

DRAFT

MINUTES:

**of the meeting of the Surrey County Council Local
Committee held at 10.00 on Friday February 8th 2008 at the
Runnymede Centre, Chertsey**

Surrey County Council Members

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

Runnymede Borough Council appointed members

Councillor John Furey
Councillor A.J. Davis
Councillor John Ashmore
Councillor Linda Gillham

PART ONE - IN PUBLIC

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

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am.

01/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

There were no apologies for absence.

**02/08 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 5TH OCTOBER 2007 [Item
2]**

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

03/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

No declarations of interest were received.

04/08 WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 4]

Question from Mr Malcolm Loveday, of the Chertsey Society:

“Please could the Local Committee advise what is the likely timescale for replacement of the 6 remaining concrete lamp posts in the London Street Conservation Area in Chertsey, and can we be reassured that they will be replaced with some form of heritage style lamp post?”

Answer from Surrey County Council’s local highways manager Mr Richard Bolton:

The County Council is in the final stages of negotiating a “Private Finance Initiative (PFI)” contract for Street Lighting. Tender evaluation is on going, with a decision due this spring. If the contract is awarded, it will commence in 2009. Under PFI there will be a core investment programme, which will include replacing all non-compliant lamp columns within the first five years of the contract. The concrete columns in London Street will be replaced as part of this programme. PFI has been calculated assuming standard columns across the County, but there is opportunity within the contract to upgrade to heritage style, subject to the additional funding being available. Officers will ensure that at the time of any replacement, third parties will be given the opportunity to contribute. Until any replacement the existing columns will continue to benefit from routine maintenance.”

Mr Loveday thanked Mr Bolton for his response.

05/08 WRITTEN MEMBERS' QUESTIONS [Item 5]

No members' questions were received.

06/08 PETITIONS [Item 6]

No petitions had been received.

07/08 CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS TO EXPAND HEATHROW AIRPORT [Item 11]

Mr David Sutton presented the report, noting that the Executive would consider the comments of the Local Committee together with those of the Environment & Economy, and Transport Select Committees.

The chairman noted that the report was not for decision (as stated on the agenda) but that county members were asked to comment on the proposed Surrey County Council response to the consultation proposals, so that their comments may be incorporated in the report to the County Council's Executive. Members would be copied in on the recorded response.

County members voted on their response to two proposed responses to consultation questions which were outlined in Annex 1 of the report:

(1.) Adding a third runway and passenger terminal facilities:

Two members voted in favour, four voted against.

(5). Introducing mixed mode on the existing runways:

Proposed response: The introduction of mixed mode is supported, provided the environmental impacts are acceptable, as it will potentially have the benefit of making best use of existing capacity at the airport.

One member voted in favour, three against, two abstentions.

County members did not reach a consensus, but commented individually that:

- the history of Heathrow Airport and BAA was one of broken promises;

- the demolition of 700 homes in Sipson at a time of housing shortage was deplored;
- the increase in noise for local residents, and air pollution emissions which would also contribute to climate change, was not acceptable;
- expansion of the airport would hasten the expansion of the congestion zone with a consequent impact on Runnymede residents;
- it was legitimate for the Government to respond to consumer demand for flights, and act to retain Heathrow as the premier international airport whilst safeguarding local jobs;
- the essential point to make was that additional infrastructure, notably Airtrack, was required from Government before any expansion could be supported;
- safety concerns were raised, in relation to the risk of accident and the failure of the consultation paper to address the terrorism threat.

08/08 CHERTSEY LANE PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN REFUGE CROSSING [Item 7]

Mr Richard Bolton introduced the report, noting that because of the low number of pedestrians likely to use a puffin crossing, which would cost £120,000, his recommendation would be to improve the refuge island.

The local member Mrs Yvonna Lay suggested that pedestrians were reluctant to use or cross the road because of the perceived risk, as cars travelled at speed particularly in the evenings, also that traffic congestion from Thorpe Park during the summer made crossing difficult. Mr Bolton agreed to speak to Surrey Police casualty reduction officer about VAS signage and average speeds on this road.

RESOLVED

- a) that the proposals for improving the refuge island and associated kerb build-out as detailed on drawing reference 3777-01 be approved for construction in 2008/9.

09/08 CHILSEY GREEN ROAD, CHERTSEY: PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN PUFFIN CROSSING [Item 8]

Mr Richard Bolton introduced the report, noting that the junction in question was a difficult one to negotiate, joining a busy road which carried 17,000 vehicles per day. During a twelve hour monitoring period in September 2007 officers observed 470 pedestrians crossing Chilsey Green Road. He said that the improvements proposed following the feasibility study would help both pedestrians and motorists exiting Pycroft Road and Cowley Avenue by temporarily halting the traffic flow especially at peak periods. Surrey Police, and the headteacher of Pycroft Grange primary school, had confirmed that they supported the proposal.

The local member Mr Lowther supported the recommendation and hoped that the work could be undertaken quickly.

RESOLVED

- a) That the proposals for a controlled crossing and minor junction amendments as detailed on drawing ref 2779-01 be approved for construction in 2008/9.
- b) that the Local Highway Manager be authorised to advertise the necessary legal notice for the introduction of a signal controlled crossing, and with the Chairman and Divisional Member consider any comments received in response to the notice.

10/08 SURREY HIGHWAYS PARTNERSHIP [Item 9]

The report was for information only. Mr Richard Bolton introduced Mr Darrell Simpson of Ringway, the contractor, to answer members' questions about the contract.

Members asked about recruitment issues, use of sub-contractors, tree stump removal in Chertsey, delays in completion of the St Jude's Road pedestrian crossing, customer satisfaction, gully emptying, and road signage by the new cycleway in Virginia Water.

Mr Simpson informed members that it was difficult to recruit roads operatives locally and many travelled from the Portsmouth area. He confirmed that certain jobs e.g. gully cleaning, were sub-contracted to specialist gangs within Ringway. Mr Simpson said that tree stump removal required hire of specialist equipment so that jobs were clustered to be done in one day, which could mean delays in removal following pruning. Mr Bolton apologised for the delay in St Jude's Road crossing completion, which was as a result of communication problems with the sub-contractor Siemens in relation to signal heads. Mr Simpson said that he considered that Ringway offered value for money in general and particularly for major repairs, but acknowledged some weaknesses in delivery of minor repair works.

11/08 UPDATE OF LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMME [Item 10]

Mr Bolton drew members' attention to the plans for installation of several new Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS), and electronic message signs, around the borough.

Councillor Davis asked about evaluation undertaken on the effectiveness of VAS and Mr Bolton agreed to send him a copy of a recent report on this.

It was noted by members that some signs highlighting traffic accident data were out of date, and also that following the report to the Local Committee in May 2007 concerning cycling improvements and impact, there had been a welcome reduction in expenditure on such schemes. Mr Bolton noted that the Local Transport Plan retained promotion of cycling as a key priority.

RESOLVED

- a) to note and approve the rolling feasibility, design and construction programme, and funding arrangements, as contained in the report and Annex 1.

12/08 SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL CHILDREN'S SERVICE IN RUNNYMEDE
[Item 11]

Mrs Karen Woosnam, from the Runnymede Locality team of Surrey Children's Service, presented a report for information on services delivered to children in the borough.

Members asked about recent recruitment difficulties, and questioned the data presented on Looked After Children. Mrs Woosnam noted that the figures changed on a daily basis and that the figure quoted was a snapshot, which she agreed to check for accuracy. She was also asked about the waiting time for CAMHS, and suggested that this would need to be directed to the Primary Care Trust as the commissioning body.

Councillor Michael Kusneraitis, as nominated councillor for children, accompanied by Mr Chris Hunt of Runnymede Borough Council, tabled a paper outlining the council's key priorities and provision for children and young people. He asked that the County Council progress a resolution of the future management of Englefield Green youth club premises. Miss Marisa Heath agreed that this matter had taken too long and replied that she was expecting a full report on the matter from the Executive member for Young People imminently.

Mrs Lay asked if the borough council monitored take-up of leisure activities by Looked After Children, and Mr Hunt replied that he was awaiting definitive data from the County Council on the number of Looked After Children in the borough.

13/08 CHILDRENS' CENTRES IN RUNNYMEDE [Item 13]

Mrs Tracey Stokes, Senior Children's Centre Development Officer for North West Surrey, presented a report for information, about new and planned children's centres within the borough area.

Members asked about voluntary group concerns that children's centres would put them out of business, prospects for services in Englefield Green and Virginia Water, funding subsidy available, monitoring figures on use by parents, and a request for member allocations funding to undertake further improvements to the Chertsey children's centre.

Mrs Stokes said that voluntary groups should not feel threatened because the children's centres did not offer any net increase in day care places in the borough, but linked existing provision and promoted information about all the local options. She said that, in Englefield Green, with partner support there would be an outreach children's centre for two days per week and the Haven co-ordinator, Jane Perry, was working towards expanding this provision in the village. In reference to funding, she said that most services (other than day care) were free to parents and that the Government's Sure Start programme provided revenue for staffing and building costs. She was confident that the county would meet its target of 46 designated centres by March 2008. Once centres had been operational for a full year there would be monitoring data to report to members. She explained that the Chertsey children's centre had not approached her team for Sure Start funding for further capital works, having received an earlier allocation.

14/08 **TRADING STANDARDS SERVICE REPORT** [Item 14]

Mr Keith Vivers of Surrey Trading Standards presented a report for information.

Members asked about traders who were illegal immigrants, responsibility for monitoring the Packaging Reduction Act, and prosecution of trespassers on land still under restriction due to Foot and Mouth.

Mr Vivers explained that suspected illegal immigrants found to be trading would be referred to the Immigration Service. He noted that Trading Standards had on occasions dealt with manufacturers in Surrey in reference to excess packaging, but that the Business Waste minimisation team would deal with outlets and stores.

15/08 **LOCAL AREA PROFILE (RUNNYMEDE)** [Item 15]

Ms Sylvia Carter introduced a report for information, summarising statistical data about the area.

Mrs Lay expressed surprise that her division of Egham Hythe was ranked lower than previously in the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007. Councillor Furey commented that the report was too reliant on quoting out of date figures, and stated that the borough council's latest population estimate for Runnymede was 84,000. Other members commented that people in the borough on low incomes were worse off than if they lived in other parts of England due to the affluence of the area.

16/08 **MEMBER ALLOCATIONS FUNDING** [Item 16]

The Chairman noted that there were two corrections to the report:

3.16: should be amended to read "Gogmore Park Youth Club equipment".

3.18: the proposed amount to be amended from £3,500 to £3,700 for Runnymede Alzheimer's Society.

Councillor Mrs Gillham thanked the Committee for its previous allocation to the Thorpe residents for a BMX track and noted that the delay in receiving a decision on funding from the Youth Opportunities Fund had been very poor. Councillor Furey commended the Local Committee for its work in helping the local community through member allocations. Members thanked Mrs Sue Sil, Local Support Assistant responsible for making the payments, and wished her every success.

RESOLVED

- a) to approve the expenditure proposed in paragraphs 3.2 to 3.34 (with the agreed amendments) from the Members' Allocations budget.

[Meeting ended 12.22 pm]

Chairman's signature