

Minutes remain draft until agreed at the following committee meeting

MINUTES: of the meeting of the Runnymede Local Committee held at 10.00 on Friday 16 July 2004 at the Runnymede Centre, Chertsey

Surrey County Council Members

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

*= present

PART ONE - IN PUBLIC

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

24/04 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Terry Dicks

25/04 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 4 JUNE [Item 2]

Minutes were agreed as a true record and signed.

26/04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

Declarations of personal interest were received from:

Cty Cllr Elise Whiteley regarding Item 7 – Members Allocations, in that she is a governor of the Hythe School to which she is making an allocation of funding.

27/04 PETITIONS [Item 4]

One objection was received in response to the public advertisement of the amendments to waiting restrictions in Highfield Road, Chertsey. The objection is supported by a small petition of 18 people from 11 dwellings.

"We the undersigned object to the re-classification of zig-zag markings outside Salesian School, Highfield Road on the grounds we believe it will increase the flow of traffic and jeopardise safety of schoolchildren crossing the road"

28/04 PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 5]

An informal public question time had taken place prior to the formal meeting. The minutes of this session are at **Annex 1**

A formal public question was taken from Cllr Tony Davis, Runnymede Borough Cllr for Chertsey South and Rowtown:

“Could the Committee please advise whether any research is known to have been done by Department of Transport or other bodies into the effects of various vertical deflection traffic calming mechanisms on the disabled, those suffering from back pain or any other particular medical conditions, and if so what the broad conclusions from such research has been?”

Mr Mitchell, Principal Engineer drew the Committees attention to the response tabled:

“The Department for Transport through the Transport Research Laboratory have carried out research into the effects of vertical traffic calming specifically on different types of vehicle. However, the study does extend to medical problems of occupants. Although the study is nearly complete, the Department will not release any provisional or indicative results at this time. When the study is available a copy will be sent to Councillor Davis.”

29/04 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS** [Item 6]

Cty Cllrs Elise Whiteley and Ray Lowther had submitted member's questions.

Question1 from County Councillor Elise Whiteley:

In view of requests from within the Runnymede community for a late day meeting, would the Committee please consider having at least one evening meeting a year to enable people in employment to attend? This would be in keeping with the service offered by other local committees in the County

Response from Cty Cllr Moira James as Chairman of the Local Committee in Runnymede

Thank you for your question. As you know, we had an evening meeting in March of this year. The opportunity remains to consider this again in the future

Mrs Elise Whiteley asked a supplementary question:

The last evening meeting was in the last year, I am asking if we can have one this year.

Mrs James responded that this would be looked into in due course.

Question2 from County Councillor Elise Whiteley:

Would Mr Graham Combe, Head of Youth Development, and Executive Member Mrs Sealy, please indicate if they are interested in my offer last year, to fund from my Members allocation, a dance teacher for young people at The Hythe Centre for one year? I have waited to hear from Mr Combe following a meeting last year. Perhaps the Youth Service would prefer this to be organised independently with volunteers to assist, and if so could they advise on necessary protocol?

Response from Mr Graham Combe, Head of Youth Development, Community Services:

We would welcome the opportunity to engage young people in an arts based project and would be keen to proceed with something of this nature Recruitment of the right individual would be key as would being able to agree an evaluation criteria such as a review of take up by young people and longer term sustainability for the young people of that area.

If County Councillor Whiteley agrees, we will get in contact to start this process

Mrs Elise Whiteley asked a supplementary question:

Yes I would agree to this, subject to knowing what amount of money might be required to progress this.

Question3 from County Councillor Ray Lowther:

Assuming that the resurfacing of London Street, Chertsey is to go ahead, can Will Ward, the Director of Transportation, assure me that all the seven issues raised by myself in relation to the problems in London Street, and approved for investigation by this Committee, are by this Committee, are being actively pursued and that any proposals will be brought before us at an early date for consideration for implementation. Furthermore, that Mrs Fran Harmer of 46 London Street, Chertsey, will be informed of developments

Response from Mr David Mitchell, Principal Engineer, Local Transportation Service:

At the meeting of the Local Committee on 12 March 2004 the Committee agreed to add London Street to the approved programme of Transportation schemes so that a feasibility study could be undertaken and when completed reported to Committee. The brief for the study identified the following issues:

- Consideration of a 20 mph speed limit.
- Provision of pedestrian crossings.
- Control of parking on pavements.
- Manhole covers rattling.
- Potential use of Vehicle Activated Signs.
- "At any time" waiting restrictions at the junction with Drill Hall Road.
- Further consideration of the London Street, Bridge Road, Pound Road, Abbey Road junction.

Work has been done to examine the merits of most of the above measures and the initial response was advised to Members during the annual Member Tour of Transportation sites on Monday 12 July 2004. The opportunity was taken on the Tour to discuss the response with Mrs Fran Harmer. The rattling manholes will be adjusted as part of the resurfacing scheme. White advisory hatch markings will be marked at the junction with Drill Hall Road to deter parking in that location. Members noted the pedestrian crossing improvements were under construction at the east end of London Street. Further work needs to be done to examine the potential to improve crossing facilities at the west end of London Street. The detailed responses to all seven issues will be reported to the October meeting of the Committee.

Question4 from County Councillor Ray Lowther:

The Chairman of this Local Committee has been informed by Sainsbury's Head of Portfolio Asset Management that, having recognised the problem caused to wheelchair users by the obstruction to the footpath at the company's petrol filling station at Chertsey, it is intended to drop Kerbs "as the best solution".

Will our Officers visit the site and ascertain if the dropped kerbs will mean that the wheelchair users and pedestrians using the footpath will have to leave the pavement and step into the car park "road" used by vehicular traffic and if so, inform Sainsburys that this solution is

unsatisfactory and could present a hazard. That would mean an alternative solution must be found. A report should be made to this Committee on the outcome of the visit.

Response from Mr David Mitchell, Principal Engineer, Local Transportation Service:

Officers from Runnymede Local Transportation Service have visited the location. It should be noted that the area in question is private land owned by Runnymede Borough Council and managed by Sainsbury's. The land is not highway maintained at public expense. The dropped kerbs do require users to step into and follow along the car park "road". Tactile paving denoted the location of the dropped crossings as a measure to warn partially sighted users of the dropped kerbs. However, these could also have indicated to partially sighted users that they were intended to cross the car park "road". During a visit to the site on 15 July 2004 it could be seen that the tactile paving had been removed and replaced with a concrete surface. It is believed that the Runnymede Access Liaison Group will examine the current arrangement and take any concerns up with Sainsbury's. Whilst not ideal there are no doubt other examples in Runnymede where users need to walk in the road for a short distance in for example cul de sac locations. It is suggested that since this is not an area of highway the limit of Officers involvement should be to liaise with the Runnymede Access Liaison Group.

Mr Lowther asked a supplementary question:

Could I have a letter sent to J. Sainsbury to be assured that people who have to step out into the road are not going to be caused a road safety hazard?

30/04 MEMBERS ALLOCATIONS [Item 7]

Carolyn Rowe Surrey County Council Local Director introduced the report outlining items awaiting Committee decision for outstanding 04/05 funding., and Cllr Whiteley reiterated her personal interest in the Hythe School.

The recommendations were amended to read appendix 1 **and appendix 2** from the Members' allocations budget due to further allocation bids received.

RESOLVED

The Committee

- (i) Approved the proposed expenditures from appendix 1 **and appendix 2** from the Members' allocations budget

31/04 ADULTS AND COMMUNITY CARE AND PCT JOINT REPORT [Item 8]

Carey Jamieson, Acting Community Care Manager, summarised the Adults and Community Care and PCT joint report. Members were informed of the launch in May of the first joint Health and Social Care Improvement Plan, and the developments at Aldwyn Place.

Members were thanked for their support of the Columba project at Brockhurst, which has been running as a trial for 18months. At evaluation, it was shown to have been successful, and will continue.

Members were told that no fines have been incurred by delayed transfers of care.

Carey Jamieson discussed the "Surrey 50+ Network" which aims to engage with people over 50 about planning, delivery and monitoring current and future services. 7% of total returns to the

questionnaire mail shot had come from Runnymede. Mrs Jamieson was asked to inform Members as to how mailshot addresses with age related details could be purchased in this way.

The Committee sent their best wishes to Mrs Heather Schroeder the area director of Adults and Community Care who will shortly be leaving, and thanked her for all her good work.

RESOLVED

The Committee

- (i) Agreed- the projects and initiatives outlined in the report were noted.

32/04 REPORT ON THE CHERTSEY RAISING THE BAR PROJECT [Item 9]

Linda Neve, Local Committee and Partnership Officer for Runnymede presented the outcomes delivered in the Raising the Bar self reliance project in Runnymede.

Linda was thanked for the work undertaken .

Members asked whether consideration could be given to rolling the project out to Englefield Green West.

RESOLVED

The Local Committee

- (i) NOTED the initiatives delivered in Chertsey St Ann's.
- (ii) NOTED– the outcomes achieved through partnership working are noted.
- (iii) NOTED - that a further report on areas highlighted in the 2004 IMD government statistics will be reported in the autumn

33/04 SURREY STRUCTURE PLAN DEPOSIT DRAFT, DECEMBER 2002. PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS, JUNE [Item 10]

Peter Shadbolt presented the proposed modifications to the Structure Plan to the Committee. Mr Shadbolt reported that modifications are now in public consultation for 6 weeks until 6 August. The result of the consultation will be reported to Executive on 12th October, and provided no further changes to the Plan are necessary the Executive will be asked to recommend the Plan to County Council on 19th October for approval.

Members welcomed the fact the Runnymede in NW was seen as different from other more rural areas of Surrey, as it had already lost a considerable amount of green area to building and motorway routes.

A discussion around the issue of keeping affordable housing “affordable” took place, and Mr Shadbolt reported that affordable rented housing was the need, that way the housing couldn't be sold off for profit by the occupier.

In terms of the regional issue, Mr Shadbolt reported that the plan would be saved for 3 years, the local borough and district councils are developing regional frameworks from this, but that when the South East plan is on board, it supersedes both of these.

RESOLVED

The Local Committee;

AGREED – to comment on the proposed modifications to the Surrey Structure Plan Deposit draft 2002, as part of the formal consultation process.

34/04 SURREY CAMERA SAFETY PARTNERSHIP [Item 11]

Mr David Mitchell reported on the commencement of the Surrey Camera Safety partnership and stated that in Runnymede there are currently no safety cameras, but the proposal is to introduce a red light violation camera at the junction of A317 Chertsey Road and Eastworth Road. The use of mobile cameras such as that used in Thorpe through the Safer Runnymede initiative would continue.

RESOLVED

For Information Only

35/04 SURREY COMMUNITY SURVEY-TRANSPORTATION FINDINGS [Item 12]

Mr David Mitchell reported on the findings of the Surrey Community Survey carried out by Mori, which showed a good level of customer satisfaction with maintenance of roads and pavements when compared to other areas within Surrey, and exceptionally high levels of satisfaction with street lighting.

Members asked that a document be reissued by the transportation team to the public and new borough councilors demonstrating key points of responsibility for borough and county services and their telephone numbers.

Mr Mitchell replied this was in hand and would be delivered when key vacancies within the team were filled to ensure an up to date contact list.

RESOLVED

For Information Only

36/04 UPDATE OF LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMME [Item 13]

Section 1

RIVERSDELL CLOSE, CHERTSEY

A discussion took place in which Members agreed that if the greatest wish of local residents and Borough local Members was that there was a push for the earliest closure of the alleyway, then the consultation should be taken forward to allow for the application to the Secretary of State to progress. This would allow for local residents who were not happy with this to be heard. Mr Mitchell reported a petition of 14 people registering the fact they do not wish for the alleyway to be closed.

Cty Cllr Mr Lowther proposed a the following motion,

“That immediate steps be taken to to undertake the consultation procedure with regard to the proposed closure of the alleyway.”

Cty Cllr Susan Bruce seconded the motion, which was agreed unanimously. This replaced the officer's recommendations.

Section 2

PREVENTION OF TREES AND HEDGES OBSCURING TRAFFIC SIGNS AND FOOTPATHS INCLUDING – THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S GRASS CUTTING POLICY

Mr Mitchell reported the grass and hedge cutting policy to the Committee.

Section 3

ON STREET PARKING ENFORCEMENT

Members were pleased the name of this project had been changed from "Decriminalised Parking" which could have misled the public.

Mr Mitchell reported that although it was still a programme of 18 months to delivery, the programme was now reporting a November deadline rather than October, due to the time needed to advertise the waiting restriction orders.

Mr Mitchell said it was necessary to bring this report back to the September committee meeting to report further.

Cty Cllr Mr Lowther asked for a status report on development at Pretoria Road in Chertsey, and subsequent needs for rights of way.

Section 4

UPDATE OF LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMME

Mr Mitchell shared with Members the updated programme of transportation schemes.

A Member asked about speed poster signs, to which Mr Mitchell replied it was a rolling programme of 27 different sites.

RESOLVED

The Local Committee;

From Section 1

- (a) AGREED- that immediate steps be taken to undertake the consultation procedure with regard to the proposed closure of the alleyway."**

From Section 3

- (b) AGREED - that the Local Transportation Director be authorised to consider any objections received regarding specific locations in consultation with the Chairman and the local County Councillor.
- (c) AGREED –that the Local Transportation Director be authorised to consider any objections received regarding broader issues locations in consultation with the Chairman and the Vice Chairman.

From Section 4

- (d) AGREED - to the updated programme of transportation schemes indicated as in Annex 4

37/04 **NORTHCROFT ROAD PROPOSED FOOTWAY LINKS** [Item 12]

Alison Coffey, Principal Engineer, reported on the feasibility study into the provision of new footway linkages on the D3121 Northcroft Road between Barley Mow Road and The Coach House and between Northcroft Villas and Schroder Court, Englefield Green.

A local consultation has taken place, which showed the local residents were broadly in favour of the scheme.

Miss Coffey reported that the route is currently used by number of parents and children accessing the local school, which has also been included in the consultation.

The current situation forces pedestrians into the centre of the road on a 90-degree bend with poor visibility.

The proposal involves using some of the green to widen the footway. This is currently owned by the Crown Estate but is managed by Runnymede Borough Council through the Englefield Green Committee.

It was currently thought the scheme would cost £25 000 including the need to move any utilities, but if this was not required the scheme would be £8000 cheaper.

RESOLVED

The Local Committee;

- (i) AGREED - to the continuation through to detailed design and construction of the two footway links along Northcroft Road, in consultation with the Local Member.

[Meeting ended 11.52 am.]

Chairman's signature

Runnymede Local Committee, Friday 16 July. Annexe. 1. To minutes

Record of open public question time

Question 1. – Mr Kristensen of Highfield Road

Mr Kristensen was concerned regarding the change of classification of zig-zag markings outside Salesian School, Highfield Road, and asked if he could be permitted to demonstrate that this would jeopardise the safety of children, would the LTS reconsider its implementation.

Response

Cty Cllr Mr Lowther added that he had seen the photographic evidence and suggested the LTS engaged in a site meeting with the local residents and a representative from the Salesian School to clear the issues up.

Mr Mitchell agreed to organise this and would include the local Member, Cty Cllr Lowther.

It was agreed that the petition against this reclassification continues alongside these efforts until a satisfactory solution was agreed

Question 2. – Cllr Chris Norman of Runnymede Borough Council

Cllr Norman requested that the Rights of Way officer be requested write to the Secretary of State for the closure of the alleyway, saying that this was the wish of all local residents and borough Councillors.

Response

Mr Gerald Cole, Senior Principal Engineer, stated he was aware of a letter from a group of 15 residents opposed to this course of action, and outlined the intent to create an alternative footpath prior to a consultation process, all of which would be outlined at an item later in the meeting.

Cllr Norman reiterated this would not overcome the problem of the fence.

Question 3. – Cllr Chris Norman of Runnymede Borough Council

When will the Youth facility in Gogmore Farm Park be open?

Response

Carolyn Rowe, Surrey County Council Local Director, responded by saying the planning had been complicated and issues with DDA compliance and funding had been overcome. There was to be a site meeting in one week, with work starting imminently, although the work was likely to be phased with one part of the facility open for the autumn.

Question 4. – Mr Vincent Smith, resident of Thorpe

Mr Smith requested the use of yellow speed check signs in Green Road opposite the Post Office and a hedge cutting back for safety, saying he had recorded speeds of 30 – 60 miles per hour in that location.

Response

Mr Mitchell Principal Engineer, said speeds were a little high in the area but below the threshold require for the signage requested. Mr Smith's concerns were noted, and the hedge would be looked at.

Question 5. – Mr James Gallimore of Brox Road Ottershaw

Mr Gallimore was concerned about speeding in Brox Road and enquired about the consultation process promised in January / February time.

Response

Cty Cllr Mrs James expressed concern that officers had not responded to Mr Gallimore regarding the consultation. A written reply would be sent to Mr Gallimore. Cty Cllr Mrs. James

added that there was due to be a meeting the following week at which Will Ward and Mrs James would meet with local RBC Cllrs from her Division, including Foxhills, and at which there would be the opportunity for speeding on Brox Road to be raised.

Question 6. – Mr Mike Pollard, resident of Chertsey

Mr Pollard wished to use the Committee to advise all men in their 50s and 60s in Surrey this year to visit their GP and ask for a PSA test. Mr Pollard also recommended a different contact, in France, regarding the street light issues at Chertsey Bridge.

Response

Cty Cllr Mrs Elise Whiteley thanked Mr Pollard and said this would be taken to the “Healthy and Vibrant “ task group, which meets to discuss health issues within the Borough for further discussion.

Question 7. – Mr Crazy Crabb, of the Official Monster Raving Loony Party

Mr Crabb asked as to the future of the experimental rumble strips in St Anne’s Road

Response

Cty Cllr Mr Lowther said the removal of the associated signs had been requested this week. Mr Mitchell replied that they had been installed in 1997 as an 18-month experiment with the Runnymede Borough Council Highways. The result had been very close, so the need to neither remove nor maintain them was necessary. The removal of the signs however had been actioned this week.

Question 9. – Mr Crazy Crab, of the Official Monster Raving Loony Party

Mr Crabb asked that the sign for the British Legion in Fordwater Road be removed as the British Legion was no longer there.

Response

Mr Mitchell replied that all the signage at the corner of Fordwater Road was being looked at, and if signage were no longer required it would be removed.

Question 10. – Cllr John Dean of Runnymede Borough Council

Cllr Dean asked with what regularity were trees inspected within the Borough?

Response

Mr Cole responded that at the moment this occurred about every five years without a formal process, but an appointment had just been made within Surrey County Council of a person to look at the trees in the area with a proper inspection process and establish a strategy for future inspections.

Question 11 – Cllr Tony Davis of Runnymede Borough Council

Cllr Davis discussed a concern regarding Runnymede Community Transport, which Mr Clare is pursuing, and Mr Davis offered to pass information to the Committee.