

MINUTES: of the meeting of the Surrey County Council Local
Committee held at 10.00 on Friday 9th February 2007 at the
Runnymede Centre, Chertsey

Surrey County Council Members

Mrs Mary Angell - Chairman
Mr Terry Dicks
Miss Marisa Heath
Mrs Yvonna Lay*
Mr R A N Lowther – Vice Chairman
Mrs Elise Whiteley

Runnymede Borough Council appointed members

Councillor John Furey
Councillor Jeffrey Haas*
Councillor Alan Alderson*
Councillor Linda Gillham

* indicates not present

PART ONE - IN PUBLIC

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

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am.

01/07 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

The Chairman welcomed the new county councillor for Englefield Green, Miss Marisa Heath.

County Councillor Yvonna Lay, Councillor Jeffrey Haas (Runnymede Borough Councillor) and Councillor Alan Alderson sent their apologies.

02/07 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 22ND SEPTEMBER 2006 [Item 2]

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

03/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

No declarations of interest were received.

04/07 WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 4]

No written public questions were received.

05/07 WRITTEN MEMBERS' QUESTIONS [Item 5]

No member questions had been received.

06/07 **PETITIONS** [Item 6]

No petitions had been received.

07/07 **ASSET MANAGEMENT (for information)** [Item 11]

Mr Stephen Child (SCC Asset Management group manager) gave a presentation using Powerpoint slides to explain how the county manages its highway infrastructure. He noted that an updated guide would be circulated to members in the Spring.

Members asked about the frequency of assessment of asset condition, length of projections, the accessibility of officers to members, the PFI street lighting initiative, the impact of the increased volume of development on drainage systems, and the future distribution of planning levies.

08/07 **ST JUDE'S ROAD CROSSINGS** [Item 7]

Mr Richard Bolton introduced the report, noting that the creation of a dedicated path around the borough council car park adjacent to St Jude's school would result in a reduction of two car parking spaces. He observed that the proposed Puffin crossing further along St Jude's Road would offer sensitivity to the needs of pedestrians (through sensors which measure the speed of the person crossing) and other road users (by cancelling the stop light if no-one was waiting).

The local member, Miss Marisa Heath, welcomed the benefits offered to all the schools and the prospect of an overall traffic calming effect on speeds along St Jude's Road.

RESOLVED

- a) that the proposals shown on Drawing No. 521377-110-01A (Annex 1) and 521375-110-01A (Annex 2) be approved for construction in 2007-8;
- b) that the Local Transportation Manager be authorised to advertise the necessary legal notice for the introduction of a signal controlled crossing.

09/07 **UPDATE OF LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMME** [Item 8]

Mr Richard Bolton explained that some financial assumptions were contained in the report (including use of local allocation for minor improvements), but these could not be confirmed as yet because the Executive had not confirmed the details of the Local Transport Programme.

He highlighted recent works in Kingsley Avenue and Byfleet Road, and updated members on difficulties with Windsor Road, Egham, where investigations were underway to see if land leased by the Airports Authority might be purchased to facilitate a crossing. He said that proposals to realign the junction at Northcroft

Road Englefield Green were still subject to legal considerations, to be reported on at the May meeting.

He reported that the cycleway on the A30 at Virginia Water, due for construction in the current financial year, had been projected as costing considerably more than originally estimated. Following discussions with Ringway about scope to reduce this cost, Mr Bolton proposed to bring a report to the next meeting for decision.

Further updates were given on progress towards the Eastworth Road cycleway, the Chertsey Meads footbridge, the feasibility study for Pycroft/Chilsey Green Road, and Windsor Street, Chertsey. Mr Bolton confirmed that the safety fence on the A30/Egham Bypass, which was being installed, would include a break to allow pedestrians to cross to the meadows. He recognised that congestion during the works may require re-phasing of the traffic lights on Runnymede roundabout.

Members debated whether the spend on cycleways was justified and asked whether cycle use on improved routes was evaluated, given the significant spend on such works. Mr Bolton confirmed that cycle counters to monitor cycle flow were located at various points around the borough, and agreed to include details in subsequent reports.

RESOLVED

that the Committee noted and approved the rolling feasibility, design and construction programme, and funding arrangements, as contained in the report and Annex 1.

10/07 SURREY SAFETY CAMERA PARTNERSHIP (for information) [Item 9]

Mr Duncan Knox (Safety Camera Partnership Team Manager) gave a Powerpoint presentation on the work of his team. He began by making clear that they were not responsible for the M25, vehicle activated signs, automated vehicle recognition, or the Community Speedwatch initiative. He confirmed that the whole cost of the Partnership was recovered from fines imposed on drivers, and that all cameras were signalled in advance alongside a reminder of the speed limit. For the future, he said that the SCC Executive had confirmed that the Partnership would be funded using a new Government grant to 2011. Mr Knox highlighted the decision to install a new fixed camera on the A318 (Byfleet Road), as a result of 23 casualties over a three year period, and a mobile camera would be used in New Haw Road.

Members expressed views on the public perception of speed cameras, research findings on the effectiveness of such measures, the potential to capture evidence of motorists using mobile phones while driving, and the degree of excess speed which could prompt a prosecution.

11/07 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ACT 2004 – STREET WORKS & ROAD WORKS (for information) [Item 10]

Mr Robert Hudleston (SCC Traffic Manager) presented this information report. He explained that the new powers provided in the Act offered local authorities a choice

between issuing permits to all bodies wishing to undertake street works, or taking the route of commenting, influencing and co-ordinating from a strategic perspective. The former option would have greater resource implications, as Mr Hudleston had detailed in a draft paper he had prepared. He stressed that the Department of Transport had yet to issue its rules on performance indicators, but noted that if an authority failed to act effectively in this area the Department could impose a Traffic Director, at a cost to the county of £0.25million per annum.

Members asked about the potential benefits of a permits scheme, and where responsibility for co-ordinating planned works lay at present. Mr Hudleston explained that a permit system would allow the authority to set conditions for works, the breach of which would result in a substantial fine, but with the risk that this could sour existing good relations with public utility bodies. Currently the Local Transportation Manager acted as co-ordinator through regular meetings with utilities companies.

12/07 CHILDREN'S CENTRES [Item 12] – for information

Miss Shirley Crowther (SCC North West Area Manager for Early Years and Childcare), accompanied by Mrs Tracey Stokes (Senior Development Officer for children's centres) outlined plans to develop four children's centres in Runnymede, as part of Phase 2 of a county-wide programme, funded by central government.

She explained that the Centre at the Hythe School (Area 32) would be designated by the end of February, and would co-ordinate services for Area 26 (Englefield Green) as no provider had come forward for that area. In Area 29 (Chertsey) it was hoped that designation would be achieved at Chertsey Nursery within weeks, whilst in Area 24 (Addlestone/New Haw) she explained that there would be a delay pending a final decision by the county council on the review of primary school places.

Members asked about plans for the Fremantle school site adjacent to Chertsey Nursery, the impact of the loss of top-up fees from government on local nurseries, the funding arrangements and accessibility of children's centres, and what data existed on the location of lone parents in the borough.

13/07 MEMBERS' ALLOCATIONS [Item 13]

The Chairman noted a correction: at 2.11, the amount proposed should read £2,073, and not £2,150 as the report stated. The Chairman noted that the County Council had approved member allocations of £11,000 revenue per county councillor and £35,000 capital per Local Committee for 2007-8, and that there would be no carry forward of unallocated amounts from 2006-7. Members requested details of how much funding had remained unallocated.

RESOLVED

to approve all the proposed expenditure from the Members' Allocation budget as detailed in the report.

14/07 INFORMATION ITEM - LYNE LANE RECYCLING SITE [Item 14]

No report was presented.

The Chairman noted that planning permission had been granted for redevelopment of the Lyne Lane recycling site, and that work was expected to commence in the Spring.

15/07 INFORMATION ITEM – SURREY WASTE PLAN [Item 15]

No report was presented.

Mr Dicks noted that the Examination in Public of the draft Plan had been extended until May 22nd 2007.

[Meeting ended 12.35 pm]

Chairman's signature