

MINUTES: of the meeting of the Mole Valley Local Committee held at 18.00 on Wednesday 2 February 2005 in St.Giles Hall, Ashtead

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

01/05 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** [Item 1]

No apologies of absence were received by Members for the formal local committee meeting. John Scotcher (Chairman of Dorking Police Community Partnership Group) who was invited to participate in Item 7 sent his apologies. Apologies were noted for local Ashtead District Councillors who were unable to attend the open public forum due to take place after the local committee.

02/05 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** [Item 2]

David Gollin declared an interest in Item 7 as the Policy Authority representative on the Mole Valley Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

03/05 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** [Item 3]

The minutes of the last minute were approved and signed by the Chairman.

04/05 **PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS** [Item 4]

There were no public or member questions.

05/05 **PETITIONS** [Item 5]

No petitions were presented.

06/05 **MEMBERS' LOCAL ALLOCATION** [Item 6]

Lynne Martin gave an update on community safety funding outlined in the report. It was agreed that officers would report back on the detail of community safety projects supported, along with a breakdown of where money has been spent and where gaps still exist, at the next informal meeting of county councillors. It was agreed that recommendations (iii) would be altered to give the Local Director delegated authority to spend the community safety funding following consultation with the Members.

RESOLVED

The local committee agreed to:

- (i) to approve the bids for Members' Local Allocation detailed in the report**
- (ii) to note the approval of smaller bids as detailed**
- (iii) to delegate the remainder of the local community safety funding to the Local Director in consultation with the members of the committee**
- (iv) to approve a further two bids tabled at the meeting**

07/05 COMMUNITY SAFETY DISCUSSION [Item 7]

The Chairman welcomed Alex Paterson and Alex Burrows from Mole Valley Youth Voice to the meeting. Members, officers, and guests then introduced themselves in turn. Officers taking part in the discussions were Roger Archer-Reeves (Local Transportation Director) and Lynne Martin (Local Director / Community Safety Coordinator). Guests taking part in the discussions were: Clive Smitheram (Community Safety Officer, Mole Valley District Council); Tim Hall (Leader of Mole Valley District Council); Colin Green (Mole Valley District Inspector, Surrey Police); Pat Greenhill (Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator for Mole Valley); and Michael Anderson (Chairman of Leatherhead Police Community Partnership Group).

The report outlined the three strands of the proposed community safety strategy – reassuring communities, tackling crime, and making roads safer. The discussion focused on some of the key issues identified through the public consultation held in November 2004, and is summarised below.

08/05 Youth Provision

Members requested that it would be helpful for there to be a report back on the actions arising from the young people discussion (Local Committee, 17 November 2004) at some point in the future, perhaps through the CDRP.

Youth shelters were identified a good use of CDRP funds. Lynne Martin confirmed that the CDRP were in discussions with the Charlwood Parish Council and Goodwyn and Chart Downs Resident Associations, as there was a specific funding stream for anti-social behaviour that could be used for youth shelters. The Chairman said there was a role for members in helping communities to overcome the NIMBY attitudes that can often arise when trying to build such permanent structures.

Some Members expressed concern that existing youth centres are under utilised and that there was a need to bring those facilities up-to standard before funding was made available for alternative facilities for young people. However, other members argued that there was a clear and identified need for rural provision such as youth shelters. Colin Green confirmed that the police were very supportive of the youth shelter concept.

The Chairman agreed that there needed to be a continuing dialogue between Members and young people, in order to identify solutions that would be used by young people.

09/05 **Designation Orders**

Tim Hall explained that Mole Valley District Council had taken a decision the previous night to implement a Public Place Designation Order in Dorking. This would give officers an optional power to stop a person with alcohol. Colin Green confirmed that Dorking would be the initial pilot area, although there was recognition that other areas in Mole Valley may benefit from a similar approach.

10/05 **Information Sharing and Communication**

Michael Anderson said the new community safety strategy needed to have a stronger emphasis on sharing information and communication between partners. The Chairman asked for suggestions from around the table as to ways in which the CDRP can communicate what it is doing.

It was suggested that there was perhaps a role for PCPGs in reporting to the CDRP, as they are the eyes and ears on the ground. Colin Green suggested that PCPG's could be used to help get the CDRP message across locally.

Pat Greenhill shared some good practice from Epsom and Ewell with the group. They produce a booklet on community safety, and each beat officer produces a report that they filter through Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

Michael Anderson also mentioned that neighbourhood panels are new players that need to be involved in communications. There are plans being made for them to be able to link and feed in to the PCPG, whose role is more strategic and across a wider area.

Lynne Martin stated that it might be necessary to make some funding available in order to create a role for someone to take on this communications role. Helyn Clack said that there were many groups who we need to communicate with more effectively, and suggested that perhaps a web-based solution would be a cheaper and more effective way of achieving the same outcome.

Alex Burrows commented that Mole Valley is piloting a texting service, and that this may be a good means of getting the message across to young people. Pat Greenhill also requested that care be taken to ensure that vulnerable people receive information in a format that is appropriate.

There was agreement around the table that Neighbourhood Watch needed to be regenerated, as in some parts of the District it was now redundant. Colin Green suggested that a District wide event, possibly in the Autumn, would be a way of reviving the network. Tim Hall kindly offered on behalf of the District Council to provide a venue such as the Dorking Halls for such an event.

11/05 **Crime reporting**

Some concern was expressed that many residents are not contacting police, because the police response they had received in the past had been poor. The Chairman placed this comment in context by explaining that Surrey Police currently received 12,000 emergency 999 calls a month and 30,000 non-emergency 0845 125 2222 calls a month, figures which were increasing. Colin Green did acknowledge that that non-reporting of crime was an issue that needed to be tackled.

12/05 **Road Safety**

Roger Archer-Reeves gave an update on initiatives that the Local Transportation Service were currently involved in, most of which are implemented in partnership with Surrey Police. He told the group about the recently launched Box Hill speed watch initiative, which trains members of the community to use speed equipment. Members welcomed the development in relation to community speed watch.

Roger Archer-Reeves also spoke of a proposed training event (organised jointly by Surrey County Council / Surrey Police), which was due to take place at Rykas around Easter time.

On the subject of illegal parking, the Chairman asked whether there needed to be an introduction of measures to reinforce the Highway Code. Both Roger Archer-Reeves and Colin Green stressed that there was a need for drivers to be educated. Roger Archer-Reeves also stated that there was no likelihood of residential parking being introduced for another 12-18 months.

It was noted that members of the community are often guilty of speeding, and that villagers needed to have an agreement to observe the speed limit. For example, Westcott residents display car stickers on their vehicles with the slogan SLOW (Slow in Westcott) in order to promote safer driving through their village. Roger Archer-Reeves also commented that the Safer Lanes initiative also helps achieve this objective using similar methods, and he is therefore fully supportive of the concept of peer group pressure.

Members applauded the work done by the Local Transportation Service and Surrey Police, but also acknowledged the impact of national campaigns in helping to change drivers' behaviour.

13/05 The Chairman thanked guests for participating in the discussions, and asked officers that the comments from the discussions and all actions agreed were considered in developing the 2005-08 Community Safety strategy.

RESOLVED

The committee agreed:

- (i) to consider ways in which local allocation funding could be used to improve facilities for young people, either by providing equipment for youth centres or funding youth shelters in rural areas**
- (ii) to request that the CDRP consider the way that it makes information available in appropriate formats (e.g. vulnerable people, text service for young people)**
- (iii) to give their support to a District-wide Neighbourhood Watch event**
- (iv) to raise the issue of non-reporting of crime through Police Authority Members**
- (v) to support the safety awareness event at Rykas later in the year**

14/05 **TASK GROUP FEEDBACK** [Item 8]

Members met on 14 January 2005 to scrutinise the performance of the Library Service. A summary of the discussions between Members and the Area Library Manager was presented in the report.

RESOLVED

The committee agreed to note:

- (i) the satisfactory performance of the Library Service**
- (ii) the modified mobile library service, with the newly established timetable across the district**
- (iii) the continuing challenges to the library service of alternative means of obtaining and using information, and access to books and other resources for leisure**
- (iv) the efforts of the library staff to maximise income to further increase book fund wherever possible**

[Meeting ended: 19.55]

Chairman.

ANNEXE TO MINUTES:

- 1. Supplementary papers for Item 6, Members Local Allocation (2 proposals tabled at the meeting by David Timms – The Christian Centre and The Crypt)**