

MINUTES: of the meeting of the Mole Valley Local Committee held at 14.00 on Monday 13th September 2010 in the Council Chamber, Pippbrook, Dorking

Members Present - Surrey County Council

- * Mrs Clare Curran – Chairman
- * Mr Stephen Cooksey
- * Mr Tim Hall
- * Mrs Helyn Clack
- Mr Christopher Townsend
- * Mrs Hazel Watson

Members Present - Mole Valley District Council

- * Cllr Chris Hunt Vice-chairman
- * Cllr Philip Harris
- Cllr Valerie Homewood
- * Cllr David Howell
- Cllr Jean Pearson
- Cllr Kathryn Westwood

- * Cllr Rosemary Dickson (Subst.)
- * Cllr David Howarth (Subst.)
- * Cllr David Sharland (Subst.)

- * Present

During the Open Forum preceding the meeting three questions were asked by members of the public. The first concerned the speed limit in Forest Green, the second concerned the speed limit on the B2209 Headley Lane and the final question concerned s106 expenditure on the Epsom Road/Knoll Roundabout scheme in Leatherhead.

PART ONE - IN PUBLIC

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Philp Harris who had become a full member of the Mole Valley Local Committee and Cllr David Sharland who had joined the committee as a substitute member.

31/10 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF SUBSTITUTIONS**
[Item 1]

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Valerie Homewood who was substituted by Cllr David Howarth, Cllr Jean Pearson who was substituted by Cllr David Sharland, Cllr Katherine Westwood who was substituted by Cllr Rosemary Dickson and Cllr Chris Townsend.

32/10 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** [Item 2]

None declared.

33/10 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 16TH JUNE 2010** [Item 3]

On a point of accuracy concerning item 21/10, it was requested that the number of member questions submitted at the meeting be clarified at nine. Six were received from Cllr Hazel Watson, two from Cllr Chris Hunt and one from Cllr David Howell.

The minutes were then agreed as a true record.

34/10 **PUBLIC WRITTEN QUESTIONS** [Item 4A]

One public written question was received and responded to. In response to a tabled question from Cllr Stuart McClachlan of Capel Parish Council the Surrey County Highways Area Programme and Maintenance Manager told the meeting that the salt and gritting network was currently under review. However, the route in question was designated Priority 2 and this designation would be likely to remain in place until the end of this season as no additional funding was currently available. The meeting heard that information regarding restocking of salt bins and gritting routes could be found on the Surrey County Council website. [Both public questions attached at Annexe A]

35/10 **MEMBER QUESTIONS** [Item 4B]

Three Member questions were received. One from Cllr Stephen Cooksey and two from Cllr Hazel Watson; [The questions and responses are attached as Annexe B.]

Cllr Watson asked how much money had been spent on progressing each of the five listed sites before and since the Local Committee approved them in June 2009. The Local Highways Manager would investigate and respond to Cllr Watson.

Further to Cllr Stephen Cooksey's question, the Chairman said that parking at the Dorking Nursery was a matter that all members would like to see resolved as a long-term goal, however the way in which the petition had been processed was an administrative matter that would be taken up at the next informal meeting.

[Member questions attached at Annexe B]

36/10 **PETITIONS** [Item 5]

No petitions were submitted to the Local Committee.

37/10 **RESPONSE TO PETITION** [Item 6]

Cllr Philip Harris requested the Streetworks team provide a supplement to the written response which would explain the opportunities for local traders to become involved in the local decision making process through the Divisional Highways Forum.

38/10 CHILDREN'S SERVICES REPORT [Item 11]

[NOTE: This item was taken out of sequence to allow the Area Head of Children's Services to attend another meeting.]

The Area Head of Children's Services presented an overview of the contents of the report.

The meeting heard that the Service is seeking greater engagement with local partners to ensure children's needs are met, especially in the designated priority place areas. Members were also encouraged to take up an increased role. It was noted that there had been an increase in referrals and it was likely due to recent high profile cases.

It was explained that an Emergency Duty Team were on call to cover the Council's statutory obligation to support vulnerable Children and Adults, and that the service had moved from its previous position towards working closely with Mole Valley District Council and other partners to provide appropriate safe places and a proper assessment of needs.

The meeting heard of the close link between drug, alcohol and domestic abuse and the impact this could have on outcomes for young people. It was also explained that there were sometimes conflicts between housing and social services legislation that needed creative solutions to overcome.

Area Head of Children's Services was asked to provide information relating to the costs of Children's Services in the District so that members might understand the finances behind the report.

RESOLVED that the Local Committee (Mole Valley) AGREE:

- (i) to note the contents of the report

Reasons for Decision

The Local Committee was content with the report.

39/10 £92,000 CAPITAL BUDGET FOR HIGHWAYS IN 2010/11 [Item 7]

Cllr Hazel Watson reported there were other schemes of equal importance as regards road safety such as the A24 London Road (Mickelham to Dorking), The B2127 Ockley Road at Forest Green and the A25 Wootton to Abinger Hammer. However the meeting heard that formal public consultation for these schemes had not yet commenced, and that the process would take the scheme beyond the end of the financial year which was the deadline for spending the available funding.

The Highways Manager advised the costs of undertaking the preliminary stages for a speed limit revision to be in the region of a few thousand pounds. Members would consider if the Local Allocation might be used on occasion for this purpose in the future.

Members felt a prioritised list of proposed Highways schemes in the District should be provided and regularly reviewed by the committee.

RESOLVED that the Local Committee (Mole Valley) AGREE:

- (i) to approve the use of the £92,000 capital funds for Mole Valley as set out in Annexe A.

Reasons for Decision

The recommendation provided the best value for money and addressed road safety priorities.

40/10 A29 STANE STREET, OCKLEY – TRAFFIC SAFETY SCHEME [Item 8]

The report was presented by the Local Highways Manager who explained that the match funding from the parish council created a sound partnership scheme.

RESOLVED that the Local Committee (Mole Valley) AGREE:

- (i) that a traffic safety scheme for the A29 Stane Street, Ockley be designed and implemented subject to available funding and legal processes.
- (ii) that a formal statutory procedure for a new 30mph speed limit on a29 Stane Street, Ockley be progressed.
- (iii) that a review be undertaken after the scheme becomes operational to determine effectiveness of the new speed limit, and results be reported to the Committee to decide whether the scheme should be amended or the speed limit should revert back to the original 40mph speed limit.

Reasons for Decisions

The scheme has been a high priority on the Local Committee's list of integrated transport schemes for some years. The scheme is being match funded by the Parish Council and represents a sound partnership project.

41/10 REVIEW OF S106 EXPENDITURE IN LEATHERHEAD [Item 9]

The Transportation Development Control Manager presented the report. The meeting heard that an Internal Audit review would be undertaken. Members reviewed and amended the recommendations of the report so as to cover concerns relating to the control and accountability of future schemes.

RESOLVED that the Local Committee (Mole Valley) AGREE:

- (i) the report arising from the investigations of the internal audit team should be brought before the local committee.
- (ii) to recommend that the internal audit team review should address how s106 expenditure could be integrated into general highway schemes and to clarify where monitoring, control and accountability within those schemes lie. If this is outside the scope of the Internal Audit report, a further officer report should be brought to the local committee to make recommendations accordingly.
- (iii) that following committee approval of spending plans for section 106 monies across mole valley, any material change in scheme or cost greater than 10% is taken back to committee for consideration or, when time constraints do not permit, the chairman, vice chairman and local member.
- (iv) that a fuller report will be taken to the local committee setting out options for spending the remaining money within leatherhead

Reasons for Decisions

The Local Committee was concerned that expenditure using s106 contributions should demonstrate full accountability and that the investigation into the specific overspend on the Knoll Roundabout scheme be made public.

42/10 WINTER MAINTENANCE REPORT [Item 10]

A report was tabled.

RESOLVED that the Local Committee (Mole Valley) AGREE:

To defer the report to be discussed at private meeting of the Committee to be held on 22nd September 2010.

Reasons for Decision

The late delivery of the draft committee report.

43/10 LOCAL COMMITTEE TASK GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE [Item 12]

The Local Committee agreed the terms of reference for the coming year.

RESOLVED that the Local Committee (Mole Valley) AGREE:

- (i) Approve the terms of reference template annexed to the report, to be used for all Local Committee task groups.

Reasons for Decisions

To update the Local Committee's Task Group Terms of Reference for the current council year.

44/10 MOLE VALLEY LOCALISM PILOT [Item 13]

The report was presented by the Strategic Director for Customers and Communities and the Chief Executive of Mole Valley District Council.

The meeting heard that two pilot projects were being undertaken in Surrey. One in Mole Valley District and one in the Borough of Woking and that the approach to both projects contrasted. The Woking project would initially examine constitutional aspects of closer partnership working, whilst it was proposed that the Mole Valley pilot commence with a practical approach working on six project areas. An officer team drawn from both the County and the District councils would serve the six projects. It was proposed members would provide nominations from amongst themselves to match this representation.

RESOLVED that the Local Committee (Mole Valley) AGREE to:

- (i) Advise on and endorse the identified outcomes for each of the six projects (Annexe A)
- (ii) Nominate member volunteers to work on the 6 strands of the programme, and agree that other members to be nominated on these groups outside of the Local Committee

Reasons for Decisions

The proposed new pilot was to deliver improvements in local partnership working and had demonstrated the clear leadership and commitment from both Councils.

45/10 LOCAL COMMITTEE FUNDING [Item 14]

RESOLVED that the Local Committee (Mole Valley) AGREE:

To APPROVE nine proposals from the Local Allocation funding. Details of the proposals are outlined in Annexe A [of the report]:

- £2,000 capital Leatherhead Youth Project, storage equipment
- £2,500 capital Westhumble cricket pavilion electricity supply
- £5,000 capital Surrey Highways (A29 Ockley scheme)
- £4000 Dorking Christian Centre, to supply and fit a new boiler (£1,500 revenue and £2,500 capital)

- £4,000 revenue Surrey Wildlife Trust to build a new kiln in Norbury Park
- £2,000 revenue Liquid Connection - The Grind youth project
- £2,000 revenue Leatherhead Drama Festival in 2011
- £1,500 revenue Bookham Afternoon Bridge Club scoring system

The additional proposal was TABLED and APPROVED.

- £1,900 revenue Bookham Seniors Computer Club

Members also NOTED five bids that fall below the £1,000 threshold:

- £500 revenue 8th Horley (Charlwood) Scout Group maintenance
- £750 revenue Leatherhead Area Partnership operation costs
- £850 revenue Pitstop Drop-in Centre, Laptop and Internet router

The additional proposal was TABLED and APPROVED.

- £600 revenue The Howard of Effingham Bike Club
- £700 revenue The Dawnay School Bike Club

Reasons for Decisions

The spending proposals put forward for this meeting have been assessed against the County standards for appropriateness and value for money and it is recommended that they should be approved.

46/10 **SMALL DISADVANTAGED AREAS FUND** [Item 15]

The meeting received four applications from the Mole Valley district. Members expressed their support for the work of all applicants.

- (i) Recommend that four applications presented to the Small Disadvantaged Areas Funds Panel for funding without prioritisation.

Reasons for Decision

The Local Committee supported the project initiatives of all of the applications presented as they each demonstrated the requirements of the Small Disadvantaged Areas Fund Guidelines.

[Meeting Ended: 5.00 pm]

Chairman



SURREY
COUNTY COUNCIL

**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
(MOLE VALLEY)**

PUBLIC WRITTEN QUESTIONS

13 SEPTEMBER 2010

The following question was submitted in accordance with Standing Order 66.

1. Question from Councillor Malcolm Johnson, Mole Valley District Council

What plans do Surrey County Council have for gritting the highways around Coldharbour and Abinger around winter time, and will they provide residents with grit boxes and/or grit to put on the roads?

Response from SCC Highways Team

Coldharbour Lane, Abinger Road and Anstie Lane are included on our Priority 2 salting network and would normally be treated during periods of prolonged and persistent frost, ice or snow which is expected to continue, or following snow, but only once Priority 1 routes have been cleared.

The Council provides salt bins at certain adopted highway locations that are not on the priority network, already treated as an aid to road safety. There is no legal duty to provide salt bins, Surrey County Council nevertheless recognise that through self help they can assist the local community and are prioritised according to:

- a) Difficult road junctions,
- b) Slopes,
- c) Acute bends
- d) Concentration of pedestrian commuter use.
- e) To assist with service for those in isolated rural communities off the primary and secondary precautionary treated routes

Requests for salt bins are assessed against a score to ensure that those provided meet the criteria of servicing the highest priorities within the scope of the budget. The annual round of assessment has been completed but if you have a specific location this can be investigated.

2. Question from Councillor Stuart McClachlan, Capel Parish Council

During the snow and ice of last winter a number of Coldharbour residents had to abandon their properties due to the lack of food supplies or essential heating materials. To avoid a repeat of the consequent lack of access to Coldharbour for Emergency Vehicles, domestic supplies including heating oil and public and school transport, we seek the reinstatement of Coldharbour Lane onto the 2010 /2011 Gritting Schedule as priority 1.

This is an example of one hot spot in our parish but Highways must consult with all the Mole Valley Parish Councils, and Resident's Associations, before the gritting schedule and the location and filling of grit-bins is finalised in order to identify all other areas, which are deemed as crucial for public access to and from our villages.

Effective lines of communication must be drawn up so that the public are made aware of the Winter Maintenance Schedule well in advance of the winter.

To avoid a repeat of last winter when our local dairy farmers were minutes away from sacrificing thousands of gallons of milk to the drain, would it not be possible to reinstate a system of permitting local farmers, possibly in partnership with Highways, to assist with keeping minor roads clear of snow using their own snow ploughs, or plough attachments provided by highways.

Response from SCC Highways Team

To be found in the body of the main minutes.



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
(MOLE VALLEY)**

MEMBER WRITTEN QUESTIONS

13 SEPTEMBER 2010

The following questions were submitted in accordance with Standing Order 47.

Question from County Councillor Stephen Cooksey (Dorking and Holmwoods)

On 9th December 2009 a petition signed by 109 local residents was presented to the Local Committee requesting consideration of the possibility of installing a pedestrian crossing in West Street, Dorking in order to assist parents and children crossing West Street to attend Dorking Nursery. This was proposed as a consequence of the sale of the Old Fire Station building to Mole Valley Housing Association and a significant resultant reduction in car parking facilities at the nursery. The Local Committee responded by agreeing to ask the Cabinet to consider the use a very small proportion of the funds received from the sale to organise a feasibility study and if that proved successful to install a crossing. Would the Chairman please indicate:

1. Why it took from 9th December 2009 to 18th June 2010 to receive any response to this request?
2. Why the response was tabled and not made public prior to the meeting?
3. What research had been undertaken in producing the response and by whom and could this be regarded as a feasibility study?
4. Did the Cabinet discuss the request from the Local Committee and if not why not?
5. When will an opportunity be provided for a public discussion of the 18th June response?
6. Is the treatment of this request regarded as an appropriate way to deal with an issue raised by means of a public petition and a course of action suggested by the Local Committee?

Response from Area Director East (Local Partnerships Team)

The Local Committee of 9 December 2009 received a petition requesting consideration of the possibility of installing a pedestrian crossing in West Street Dorking, in the light of the sale of the old Dorking Fire Station building and subsequent parking issues.

The Local Committee agreed that a letter be sent by the Chairman of the committee to the Cabinet requesting their consideration to reinvest the capital receipt from the Fire Station sale into safe crossing measures for the nursery children. An update was to be given at the next Local Committee meeting.

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Change and Efficiency took this matter forward once the letter arrived in February, taking advice on the issue with officers and Cabinet members. A responding letter was then written back to the Local Committee.

The issue was dealt with through letters; there was no committee report process requested by members. The Cabinet member has a delegated power to handle matters in this way, seeking information and responding by letter.

In order to secure all the relevant information to respond to the Local Committee letter, there was discussion with the Nursery, the new owners of the old Dorking Fire Station and neighbouring residents.

The Nursery's Travel Plan identifies that consultations have taken place and consideration of the possibility of School Crossing patrol on West Street to help parents crossing their children.

These consultations meant that an update was not possible until the June Local Committee.

The letter is now in the public arena and indicates Cabinet support for a solution following consultation and already underway to address parking at the nursery.

Question from County Councillor Hazel Watson (Dorking Hills)

Since June 2009 when the Mole Valley Local Committee approved reduced speed limits on the following roads, which have not yet been implemented:

- A25 Westcott to Dorking
- B2209 Old London Road, Mickleham
- A25 Wotton to Abinger Hammer
- A 2127 Ockley Road, Forest Green
- A24 London Road , Mickleham to Dorking

a) How many personal injury accidents and fatalities are you aware of that have taken place on each of these roads since June 2009?

b) How much money has been spent on progressing each of the above reduced speed limits including on speed surveys before and since the Local Committee approved them in June 2009?

c) When will the speed surveys on each of the above roads, including those carried out before June 2009, cease to be valid owing to them being time limited?

Response from Local Highways Manager

a) Records of injury collisions on County roads are currently available up to the end of February 2010. The recorded number of personal injury accidents and fatalities on the five listed sites between June 2009 and February 2010 is as follows :

- A25 Westcott to Dorking - 1 injury collision.
- B2209 Old London Road, Mickleham - no injury collisions.
- A25 Wotton to Abinger Hammer - 1 injury collision.
- B2127 Ockley Road, Forest Green - 1 injury collision.
- A24 London Road, Mickleham to Dorking -3 injury collisions. (2 fatal collisions have occurred since February 2010).

b) It is not possible to determine the whole cost for the speed limits because feasibility work is classified as revenue funded and has not been separately recorded for the schemes. Recorded capital expenditure shows that at least £3880 has been spent on the A25 Westcott to Dorking scheme and £3277 on the B2209 Old London Road, Mickleham scheme.

c) The speed survey carried out should remain valid unless anything changes on site. If traffic conditions, volumes or road layout have changed then it is often helpful to repeat surveys or carry out verification checks.