

**MINUTES:**

**of the meeting of the Runnymede Local Committee held at  
10.00 on Friday 10 September 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  
\*Mrs Elise Whiteley

\*= present

**PART ONE - IN PUBLIC**

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

**38/04 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]**

No apologies for absence were received.

**39/04 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 16 JULY 2004 [Item 2]**

The Minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman subject to the following amendments:

Page 3 – the deletion of the words “are by this Committee” in the fourth and fifth lines under Question 3 from County Councillor Ray Lowther.

Page 4 – to note that a response was given to Mr. Lowther’s supplementary question.

Page 7 – first line the word “then” being substituted for “the”.

**40/04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]**

No declarations of interest were received.

**41/04 PETITIONS [Item 4]**

No petitions were received.

**42/04 PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 5]**

No formal public questions were received.

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

43/04 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS** [Item 6]

County Councillors Moira James and Ray Lowther had submitted Member's questions.

**Question 1. from Councillor Moira James:**

**Question regarding road humps in Woodham.**

I would like to ask the County Council's Local Transportation Director for Runnymede for an audit of the humps on roads in Woodham to be carried out and a report on the findings to be brought to a meeting of the Local Committee as soon as is practical.

**Answer from David Mitchell Principal Engineer Local Transportation Service**

An audit of the traffic calming has been completed and works have been ordered through the constructor to adjust some of the speed tables. A report on the effectiveness of the traffic calming in Woodham will be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

**Question 2. from Councillor Ray Lowther:**

**Question regarding the traffic situation in London Street, Chertsey**

What is the latest progress on the review of the traffic situation in London Street, Chertsey, including an update on the seven points previously identified at this committee in March?

**Answer from David Mitchell Principal Engineer Local Transportation Service**

The traffic situation in London Street, Chertsey was discussed by Members at the Members' Annual Review of the Transportation Programme, which is reported elsewhere on the agenda of this meeting. Annex 11 explains the outcomes from the survey and responds to the seven points raised. The resurfacing of London Street has been completed which would have addressed the noisy manhole covers. A white advisory no parking marking has been marked at the junction with Drill Hall Road. The feasibility of improving crossing points at the west end of London Street will be examined and reported to the meeting of the Committee in October 2004.

**Mr. Lowther asked a Supplementary Question**

Can you confirm whether the surface will contain recycled rubber? I am aware that this has been used in the past on other Surrey roads which subsequently have broken up and needed re-surfacing. Is recycled rubber still being used as part of an experiment?

**Answer from David Mitchell Principal Engineer Local Transportation Service**

I can confirm that recycled rubber is not being used for resurfacing.

### **Question 3. from Councillor Ray Lowther**

#### **Question regarding the youth facilities in Gogmore Farm Park**

What is the latest position on the opening of the youth facility at Gogmore Farm Park?

#### **Response from Graham Combe, Head of Youth Development**

Before the youth facility at Gogmore Farm Park can open, some building works will be necessary, in order to ensure that the building conforms to the Disability Discrimination Act and the Special Education Needs and Disability Act. In addition, some minor internal refurbishments will also be needed.

The necessary funding has been secured, in part from GOSE through its SENDA allocations to local authorities for 2004/5 and in part from the Community Services minor works capital allocation. Following confirmation of funding, tenders were sought in accordance with the County Council's standing orders and a contractor has now been appointed to carry out the work. The contractor has confirmed that work on the site will start on 4 October and will be completed by 26 November. As a result, therefore, the building should be open and operational by the start of December.

As soon as this date is confirmed, members of the Local Committee will be informed and invitations to the formal opening will be issued.

#### **Mr. Lowther asked a Supplementary Question**

Please can I be advised if the building will be adequately covered by CCTV cameras?

#### **Answer from Carolyn Rowe Local Director**

I will make enquiries about this and inform Mr. Lowther.

### **44/04 MEMBERS INDIVIDUAL FUNDING ALLOCATIONS [Item 7]**

#### **RESOLVED**

The Committee approved the proposed expenditure set out in Appendix 1 from the Members' allocations budget.

### **45/04 BEST VALUE REVIEW OF PASSENGER TRANSPORT [Item 8]**

The Chairman welcomed Stephen Styles and Gary Creighton to the meeting. Mr Styles referred to the other accompanying reports and explained the need for the County Council to review passenger transport services holistically and to find ways of reducing costs and improving services. The proposal for a Transport Co-ordination Centre (TCC) was the result of much research and the views of the Local Committees were being sought for submission to the Executive.

Members asked a number of questions and raised particular concerns about whether a TCC would really be able to deliver an improved service, especially if it were not operated locally; what the costs of setting up the service would be; what level of savings were being sought; whether additional provision of late night bus services would be made available for young people living in more remote or rural areas of the County who needed to access leisure facilities or education services; hoped that the changes would not have a detrimental impact on older and more frail residents who needed transport; asked whether the TCC could give advice about journeys from the county to other parts of the country.

Mr. Styles outlined the financial position and reassured Members that the aim was to improve transport services through greater efficiency and cost savings and would include providing travel advice and better services for young people in particular and for older people. Some Members indicated they were not convinced that a TCC would provide a better service especially if operated from a location remote from the county.

### **RESOLVED**

The comments and concerns raised be submitted to the Executive for consideration.

#### **46/04 COMMUNITY SAFETY [Item 9]**

Carolyn Rowe, Local Director, introduced the report and acknowledged the longstanding successful relationships between the partners working in Runnymede to tackle community safety issues. Examples were the development of the CCTV system, conducting of regular public surveys and the decision that Runnymede should be one of the three pilot areas for Youth Reassurance.

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Alison Barlow who referred to the local crime statistics which showed a continuing trend downwards which she attributed in part to the good working partnership between the various agencies. The Committee noted that Runnymede had been selected as a pilot area for six months under Section 30 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 to give the Police powers to disperse groups of people thought likely to cause anti-social behaviour. Inspector Barlow sought to reassure Members that she aimed to ensure that her team of officers (3 Sergeants, 2 Neighbourhood Support Officers and Police Community Safety Officers) maximised their time spent in the community which included holding monthly surgeries and had been provided with laptops to carry with them to reduce time spent in Addlestone Police Station. Inspector Barlow also confirmed that the Police were responding to vehicle crime and unsafe driving due to the misuse of drugs. In response to concerns expressed by Mr. Dicks about Police officers taking sabbatical leave, Inspector Barlow confirmed this did not affect recruitment to the full establishment of officers.

David Dodd who was also welcomed to the Committee referred to the successful Colombo Telecare system enabling more people to remain in their homes for longer and emphasised the success of having a service based locally.

Members asked that the Committee receive a presentation on the Domestic Violence Outreach Service at a future meeting.

Mr. Lowther expressed concerns about members of the public having to call a Guildford telephone number for the Surrey Police where responders to calls had no local knowledge of an area. Inspector Barlow advised the Committee that the Guildford call centre received 17,000 calls each week. Mr. Lowther proposed and Mr. Dicks seconded the suggestion that an additional recommendation be included in the report requesting the Local Director to write to the Chief Constable outlining these concerns. Mrs Whiteley voted against the proposal and the Chairman and Miss Bruce abstained. The proposal was carried 2 –1.

## **RESOLVED**

The Committee

- (1) Noted the progress made in promoting community safety in Runnymede and in current crime statistics.
- (2) Delegated responsibility for expenditure of the County Council's local Crime and Disorder funds in Runnymede to the Local Director.
- (3) Endorsed service managers reporting to the Committee outlining their contribution to the promotion of community safety in Runnymede.
- (4) Recognised the ongoing Member involvement on the Community Safety Consultative Group: The Safe and Secure Task Group.
- (5) Agreed to receive six monthly reports from the Local Director outlining progress against the strategy and accounting for SCC funding.
- (6) Asked the Local Director to write to the Chief Constable, Surrey Police, to express the Committee's concern about calls from the public being directed to the Guildford telephone number and that the Service be asked to consider routing calls to local Police Stations, such as Addlestone for Runnymede, where local knowledge was likely to be higher and thereby give greater reassurance to local residents calling with their concerns.

## **47/04 ANNUAL REPORT ON SURREY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE IN RUNNYMEDE [Item 10]**

The Chairman welcomed Alan Oakes. It was noted that the issues resulting in the long standing national industrial action had now been resolved and Mr. Oakes hoped that the low morale over the past two years would now improve to the benefit of the service. The Committee noted the Service's contribution to community safety and were pleased to note that the number of injuries was decreasing and that there had been no fire deaths during the last year in Runnymede. Of concern to the Service was the number of false alarm call outs from St. Peter's Hospital, Chertsey and the Royal Holloway College, Egham and strenuous efforts were being made by the Service to minimise these within the health and safety requirements. Members were concerned that this reflected badly in the overall statistics for Runnymede and hoped the Service would be successful in its efforts to reduce the number of false alarm call outs which for the current year reflected 15 days of activity for the service. Mr. Oakes hoped that Members would consider favourably any future request for funding for additional nursery and school boxes. It was noted that Star the Fire Service dog had retired with his handler and was due to be replaced with another dog in the near future.

## **RESOLVED**

The Committee:

- (1) Noted the performance of the service within the Runnymede Borough.
- (2) Supported the achievements of the Whole time Crews at Chertsey and Egham Fire Stations.
- (3) Endorsed the initiatives by the Service to reduce the hazards of fire in the community, especially amongst the most vulnerable.
- (4) Endorsed the initiatives by the Service to undertake collaboration/partnerships that may realise scales of economy or effort and influence behaviour in the community.
- (5) Recognised that following evaluation of these initiatives further funding may be required in order for them to be successfully implemented.

### **48/04 ANNUAL REPORT ON TRADING STANDARDS PERFORMANCE [Item 11]**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Richard Nowacki who confirmed that community safety was at the heart of the work undertaken by Trading Standards. Members noted the very significant under reporting of crime where “uninvited workmen” preyed on older people. The Chairman suggested that the service might attend the community event held in New Haw in June each year as an opportunity to engage with local people.

## **RESOLVED**

The Committee

- (1) Agreed to help the Trading Standards combat the menace of “uninvited Workmen preying on elderly people by encouraging other agencies to carry their campaign material.
- (2) Agreed to encourage other agencies/individuals to pass any information to Trading Standards which may prevent the sale of age restricted goods to under age teenagers.

### **49/04 CONSULTATION PERIOD FOR THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK [Item 12]**

The Local Director reported that the consultation for the Local Development Framework was taking place between 6<sup>th</sup> September and 17<sup>th</sup> October. The consultation document was available from the Runnymede Civic Offices, Borough Council website and Libraries.

## **RESOLVED**

The Committee noted the report.

### **50/04 PEDESTRIAN REFUGE AT VINE CORNER, CHERTSEY [Item 13]**

Alison Coffey introduced the report and the Local Transportation Director reported that the independent safety audit would be undertaken within the next three weeks to assess whether the safety position at this junction had deteriorated. Mr. Lowther hoped that local residents’ concerns would be taken into consideration and that the results of the audit would be shared with them. It was suggested that it would be helpful to consult

with local people prior to the safety audit to enable the comments received to be considered at the same time as the independent safety audit report.

## **RESOLVED**

The Committee agreed

- (1) An urgent review of the pedestrian refuge at Vine Corner, Chertsey be undertaken.
- (2) Mr. Lowther and a representative from the Local Transportation Service would meet with local residents, licensee of The Vine and manager of the flats for elderly people to note their views and concerns for submission to those carrying out the independent safety audit.

## **51/04 ROWTOWN AND ONGAR HILL TRAFFIC CALMING CONSULTATION – RESULTS FROM CONSULTATION [Item 14]**

Rhys Mander introduced the report. Mr. Dicks recounted the various discussions which had taken place leading to the recommendations in the report explaining that to do nothing was not an option. Mr. Dicks acknowledged that a re-assessment of the scheme had taken account of local views expressed and acknowledged the proposals had the support of two thirds of the 35% respondents and all but one of the local Borough Councillors.

The Chairman hoped that as Divisional Member for Woodham she would be consulted at the design stage of the scheme along with the relevant Borough Councillors.

The Committee thanked and complimented Rhys Mander for all of his hard work on this scheme.

## **RESOLVED**

The Committee agreed

- (1) that the Rowtown and Ongar Hill traffic-calming scheme be progressed to detailed design and construction.
- (2) that the traffic calming notice be advertised and that the Local Transportation Director be authorised to consider any objections received in consultation with the Chairman and Local Member.
- (3) that the spacing between the speed cushions originally proposed in the consultation document be increased to reduce the total number of cushions.
- (4) that a flat top hump be constructed in Ongar Hill outside the Holy Family School as originally proposed in the consultation document.
- (5) that a raised zebra crossing be constructed in Ongar Hill to the north of the junction with Coombe Drive as originally proposed in the consultation document.

- (6) that a set of speed cushions additional to those originally proposed in the consultation document be provided in Hare Hill to the west of the junction of Hare Hill, Rowtown and Ongar Hill.
- (7) that two vehicle activated signs be provided in Rowtown near the junction with Brox Lane.
- (8) that additional warning signs and road markings be provided in Woodham Park Road to highlight the series of bends to the south of Rowtown.
- (9) that automated traffic surveys be conducted in Hare Hill and Woodham Park Road twelve months after the implementation of the traffic calming scheme and that personal injury accident records be continuously monitored to assess the impact of the scheme on adjacent roads.
- (10) that Hare Hill be included in the speed poster campaign.
- (11) that the existing “concealed entry ahead” warning signs at the junction of Hare Hill and The Ridings be yellow backed to improve their conspicuousness and that the existing slow markings be refreshed and enhanced with red patches.
- (12) that the “school keep clear” zigzag markings outside the Holy Family School in Ongar Hill be relocated and extended.
- (13) that uncontrolled pedestrian crossings be provided in Hare Hill and Rowtown to improve pedestrian access to the Walton Leigh recreation ground.

**52/04 CHERTSEY TO CHERTSEY BRIDGE CYCLEWAY:OUTCOME OF FEASIBILITY STUDY [Item 15]**

Ryhs Mander introduced this report. Mr. Lowther indicated his dissatisfaction with the sudden ending of some cycleways. Mr. Dicks referred to the danger to pedestrians of cyclists using the pavement and the Local Director was asked to raise at the next meeting of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) whether the Police would use their powers to stop people from cycling on the pavements.

**RESOLVED**

The Committee agreed that the Chertsey to Chertsey Bridge cycleway scheme, incorporating the improvements identified in Section 6 of the report, be progressed to detailed design and construction.

**53/04 EGHAM TOWN CENTRE ACCESSIBILITY:FEASIBILITY REPORT [Item 16]**

David Mitchell introduced the report. Mrs Whiteley hoped that consideration would be given at some stage to improving the streets within village centres and not just town centres.



## **RESOLVED**

The Committee agreed that the enhancements to the routes illustrated in Annex 1 be progressed as set out in paragraph 5.1.

### **54/04 STATION ROAD, ADDLESTONE “STREET SCENE BID” [Item 17]**

## **RESOLVED**

This item be withdrawn.

### **55/04 HIGHWAYS SERVICES AND WORKS PARTNERING CONTRACT: 12 MONTH PROGRESS REVIEW, KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS, SANCTIONS AND INCENTIVES [Item 18]**

The Local Transportation Director introduced this report. Mr. Dicks was disappointed that neither Ringway or other appropriate officers were able to attend the meeting to answer questions and referred to examples of what he considered to be very unsatisfactory work by the contractors. Mr Dicks was reassured by the Local Transportation Director that the future report would contain full information on the performance of the contract with Ringway together with the Local Transportation Service’s views on what had gone well and what had not. Mr. Lowther believed that the former arrangements for highways and transportation were more successful when undertaken locally by SCC officers. The Committee expressed their thanks to the Local Transportation Director and his team for their excellent service and Mr Ward undertook to pass this on to his staff.

## **RESOLVED**

The Committee noted the report and that a further report would be submitted to the Committee when the six months of key performance data was available.

### **56/04 MEMBERS’ ANNUAL REVIEW OF TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMME [Item 19]**

Miss Bruce referred to a recent accident at the junction of Crown Street and Hummer Road, Egham (Annex 7) and it was agreed that a representative of the Local Transportation Service convene a meeting with local residents and Surrey Police to discuss their concerns and the road traffic accident.

## **RESOLVED**

The Committee approved the addition of the following schemes to the transportation list:

- (i) Drill Hall Road, Chertsey – pedestrian improvement (Annex 3)
- (ii) Chertsey Lane, Thorpe – pedestrian improvement (Annex 4)
- (iii) Thorpe Lea Road, Thorpe – junction improvement and traffic management (Annex 6)
- (iv) Furnival Close, Level Crossing, Virginia Water – pedestrian improvement (Annex 9)

**57/04 HIGHWAY MAJOR MAINTENANCE ALLOCATION PROCESSES [Item 20]**

Mr. Gerald Cole introduced this report. It was noted that the Transportation Select Committee would take place on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

**RESOLVED**

The Committee noted the report but had no specific comments.

**58/04 UPDATE OF LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMME [Item 21]**

The Local Transportation Director introduced the report. Mrs Whiteley conveyed Borough Councillor Whiteley's thanks for the clearing of the footpath for children using Christ Church School and for improvements to sight lines in Stroude Road, Egham.

**RESOLVED**

The Committee agreed

- (1) To note Sections 1,2, and 3.
- (2) The updated programme of transportation schemes indicated in Annex 4.

[Meeting ended 12.53pm.]

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Chairman's signature

**Record of open public question time**

**Question 1.**

Alan Thorogood of Virginia Water Community Association referred to an article in the previous week's newspaper about Farm Lane being used for waste disposal and asked for more information about this. Mr. Thorogood also enquired if Surrey County Council were proposing to undertake green composting at Trumps Farm Landfill site.

**Response**

Mr. Thorogood was informed that the Local Committee Members did not have any information about the proposal but was reassured that any such proposal would be subject to public consultation. The annual report on Countryside and Planning was due to be considered at the next meeting of the Local Committee which might contain information about this if it were being considered.

**Question 2.**

John Shaffner resident of Rowtown said that he had heard several rumours about what traffic scheme might be implemented in Rowtown.

**Response**

The Chairman explained that this was the subject of a report on the agenda for the Local Committee meeting commencing at 10am – item 14 and hoped this would answer Mr. Shaffner's queries.

**Question 3.**

Councillor Knight of Runnymede Borough Council referred to the proposal to have a table outside Christ Church School and expressed concern this might be used as a zebra crossing rather than as a speed reduction measure.

**Response**

Councillor Knight was informed that this would be noted.

**Question 4.**

Councillor Dean of Runnymede Borough Council enquired about SCC's emergency planning arrangements and sought reassurance that the County Council was well prepared to deal with any terrorist incident that might occur in the County.

**Response**

Mr. Lowther advised that he was Chairman of a SCC Task Group which Miss Bruce was also a member of, considering the implications of a new Bill to be published soon about how authorities should respond to emergencies. SCC were reviewing their working relationships with the relevant agencies and how they might jointly respond to events such as flooding, plane or train crashes, or acts of terrorism and Mr. Lowther believed relationships worked well.

Mr. Dicks believed that the budget allocated by Government for emergency planning was insufficient.

**Question 5.**

Councillor Broadhead of Runnymede Borough Council asked if roadwork signs would be in place well in advance of the works being undertaken and whether pavements would be swept.

**Response**

Councillor Broadhead was reassured that this would be carried out.