

MINUTES: of the meeting of the Mole Valley Local Committee held at 18.00 on Wednesday 17 November 2004 at The Weald School, Beare Green

Surrey County Council Members

David Gollin, Chairman
Bob McKinley, Vice Chairman
Helyn Clack
Jim Smith
David Timms
Hazel Watson

[All references to Items refer to the Agenda for the meeting]

PART ONE - IN PUBLIC

- 59/04 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** [Item 1]
No apologies of absence were received.
- 60/04 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** [Item 2]
Hazel Watson, as Chair of ProjX (mobile youth provision), declared an interest in items 8 and 9.
- 61/04 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** [Item 3]
The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 62/04 **PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS** [Item 4]
One public questions was asked during the open question time.
No Member questions were received.
- 63/04 **PETITIONS** [Item 5]
A petition was presented by Mrs Brenda Dilley requesting a Traffic Regulation Order on Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) 116 Leatherhead. The Chairman accepted the petition without comment and informed the petitioner that officers would prepare a report to come before the next meeting of the local committee in its transportation mode.
- 64/04 **MEMBERS' LOCAL ALLOCATION** [Item 6]
The proposals presented in the report were agreed.

RESOLVED

- i) to approve the proposal of £2,500 for ALDAG
- ii) to approve the proposal of £600 for the Ashtead Good Neighbours scheme
- iii) to note the proposal of £500 to undertake a village assessment for Bookham.

65/04 **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROTOCOL** [Item 7]

The report outlined a local protocol enabling variation to standing orders in relation to public engagement, the objective being to make local committee proceedings less bureaucratic and formal. Members welcomed the report. Following some minor amendments to the protocol the committee agreed to accept the recommendations.

RESOLVED

- i) to adopt the local protocol as set out in Annexe 1
- ii) to appoint the task group as described in paragraph 3.6
- iii) to note the timetable for scrutiny as set out in Annexe 2
- iv) to note the terms of reference as set out in Annexe 3.

66/04 **YOUNG PEOPLE DISCUSSION** [Item 8]

The Chairman welcomed all guests to the meeting. By way of introduction, he explained to the group that "Young People" continues to be one of the key priorities in Mole Valley's Community Strategy. The discussion focused on a number of issues:

Youth Voice

Youth Voice representatives Kathryn Woodruff, Khobi Vallis, and Suzi Taylor expressed their satisfaction with the services offered by the SCC Youth Development Service and Mole Valley District Council. She explained that Youth Voice now intended to focus on issues of a more personal nature such as safety, transport, and drug abuse now that the group was firmly established.

Connexions

Chris Bussicott, South East Area Manager for Connexions, stated that the agency's biggest challenge was in getting resources to a local level. Connexions have personal advisers who act as a central point of contact in all Mole Valley schools. A central Connexions Youth Forum acts as a consultation group on everything that they do. Over time, this group hopes to forge stronger links with the Surrey Youth Parliament and Youth Voice. A recent pilot by to provide a Connexions information access point at the Mulberry Youth Centre will be rolled out across the service if it proves successful. Youth Voice expressed their support to all Connexions initiatives.

Voluntary Youth Groups

David Cox, Director of Surrey Council for Voluntary Youth Services (SCVYS), explained that their role was to offer advice, guidance, and support to thousands of groups across Surrey. The close working relationship between Surrey CVYS and the Youth Development Service was evident with the announcement that they will be jointly publishing a book titled "How to start and sustain a successful Youth Club". Youth Voice said not enough information about voluntary youth groups getting through to schools.

Facilities for Young People

Members asked what could be done to get young people to stay in their own patch with things to do, with a particular reference to rural areas. David Cox said young people need to have a sense of ownership in any project, and this could be achieved by allowing young people to have a say in the design of any facility and opportunity to fundraise.

Youth Shelters

The youth shelter concept was welcomed by Youth Voice representatives as a useful way of "containing" young people who simply enjoy hanging around. Councillor Clare Curran, youth champion, agreed that there was no reason why young people should not have opportunities for hanging around, confirming that there was a proven need for youth shelters in Mole Valley. It was suggested that these ought to be custom built and dual purpose. A Youth Voice representative cited the bus stops at Holmwood are often full of young people despite their proximity to the dual carriageway.

Information

Members were keen to find out whether young people were able to access information on what services were available to them. Youth Voice confirmed they were currently producing 10,000 copies of a Youth Directory. It was noted that there had been 70,000 hits on the UrCountyUrSay website, and Members asked that the Youth Directory be made available on a website with a link from UrCountyUrSay. Youth Voice said although they would be willing to make it available on the website, they expressed caution as websites can often be impersonal and not all young people have access to the internet. They suggested that the best way to contact young people was through schools and asked that regular updates on what is happening be filtered through schools.

Communication

All guests agreed that Youth Voice act as tremendous ambassadors for young people. Despite this, there still is a gulf between the two sides of the community. It was suggested that elected members should have a role to play in bridging the tolerance gap by liaising with resident associations and parish councils to tackle "NIMBY" attitudes. Youth Voice confirmed that some of their members already attend these meetings, and that they were happy to attend any other meetings they were invited to. County Councillors made a reciprocal agreement to attend future Youth Voice meetings.

RESOLVED

LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR MOLE VALLEY, 2 FEBRUARY 2005, **ITEM 3**

- i) to note these papers as a basis for the discussions with key partners
- ii) to consider where members' local allocation fund might assist in improving facilities and access to information and support for young people, and encouraging funding from other sources
- iii) to identify an effective process for communications between Youth Voice and the Local Committee.

67/04 **PERFORMANCE OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SERVICE** [Item 9]

This item was for information only.

[Meeting ended: 19.45]

Chairman.