the agreed objectives and progress to date be disseminated on a website, as originally promised.

Secondly, can we be assured that sufficient additional work can be undertaken to allow the more promising elements of the project to be incorporated in the Surrey Transport Plan - LTP 3 - by April 2011, and in Guildford Borough Council's Transport Strategy and forthcoming Masterplan, and that these elements be added to the website?'

Answer

The remit of Transport for Guildford is wider than the Guildford Major scheme. Its objectives are to coordinate transport strategies and measures to improve movement in and around the Borough of Guildford and to improve the quality of life for the residents of the Borough and surrounding areas. These objectives were reported to the Guildford Local Committee at its meeting on 11 March 2009, the papers for which can be found on Surrey County Council's website.

The status of the Guildford major scheme is that work was proceeding to identify the key components to form a major scheme business case to Government to secure funding towards the scheme. Although a number of options/proposals have been identified for further analysis, further development of options and analysis, had yet to be completed when the announcement was made that funding would not be available from the Regional Funding Allocation (the Government's major scheme budget). As such the output produced to date is very much a "work in progress" and not appropriate to publish on a website at this time. In addition scheme details would not usually be published until the options were fully assessed and approval received from Government as this could raise expectation for measures that may not be funded.

The Guildford major scheme had yet to pass this stage when Government announced funding would not be available from the Regional Funding Allocation. Guidance is currently awaited from Government as to the potential available funding streams that can be bid against for the Guildford major scheme package of improvements. Such funding could include the Government's Regional Growth Fund or the Local Sustainable Transport Fund.

The work undertaken to date would not be lost as sufficient additional work would be undertaken to support any future bids against potential funding streams as guidance is announced by Government. It should be noted that in the current financial climate it is likely that a lower level of funding would be available than previously indicated in the Government's Regional Funding Allocation and that there will be strong competition from other UK regions for the limited funding that may be available. As such it could well be the case that a smaller package of improvements identified to date for the Guildford Major scheme could be developed where appropriate funding streams are identified.

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The Surrey Transport Plan (LTP3) will contain strategies including congestion, public transport, parking, walking and cycling. The proposals being developed for the Guildford package are consistent with these emerging strategies. In addition Guildford Borough Council's Core Strategy and Masterplan will also be able to draw upon the work completed to date in defining the Guildford Major Scheme package.

Question from Brian Cohen

Does the committee feel that, in view of the written reply given by this committee in answer to a written question from Gail Brownrigg (Sept. 2010) in which the reply stated that all members including the chairman and deputy chairman were offered in 2009 and then again in 2010 (but the reply does not state if the training was actually taken up, and if so by whom) specific training in dealing with R.o.W issues, and bearing in mind the established statutory procedures when dealing with R.o W issues, it would be more appropriate for any councillor duly armed with this knowledge to: a) abstain in any vote on a matter of R. o W. issues over which they have insufficient knowledge either personal or via information as given by any proposer, or b) request specific further information before voting, or c) even follow the advice given the SCC professional R.o W officers on any issue as stated in the reply , or d) even request a public enquiry to clarify the issues, rather than follow the direction of one specific councillor?

Answer

The Committee thanks Mr. Cohen for his question, which is interpreted as a general matter and does not relate to any specific Rights of Way application. As the question actually amounts to four specific questions, these are responded to as follows:

- a) Members of the Committee are informed by the evidence in the officer's report and the specific legal and procedural guidance from officers as pertaining to any individual Rights of Way matter. They listen to any speakers who formally address the Committee and must decide on all the evidence formally presented at the Committee meeting. How they decide is a matter of personal conscience.
- b) Members can and do seek additional information before voting, depending on the circumstances of the specific matter under consideration.
- c) Members are not obliged by SCC's Constitution or Code of Conduct to always follow the officer's assessment or recommendation. They are expected to exercise an independent perspective and to use their own judgment in reaching any decision.
- d) A public inquiry is one of several choices that a Committee will consider. "Following the direction of one councillor" suggests a specific situation that the Committee are not able to comment on.

Annex 2 Written members' questions [Item 6]

Question from Cllr. Diana Lockyer-Nibbs

Normandy Parish Council agreed to contribute to the cost of "Gateway" signs as well as new 30 mph repeater signs with yellow backgrounds along Guildford Road and were told that these had been put out to contract in March 2010.

Also they have requested permission to erect directional signs to some village facilities. Despite many requests they have been unable to obtain any response from County Highways.

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Can I now please be told the reason for the delay and when this work is going to be done?

Answer

The works orders were issued to Ringway in March 2010 for the Gateway Sign on Westwood Lane and the yellow backed speed limit repeater signs.

The Gateway Signs on Westwood Lane as agreed with the Chairman of the Parish Council, Peta Malthouse, were erected on 6th of August 2010. The site was inspected today (12th of Decemeber 2010) by our Community Highways Officer and they have confirmed that these signs are still present.

The upgrading of the existing repeater signs to yellow backed ones was regrettably missed out by our contractor, when the Gateway signs were erected from their programme of works. Ringway has apologised for this error and have now programmed this work to be carried out as soon as possible.

In relation to the additional signs indicating local facilities, we have been unable to find any records of such requests on our systems. If the Parish Council or Councillor Lockyer-Nibbs, would like to contact the local Highways office by phone on 0300 200 1003 or by email wah@surreycc.gov.uk with the relevant the details, such as a Confirm number or copies of the correspondence, it will be looked into further and replied to accordingly.

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Annex 3 Additional Member Allocations [Item 11]

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE IN
GUILDFORD

PROPOSAL FOR EXPENDITURE OF LOCAL BUDGET



1.	Name of Member:	Pauline Searle
2.	Name of project:	Grit Bins
3.	Organisation responsible for carrying out the project?	Surrey County Council Highways
4.	Description of Project: What outcomes are expected? What needs will it address? What geographical area will it cover? Who will benefit? How many people?	2 x Grit bins for Grange Road improving the safety of local residents and the people that use the road and pavement. One to be located on the junction with Waltham Avenue. One to be located next to the footpath, which leads to the Common (outside house approximately 206). The funding will cover the purchasing, installation and maintenance of the grit bins on Grange Road. The bins will be filled once per year for ten years.
5.	Who has been consulted?	The councillor has consulted with local people.
6.	When will the project be started and completed? When will outcomes be seen?	The grit bins will take approximately four weeks to be installed and filled once the order has been placed. The outcomes will be seen during future periods of bad weather.
7.	What is the total cost of the project? Estimate/breakdown of costings.	£5,000 £2,500 per bin.
8.	Amount and purpose of proposed Local Committee funding?	£5,000
9.	What alternative funds have been sought or secured?	None
10.	Has any other part of Surrey County Council been approached for this funding?	No
11.	Has the Local Committee given funding for this purpose in the past?	No
12.	If this project will need funding in future, how will that be met?	The cost includes maintenance for the next ten years.
13.	Area Director's / SCC Service Manager's comments	The Area Director recommends approval.
14.	Date of Local Committee	8 th December 2010

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SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE IN
GUILDFORD

PROPOSAL FOR EXPENDITURE OF LOCAL BUDGET



	Name of Member:	Mark Brett-Warburton
	Name of project:	Grit Bin
	Organisation responsible for carrying out the project?	Surrey County Council Highways
	Description of Project: What outcomes are expected? What needs will it address? What geographical area will it cover? Who will benefit? How many people?	Grit bin for Pewley Hill improving the safety of local residents and the people that use the road and pavement. The funding will cover the purchasing, installation and maintenance of the grit bin on Pewley Hill. The bin will be filled once per year for ten years.
	Who has been consulted?	The councillor has consulted with local people.
	When will the project be started and completed? When will outcomes be seen?	The grit bin will take approximately four weeks to be installed and filled once the order has been placed. The outcomes will be seen during future periods of bad weather.
	What is the total cost of the project? Estimate/breakdown of costings.	£2,500
	Amount and purpose of proposed Local Committee funding?	£2,500
	What alternative funds have been sought or secured?	None
	Has any other part of Surrey County Council been approached for this funding?	No
	Has the Local Committee given funding for this purpose in the past?	No
	If this project will need funding in future, how will that be met?	The cost includes maintenance for the next ten years.
	Area Director's / SCC Service Manager's comments	The Area Director recommends approval.
	Date of Local Committee	8 th December 2010