

MINUTES:

of the meeting of the Runnymede Local Committee held at 10.00 on Friday 22 October 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
^= for part of the meeting

PART ONE - IN PUBLIC

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

The meeting commenced at 10.10am.

The Chairman gave a special welcome to Joseph Brown, member of Surrey Youth Parliament. She noted that Item 10 would be taken before Item 9.

59/04 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

No apologies for absence were received.

60/04 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2004 [Item 2]

The Minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

61/04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

No declarations of interest were received.

62/04 PETITIONS [Item 4]

One petition was received:

A request for traffic calming measures in Addlestone Park, Addlestone, which was signed by 69 residents. David Mitchell, Principal Engineer Local Transportation Service, reported that this matter was being looked into, and a response would be sent to the main petitioner, copied to the local member.

63/04 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 available separately from Sylvia Carter, Surrey County Council Local Committee and Partnerships officer for Runnymede.

64/04 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS [Item 6]

There were no members' questions.

65/04 MEMBERS INDIVIDUAL FUNDING ALLOCATIONS [Item 7 and appendices]

The Chairman accepted an additional urgent tabled item set out in Appendix 2, requesting expenditure for the New Haw event childrens' entertainer of £250 and for replacement of windows in the New Haw Scout Hut of £800.

RESOLVED

The Committee approved the proposed expenditure set out in Appendix 1 and in Appendix 2 (tabled item) from the Members' allocations budget.

66/04 RUNNYMEDE YOUTH ARE TALKING [Item 8]

The Chairman welcomed Joseph Brown of RYAT (accompanied by Sharon Harrison, SCC local Schools Development worker) to the meeting. Before his presentation, the Chairman nominated Susan Bruce as the Runnymede member to act as a contact for the Surrey Youth Council members in the area.

RESOLVED

Members agreed to nominate Susan Bruce as the Runnymede Member to act as a contact for the Surrey Youth Council members in the area.

RYAT

Joseph Brown outlined the membership of Runnymede Youth are Talking (RYAT) and its current work in progress.

He said that RYAT represented young people aged 11 to 18 years and comprised 12 permanent members who were in contact with local secondary schools and youth groups. RYAT had links with all the major local services, including police, health, Surrey CC and Runnymede BC. All meetings were open to the public and press, and professionals were invited to speak on a range of topics.

RYAT member Natalie Williams had held talks with the Runnymede Mayor about play facilities for 5-9 year olds in Englefield Green following consultation with local residents. RYAT member Kate Davidson had had discussions with MP Philip Hammond about local youth counselling services and their accessibility and appropriateness. RYAT member Emily Hare was working on a local transport survey for youth. Joseph Brown was promoting RYAT through a postcard campaign and development of the website (www.RYAT.co.uk) and was also a member of Surrey Youth Parliament. He stated that he was interested in improving the relationship between students and teachers and increasing student involvement in how schools are run.

He concluded by asking those present to note that the RYAT Annual General Meeting would be held at 5pm on Wednesday November 17th in the Council Chamber at Runnymede Borough Council offices in Addlestone, and everyone was welcome to attend.

Members asked a number of questions and informed Joseph of the new SCC transport website, which includes information about an option for scooter hire. There was an extended discussion on the desirability of, and scope for, students becoming involved in the governance of schools and the role of school councils.

The Chairman thanked Joseph Brown for his contribution and asked him to encourage other RYAT members to attend the Surrey County Council Local Committee in Runnymede.

67/04 ANNUAL REPORT ON EMERGENCY PLANNING SERVICE IN SURREY
[Item 10, taken before Item 9]

The Chairman welcomed Jerry Marsh who introduced the report. He noted that the Civil Contingencies Act, to take effect in April 2005, would introduce new responsibilities. These included a requirement to undertake a risk assessment for the County, and to ensure business continuity in the event of a major emergency. The Act would also introduce new performance measures, which were not laid down presently, although the County had undertaken a self assessment. He reported that the service liaised closely with the Government Office for London to ensure preparedness in the event of a major terrorist attack on the capital. Mr Marsh also highlighted the very good links between the County service and Runnymede BC, including the Surrey Alert website which is updated by the borough council, and the response to the flooding emergency in 2003.

Members asked about the response to possible contingencies, and also questioned the adequacy of the level of resources available from central government for this service. Mr Lowther, a member of the Surrey County Council Community Safety Committee, noted that the committee had resolved that there should be no requirement for efficiency savings from the Emergency Planning budget.

Mr Marsh responded that the report is relevant both for Surrey members and other partners: he stated that there has been an announcement of an increase in funding from Government, which it is anticipated may lead to an increase in the funding received by district councils rather than counties.

RESOLVED

The Committee noted the report.

68/04 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE PLANNING AND COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE
[Item 9]

The Chairman welcomed Geoff Glassup, Head of Transport Development Control, and Erica Roberts, Group Manager for Transport Development Control. Geoff Glassup

introduced the report on behalf of its author Roger Hargreaves (Head of Countryside and Planning). He outlined the structure of the service, which comprises staff in Transport Development Control, Strategic Planning, Countryside and Heritage, and Minerals and Waste. He reported that his division, Transport, works closely with the local transport officers to negotiate suitable gains from developers, as described in the report's table at 3.2. He noted that the County Structure Plan was approved by Council on 19 October and will remain in place until the Regional Planning Framework replaces it. He highlighted the small number of applications for minerals and waste (County Matter) in Runnymede, outlined at Annex 1.

Two errors in the report were amended as follows:

on page 8: "various aspects of the Planning and Countryside service in the Waverley area" should read "in the Runnymede area." ; also
at 6.1 on page 6: "the Trumps Farm landfill site" to state "the Lyne Lane landfill site".

Mr Dicks requested whether it remained the view of Transport Development Control that the Runnymede Centre is unsuitable for further development on grounds of road access. Mr Glassup agreed to respond in writing on the latter point. Mr Lowther sought clarification of the location of the new bus shelter in Eastwood Road, Addlestone, referred to in the table of transport gains.

RESOLVED

The Committee agreed to note the report.

69/04 TOUCAN CROSSING ON WEYBRIDGE ROAD: FEASIBILITY STUDY [Item 11]

Will Ward, Local Transport Director, introduced this report – the recommendation was for a low cost option requiring expenditure of £4,500 to include signage and potential for continuation over the bridge into Alexandra Road.

Mr Lowther pointed out that Ham Court was in Addlestone, not in Weybridge. Miss Bruce asked whether a differently coloured smoother road surface to denote a cycle route might be considered in future, and Mr Ward said that it could be considered, but was not always popular with residents.

RESOLVED

The Committee agreed that the Weybridge to Addlestone Town Centre cycle directional signing scheme, as detailed in s.3.6 of the report, should be progressed to detailed design and implementation.

70/04 STATION ROAD ADDLESTONE 'STREET SCENE' BID (Item 12)

Will Ward introduced this report, and apologised for the lack of opportunity for input into this item by members before the previous committee, which had led to its withdrawal from that agenda. Subsequently there has been considerable consultation with members and interested parties. If this bid was successful then negotiations for contributions from other partners could proceed with the hope that the Surrey CC

funding could be reduced to £250,000. The overall aim of the scheme was to make the area safer by combating anti-social behaviour, and to give a good impression of the town to those visiting.

Mr Dicks, member for Addlestone, said that he supported the improved bid, which was on a smaller scale than originally envisaged but which he thought should therefore have a greater chance of success, and would improve a rather dowdy part of Addlestone. Other members echoed his support for the bid and noted the need to improve shopfronts and fascia boards as well as reducing “light blight” from large signs and street lights. Mr Ward responded that partnership with traders was key to the success of the scheme, and reported that new street lighting was designed to pool light downwards onto the street and reduce general glare.

RESOLVED

The Committee agreed that its additional comments on the bid should be submitted for consideration by the Select Committee which would determine the bids.

71/04 RUNNYMEDE ROUNDABOUT FEASIBILITY STUDY [Item 13]

David Mitchell introduced the report, referring to the number of accidents reported on this roundabout, its capacity problems leading to long traffic queues, and the difficulty for pedestrians and cyclists in crossing the roads leading onto the roundabout. Two potential options had already been considered and rejected – an underpass or overpass would be extremely expensive, and the number of entry points made it too complex for a signalled junction. Therefore the option of a signal-controlled roundabout should be investigated further – the option outlined in the report was at a very early feasibility stage. Some road widening would be required which could mainly be accommodated within the existing highway boundaries but there were sections which entailed private land and permission from the Highways Agency. The earliest date at which construction might begin would be January 2006, and the cost requirement from the local transportation budget would be 25% of £1.15 million (spread over two financial years).

Miss Bruce, member for Egham North, said she was delighted that improvements to the roundabout were being looked at and she supported controlling movements around it with dedicated lanes and traffic lights. Mrs Whiteley suggested that there was a need to look at the pedestrian-controlled lights adjacent to the next (Eclipse) roundabout, as motorists may think that a green light indicated they could proceed onto the roundabout there. Mr Mitchell indicated that a recent review of this crossing point had led to a decision to reinstate the Give Way signs, because of that possible interpretation.

RESOLVED

The Committee agreed :

- a) to Runnymede Roundabout scheme being submitted as an intermediate scheme in the forthcoming LTP Bid, and the contribution 25% of the scheme cost from the Runnymede LTP allocation;

- b) to the completion of the feasibility report and consultation with DETR/Highways Agency and the progression of the design with the local member.

72/04 VIRGINIA WATER TO A30 LONDON ROAD CYCLEWAY: RESULTS OF FEASIBILITY STUDY [Item 14]

David Mitchell introduced the report. The proposal would complete the missing link in the cycle network and improve usage beyond the existing average of 60 trips per day. The third option outlined was preferred because it utilised the north side of the road, whereas pedestrians were more likely to use the south side. The requirement was for £115,000 from the local transport budget. He confirmed that the scheme would not entail any narrowing of Christchurch Road.

RESOLVED

The Committee agreed:

- (1) that Christchurch Road cycleway route, Option 3 as detailed, be progressed to detailed design;
- (2) that the consultation on the detailed design be progressed with the local County Councillor and other interested parties;
- (3) that the footway on Christchurch Road, as detailed in the report, be used as a shared cycleway.

73/04 REPORT ON THE LTP BID RESULTS [Item 15]

David Mitchell outlined the report, which included a consideration of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats for the period covered up to 2011. The committee viewed a selection of slides illustrating where the LTP objectives have been achieved over the last three years.

There were no members' questions and the Chairman thanked David Mitchell for the Report.

RESOLVED

The Committee agreed:

- (i) that the report should form the basis of a bid for the transportation programme in the Runnymede area for 2005/6 to 2010/11.
- (ii) That the local Transportation Director be authorised to carry out any final amendments to the bid document prior to the final submission date of 12th November 2004.

74/04 UPDATE OF LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMME [Item 16]

Will Ward introduced the report. He noted that the introduction of various cycling

measures had led to additional monies of £75,000 coming into the area for improvements. He also highlighted two new leaflets which had been distributed to 200 organisations in the Runnymede area, accompanied by the offer of public speakers on the transportation plan. The leaflets concerned the on street parking enforcement initiative (jointly produced by Runnymede BC and Surrey CC) and consultation on the next Local Consultation Plan (due for completion by December 2004).

Miss Bruce asked for improvements at the Hummer Road junction in Egham, following a further accident there in that week. Mr Lowther said that he remained concerned about the safety of the pedestrian refuge beside the Vine pub in Chertsey because of the speed of traffic and lack of visibility approaching the bend. He would like to see it removed and/or resited. Miss Bruce also highlighted the needs of disabled people and wheelchair users for pavement improvements in the Armstrong Road/Victoria Street area of Englefield Green. Mrs Whiteley queried plans for Christchurch Road.

Mr Ward said he would be happy for an engineer to meet with the police and the Hummer Road resident involved in the accident to discuss the matter. He would also meet Mr Lowther about the safety audit on the Vine corner refuge. He offered to meet with Miss Bruce and the wheelchair users in Englefield Green to review the pavements.

David Mitchell confirmed that no detailed plans had been drafted but that they were looking at the crossing points to the station and in particular disabled access – he agreed to fully involve the local member in this.

RESOLVED

The Committee agreed to the updated programme of transportation schemes as highlighted in annex 2 of the report.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance, reminded them that the next Local Committee would be held on 10 December, and welcomed Sylvia Carter as the new Surrey County Council Local Committee and Partnerships Officer for Runnymede.

[Meeting ended 12.37 pm]

Chairman's signature

