

MINUTES: of the meeting of the Runnymede Local Committee held at 9.30 on Friday 23 January 2004 at the Runnymede Centre, Chertsey

Surrey County Council Members

*Mrs Elise S Whiteley - Chairman
*Mrs Moira James – Vice Chairman
*Mr R A N Lowther
*Mr Terry Dicks
*Miss Susan Bruce

*= present

PART ONE - IN PUBLIC

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

111/03 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

There were no apologies for absence

112/03 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 12 December 03 [Item 2]

The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed
Matters arising: Cllr Moira James had received no response to her supplementary question regarding the “Not School” process for excluded pupils. Linda Neve to follow up.

113/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

There were no declarations of interest

114/03 PETITIONS [Item 4]

No petitions had been received since the last Committee meeting.

115/03 PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 5]

There were no formal public questions. An informal public question time had taken place prior to the formal meeting. The minutes of this session are at **Annex 1**

116/03 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS [Item 6]

Cllr Terry Dicks had submitted a members' question. The question and response are attached in **Annexe 2** to these minutes.

117/03 MEMBERS ALLOCATIONS [Item 7]

Carolyn Rowe Surrey County Council Local Director introduced the report outlining items awaiting Committee decision for funding.

RESOLVED

The Committee

- (i) Agreed the projects outlined in Appendix 1
- (ii) Agreed the projects outlined in Appendix 2

118/03 ADULT AND COMMUNITY LEARNING IN RUNNYMEDE [Item 8]

Judith Dey, Area Manager, Adult and Community Learning, NorthWest Surrey, summarised the report. It was noted that the report was based on changes between 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 figures due to the educational year-end.

Ms Dey reported although the figures appeared to show a decline in number of learners, the previous year had been exceptional and the numbers for 2002/03 were not low.

Judith explained that ACL was not funded by Surrey County Council other than its asset rents paid, but that 50% of funds were raised through learner fees, with the remaining met by the Learning and Skills council. This was why it was important for the service to provide courses learners wanted, in addition to meeting the targets set by LSC, whilst meeting the priorities of Surrey County Council.

Within the next two years the service would be subject to quality inspection, much as schools are with an Ofsted inspection.

Judith Dey informed the Members of the service priorities that form the 3-year plan and read the current mission statement that she felt no longer matched those priorities. The Members were asked to feedback their ideas toward a new mission statement.

The Members thanked Ms Dey for her report and for the good service provided by Adult and Community Learning.

Members referenced the section in the report highlighting the closure of the Runnymede centre, currently the single programme centre, projected for 2005 and asked Judith Dey whether she was aware of what the plans were for the service to be delivered in Runnymede post the date of closure.

Member felt strongly that a further equitable facility within Runnymede be sought to replace the provision currently offer before the Runnymede Centre closed.

It was suggested that innovative use of facilities such as the learning zone in New Haw library were successful, and that it was hoped that relationships could be made for example with the Youth Development Service in Englefield Green and Jubilee High School, but that many existing facilities were too small for many courses to be delivered, and that using schools was one way forward, but that there were issues regarding delivery of day time courses.

Members asked for an update on facilities across Runnymede that could potentially be used for Adult Education purposes.

Members were extremely concerned everything appeared to be moving to Woking or Guildford and felt very strongly that Runnymede should be given more consideration, and asked that their concerns be sent the Executive

Carolyn Rowe, Local Director, agreed to draft a letter on behalf of the Local Committee.

In giving feedback, Members felt the mission statement should make direct reference to accessibility to learning for the disabled as part of the 3-year plan.

Judith Dey offered to return and present again to the committee when there was less uncertainty.

RESOLVED

The Committee

- (i) Had considered and commented on the annual report for 2002/2003.
- (ii) Had offered comment on the overall objectives for the service and on priorities for adult and community learning in Runnymede for the next three years, how they could be addressed **and had asked that access to learning for the disabled be included.**

119/03 ADULT & COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES PERFORMANCE REPORT [Item 9]

Pam Marsden, Service Manager, North West Surrey Area Management Team, briefed the Committee on the success of last years joint review inspection, and that the rating for the County's social services had been increased from one star to two stars.

Pam discussed the new Health and Social Care Improvement Plan (HSCIP) saying it is the first in the County, possibly the Country to bring the three different plans (Community Care, Modernisation and the PCTs Health Improvement plan) together.

The Committee was informed of the partnership work in finding local solutions to the needs of those users with learning disabilities and to the growth in Intensive Home Care usage.

In terms of local issues, Pam Marsden reported that Brockhurst Residential Home in Ottershaw longer met care standards, but that the service was reviewing its provision for older people and a consultant had been engaged to consider options, with a report due in February.

The local Member for Ottershaw, Cllr Moira James asked that she be kept informed of developments regarding Brockhurst.

Members asked Pam Marsden about the future of the Telecare project.

Pam replied that Telecare, known as the Columba project was piloted at Brockhurst, but that it was now to be expanded across the County.

Members asked whether the new Stroke Coordinator was aware of local stroke clubs such as New Haw and Addlestone. Pam Marsden replied that it was the Coordinators remit to work with local clubs, and since she has been in post since November, hasn't visited them all yet.

The Committee asked for information regarding young carers in Runnymede, to which Ms Marsden agreed to find out and respond to the Committee with more information.

Mrs Marsden was congratulated on the good work of the service despite the difficulties of working with several computer systems.

The Member for Chertsey hoped that a site replacing Brockhurst would be found in this area, when problems were being faced by other services in securing facilities to continue operating in Runnymede.

RESOLVED

The Local Committee

- (i) NOTED and commented upon the performance of North Surreys Adult and Community Care Service and the work that is being undertaken to provide monitoring information that is available for Runnymede.
- (ii) Noted and commented upon the service changes made and planned for the adult and community care service in light of the people first re-organisation.
- (iii) AGREED-The local committee recognised the resource implications associated with improved performance
- (iv) AGREED to recommend improvements that can be made to Local Performance reports to facilitate discussions on services for adults and local needs

120/03 THE REVIEW AND FUTURE OF LOCAL COMMITTEES IN SURREY [Item 10]

Carolyn Rowe, Surrey County Council Local Director for Runnymede introduced the report, and clarified that the appendices were reports presented at previous meetings.

Ms Rowe then handed over to Cllr Terry Dicks who presented his reasons for bringing this report to the Committee.

Mr Dicks reported that the report ought to have been tabled to Local Committee Members before it went to the Executive.

Mr Dicks declared his interest in the report was due to the fact he was not in favour of Surrey County Council as a strategic Authority becoming a local authority, and felt that as a result of Local Committees decisions were being devolved downwards.

Mr Dicks was outraged at the Executive recommendation stating that Borough / District councils be asked to involve Local Committees in discussion of major planning applications, stating that it would be against the law for Local Committees to prejudice Borough Council prior to its decision making process.

Mr Dicks raised concerns over the success of the highways contract MAMOTH, and asked Mr William Ward, Local Transportation Director if it were true to say Officers were not to discuss any issues with the new contract, and whether the contractors were overspending and overclaiming for works.

Mr Dicks also questioned the officer costs involved in both Transportation Service and Community Support Teams supporting the Local Committee, stating that if abolished it would save £8 million, this being 2% of the Council Tax.

Mr Dicks said Members were entitled to know the truth regarding the success of the MAMOTH contract.

Cllr Lowther wished it to be recorded in the minutes; he was against planning items coming before Local Committees.

Cllr Dicks proposed a motion that a letter be sent to Executive to make them aware that this Committee feels the report, "The Future of Local committees in Surrey" ought to have been brought before local committees prior to going to Executive.

This motion was seconded by Cllr Ray Lowther, and at vote, 4 found in favour and One Member abstained.

RESOLVED

That the Committee:

- (i) AGREED – The Executive be made aware that this Committee is concerned that this report, "The Future of Local committees in Surrey" was not brought before local committees prior to going to Executive for decision so that the views of the Local Committees could have been considered by the Executive before making its decision.

121/03 HARE HILL, ROWTOWN AND ONGAR HILL ROAD SAFETY STUDY, OUTCOME OF FEASIBILITY STUDY [Item 11)

Mr Rhys Mander introduced the feasibility outcome regarding improvements to Hare Hill Rowtown and Ongar Hill, and reported on the injury accidents and speed issues in this area.

Mr Mander appraised the committee of the options considered for the area, and if rejected on what grounds.

Mr Dicks urged the Committee to accept the decisions of the officers, as a result had been needed for some time.

It is noted for the record, Mr Dicks left the room at 11.44 – 11.46.

RESOLVED

The Committee

- (i) AGREED- that proposals to traffic calm Rowtown and Ongar Hill, including an improved pedestrian crossing on Ongar Hill, as detailed in section 4.1 of the report and highlighted in annex 1, be put to public consultation
- (ii) AGREED - that three pedestrian improvements, as detailed in section 4.9 of the report and highlighted in annex 1, be implemented
- (iii) AGREED - that signing and lining works, as detailed in section 4.15 of the report, be implemented
- (iv) AGREED - that lighting improvements, as detailed in section of 4.17 of the report and highlighted in annex 1, be implemented

122/03 **MIDDLE HILL TRAFFIC CALMING PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESULTS –**
(ITEM 12]

Mr Rhys Mander introduced the report into traffic calming at Middle Hill, and reported on the public consultation in December 03, to which 40% of local residents responded.

Mr Mander handed copies of the consultation leaflets to Members and outlined the public comments and transportation options regarding Middle Hill

It was proposed that ideas for traffic calming at the top of Middle Hill be considered at the next annual review of the transportation programme.

RESOLVED

That the Committee agreed

- (i) AGREED - that the top half of Middle Hill, from Parsonage Road up, be traffic calmed with speed cushions and that the necessary traffic regulation orders be advertised
- (ii) AGREED - that the Local Transportation Director be authorised to consider any objections received in consultation with the chairman and the local member
- (iii) AGREED - that the case for traffic calming on the lower half of Middle Hill be monitored and reviewed twelve months after implementation of traffic calming on the top half of Middle Hill
- (iv) AGREED - that suggestions from local residents that additional traffic calming features be implemented on the upper residential section of Tite Hill, incorporating an improved pedestrian crossing facility near the junction of Kingswood Rise, be considered at the next transportation programme review

123/03 **UPDATE OF THE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMME** [Item 13]

Will Ward, Local Transportation Director, introduced the regular report demonstrating progress of works planned and underway by the Local Transportation team, and clarified its purpose with regard to priorities for the public present. Mr Ward stated this was due to be reviewed again during September or October.

RESOLVED

The Local Committee;

- c). AGREED - that the traffic calming, as shown on the plan (Annex 2), be progressed by the developer and the necessary traffic orders to be advertised.
- d). AGREED - that the Local Transportation Director be authorised to consider any objections received in consultation with the Chairman and local County Councillor.
- e). AGREED - to the updated programme of highlighted transportation schemes indicated in Annex 3.

[Meeting ended 12.34 p.m.]

Chairman's signature

Runnymede Local Committee, Friday 23 January. Annexe. 1. To minutes

Record of open public question time

Question 1.

Mr Vincent Smith – Egham & Staines Conservation Volunteers

The head of TASIS School had approached the Thorpe Association and requested that they arrange for litter to be cleared in the area. Mr Smith informed him this was not their responsibility.

Mr Ward, Transportation Director informed Mr Smith this was a function of Runnymede Borough Council, and would ensure they were aware of this request.

Question 2.

Mr A Thorogood, Virginia Water Community Association.

Why was a large amount of compost moved before planning permission was granted through Lyne Lane? The residents were concerned about the numbers of large lorries using that route. Mr Thorogood also wanted a guarantee this would not happen again.

Cllr Terry Dicks responded that Mr Thorogood should write to Mr Roger Hargreaves, Head of Planning and Countryside with his concerns. If he received no reply, then Mr Thorogood was invited to write to Mr Dicks as Chair of the Planning and Regulatory Committee. He was asked to copy Cllr Elise Whiteley in to correspondence as the local Member for the area concerned.

Question 3.

Cllr Tony Davis, Runnymede Borough Councillor for Chertsey South and Rowtown.

Thanked the committee for expediting the Hare Hill Rowtown transportation process, and asked why no consideration was being given to a pedestrian crossing by the shops at Ongar Place, as this was a busy route and many people needed to cross the roads there to the shops and bus stops.

Mr Ward, Transportation Director informed Cllr Davis that as part of the formal committee process, Mr Rhys Mander, project engineer, would be outlining his proposal to address residents issues through a process of consultation.

Mr Mander outlined that consideration is being given to traffic calming and crossings. Mr Mander noted Cllr Davis concerns.

Mr Mike Twelftree, West Addlestone Residents Association

Reported that he had been corresponding with Mr David Mitchell, Principle Engineer to discuss the number of near miss accidents at the mini roundabouts at the junction of Spinney Hill and Church Road, also the pedestrian crossing at Church Road, which a number of children used which suffered from speeding motorists.

Mr Twelftree suggested changing the crossing into a pelican crossing and placing speed awareness measures such as flashing lights.

Mr Ward, Transportation Director said that it would be helpful to have a meeting with Mr Twelftree to go through the options and suggestions together. There were 350 injury

accidents per year in Runnymede and with limited funds to address all the areas of concern for residents, the Committee met once a year to prioritise the demand and spend for work.

Cllr Terry Dicks reported Mr Mitchell has done all his investigations and found no justification for action, his judgement must be trusted, and officer's expertise must be relied upon, when there are worse places in Runnymede to be considered.

Cllr Terry Dicks wished to be invited to the meeting between Mr Twelftree and Mr Ward.

Question 4.

Cllr Tony Davis, Runnymede Borough Councillor for Chertsey South and Rowtown.

Cited a resident's letter regarding loss of Fire Appliance at Chertsey Fire Station, and urged the Local Committee to ensure the area had enough Fire & Rescue resources to cover multiple incidents in the area.

One example given was the recent fire at St Pauls Church, Addlestone and the volume of attendance needed, and the risk of not having enough appliances to attend any further potential incidents on one of the motorways cutting through Runnymede.

Carolyn Rowe, Surrey County Council Local Director for Runnymede, replied that Mr Davis comments would be taken on board, and that at the Fire and Rescue Service presentation to the last committee, the proposed new configuration of the provision at Chertsey would not affect its fire prevention abilities.

Question 5.

Patricia Banks a resident of Englefield Green was concerned that residents affected by the Middle Hill traffic calming report were not aware it was being discussed at Committee this morning.

Ms Banks asked why a decision was being taken to traffic calm Middle Hill and not Tite Hill.

Mr Ward hoped Patricia Banks would be able to stay for the item regarding the options considered for traffic calming in that area. He informed Ms Banks that she would be given a copy of the consultation results, and that ideas for improvements to the top of Middle Hill would be considered at the annual Members review.

Ms Banks asked if the remaining budget that had been left from the decision to traffic calm part of Middle Hill rather than all of it, be transferred to traffic calming Tite Hill.

Mr Ward reported financial and priority decisions would be looked at the annual Members review.



MEMBERS QUESTIONS

21 JANUARY 2004

Question from Councillor Terry Dicks:

Questions regarding the regulations concerning the use of invalid carriages

Could the Local Transportation Director please inform me;

- (i) Whether they can be driven on any pavement or footpath?
- (ii) Can they be driven on any road?
- (iii) Do they have to use pedestrian crossings to cross the road?
- (iv) Do potential drivers of these carriages have to undergo training?
- (v) Are the drivers licensed?
- (vi) Do drivers have to take out insurance against accident or injury to themselves or others?
- (vii) Are there any restrictions on the size of these carriages?
- (viii) Are there any speed restrictions built into these carriages and what is the maximum speed available to the drivers?

Response from Mr William Ward, Local Transportation Director,

Mr Ward provided all attendees with an excerpt regarding invalid carriages from the Department of Transport code of practice, and gave the following response,

- (i) Yes they can be driven on any pavement or footpath
- (ii) Yes they can be driven on any road other than a motorway
- (iii) No, but they are advised to use pedestrian crossings
- (iv) No, but they are advised to take out insurance
- (v) No, they are not licensed legally as a motor vehicle
- (vi) Yes, a maximum width of 0.85m (2'9")
- (vii) Yes, class 2 vehicles used on footways only have a maximum speed of 4 miles per hour and class 3 vehicles have a maximum speed limit of 8 miles per hour on roads, and 4mph on footways.