

DRAFT

MINUTES:

**of the meeting of the Surrey County Council Local
Committee held at 10.00 on Friday September 19th 2008 at
the Runnymede Centre, Chertsey**

Surrey County Council Members

Miss Marisa Heath (Vice Chairman)
Mrs Yvonna Lay
Mr R A N Lowther
Mrs Elise Whiteley

Runnymede Borough Council appointed members

Councillor Anthony J. Davis
Councillor Chris Norman
Councillor Mrs Linda Gillham

PART ONE - IN PUBLIC

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

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am.

32/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Mary Angell (Chairman), Mr Terry Dicks, Councillor John Furey, and Councillor John Ashmore. Miss Marisa Heath chaired the meeting.

33/08 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 6TH JUNE 2008 [Item 2]

Mrs Whiteley asked that the written answer provided after the meeting in response to Mr Few's supplementary Public Question be appended to the minutes.

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

34/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

No declarations of interest were received before the meeting.

35/08 WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 4]

Two questions had been received:

1. Question from Mr Twelftree of West Addlestone Residents Association:

“Could we request that a pedestrian crossing be installed near the schools in School Lane and yellow zigzag lines be painted outside the schools (St Paul's and Jubilee High)?”

Answer from Surrey County Council's local highways manager:

The County Council Community Travel Officer meets with schools throughout Runnymede. Neither St Paul's nor Jubilee High Schools have formally requested a pedestrian crossing or improvements to the existing parking restrictions. St Paul's school is trying to recruit a school crossing patrol (lollipop person) but so far this has proved difficult. When an appointment is made this should improve the situation.

School Lane is a minor traffic-calmed road, with an excellent safety record. In the last complete three-year period there has been one recorded injury accident, which happened at the junction with Simplemarsh Road and was not related to either school.

There are already waiting restrictions (yellow lines operational Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm) on the western side of School Lane, extending from the junction with Church Road to past both entrances to the school. If drivers park on these restrictions, they can be issued with a parking ticket. Zig-zag markings are used where there are no waiting restrictions, on the same side of the carriageway as the school.

The Community Travel Officer will contact the schools and if there is support for a formal crossing, this will be considered when the forward minor improvements programme is next reviewed at the 2009 Members' tour."

Mr Twelftree asked a supplementary question:

As there is no school crossing patrol lady, Is it possible to have a pedestrian crossing?

The highways manager answered that the Community Travel officer would discuss this with the schools, and that he would speak to colleagues in Runnymede Borough Council concerning scope for additional enforcement of the existing yellow lines.

2. Question from Mr Keith Collett:

"I would like to know what is the County Council's policy on giving both divorced parents all information about their child's education? and would the county council be able to liaise with my son's secondary school so that I am kept informed about his education there?"

Answer from Rachel Hickman, Senior Schools Solicitor:

"The issues raised by Mr Collett are governed by legislation enshrined in the Education Act 1996. Section 576 of the Education Act defines 'parent' as

- i. all natural parents, whether they are married or not
- ii. any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person
- iii. any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person (a person with whom a child lives and who looks after the child,

irrespective of what their relationship is with the child, is considered to be a parent in education law).

Everyone who is a parent, as defined above, (whether they are a resident or non-resident parent) has a right to participate in decisions about a child's education and receive information about the child. School and staff must treat all parents equally, unless there is a relevant court order limiting their involvement.

Parents who do not live with a child, but who contact a school directly to make a request, have the right to receive information from the school (such as school reports), the right to be involved in activities, and the right to be told about meetings about their child.

Parents have the right to be informed of their child's progress in school and be provided with a report about the pupil's educational achievements each year. They are entitled to have access to the educational record for the pupil if they request it in writing.

If a parent believes that a school has not adhered to Local Authority policy or indeed the law, this is a matter for a parent to raise with the Local Authority or school under its relevant complaints procedure. It is understood that Mr Collett's queries have now been dealt with."

You have also been sent a letter confirming that the school is happy to meet with you if you telephone to arrange an appointment, and a personal copy is available at this Committee.

36/08 WRITTEN MEMBERS' QUESTIONS [Item 5]

No members' questions were received.

37/08 PETITIONS [Item 6]

A petition with 66 signatories was received from parents of children at New Haw Junior School, stating "We support the need for a safer crossing place in The Avenue, New Haw, for our children to be able to travel to and from school safely". One of the lead petitioners, Mr Chris Hickford, addressed the meeting. He noted that some parents taking their children to school parked across dropped kerbs and were ignoring the recently painted white lines. He also expressed concern that many parents drove round the adjacent bend too fast, and that a child had been knocked down earlier in the summer (although fortunately without serious injury). He asked whether the instruction "Keep Clear" or "No parking" could be painted next to the white lines.

Mr Richard Bolton, Local Highways Manager, advised that the Highway Code specified the meaning of white lines, and that "Keep Clear" also had a statutory meaning which may only be used in defined circumstances so could not be applied in this situation. He suggested that more time was needed to assess the impact of the lines, as they had only been in for a couple of weeks. He noted that this location could be included in the review of yellow lines which would be considered by the

Committee in 2009, and also that a new school crossing was being installed in Queen Mary Drive, New Haw.

38/08 CONSULTATION ON IMPROVEMENTS TO LEARNING DISABILITY DAY SERVICES [Item 7]

Mr Andrew Price (lead project officer) and Mrs Carole Daines (manager for the Fernleigh and Fairways day centres) attended to present the proposals in the consultation document, but Mr Sergeant was unable to attend as he was unwell.

Mr Price outlined the extended consultation process, detailed in the accompanying booklet for the public, and noted that although currently Surrey County Council did not run a day centre in Runnymede there were eighty borough residents who used various day services. Some attended the Fairways centre in Staines, some attended sessions at the Chertsey Hall and Runnymede Centre, and some were using a service in Englefield Green whilst a handful were going to centres in Woking or Walton. He noted that a new session had started recently for one day per week in Addlestone Youth Centre. The consultation document proposed that four Centres of Excellence be developed for people with the most profound needs, the nearest being at Cranstock or Walton. He said that the Fairways Centre at Staines was an old building with relatively low usage. The overall aim of the consultation was not to cut services but effect an overall service improvement. He noted that recent trials encouraging users to travel independently by bus to day services had gone well. Mrs Daines said that whilst those affected were welcome to attend the advertised "roadshows" to discuss the proposals, she would be happy to arrange formal meetings with concerned individuals also.

The presentation concluded with the reminder that a report describing the consultation results and outlining the business case would be considered by Surrey County Council's Executive in early 2009.

Members asked for further details about the means by which service users had been informed, how consultees would be informed of decisions following the consultation, the timescales for change, and what opportunities there would be to visit the Centres of Excellence. Mrs Whiteley noted that she had been appointed as the County Council's champion for people with disability.

Officers explained that there was continuous feedback to users and carers during the process and regular updating of the dedicated website, and that the Select Committee would receive a report before the Executive took any decisions. They confirmed that most users from Runnymede would continue to use day facilities operating currently in the borough (and there was a hope that the Addlestone Youth Centre service might be extended). They said that members would be welcome to visit the Centres of Excellence when completed, but it was not possible to give an exact date for completion at this point.

39/08 ST ANN'S ROAD, CHERTSEY: PEDESTRIAN REFUGE CROSSING [Item 8]

Mr Richard Bolton introduced the report, noting that the correct spelling was "St Ann's not St Anne's" which was an error in the report. He explained that as pedestrian demand at this location was not sufficient to justify a controlled crossing,

and average speed of vehicles was 39 mph which was too great for a zebra crossing, it was proposed to construct a refuge to assist pedestrians in crossing.

Local member Mr Lowther said that he supported the scheme, but was puzzled that the design of the refuge was to be undertaken by Ringway. Mr Bolton explained that this was because of the contractual arrangement, and the cost was based on an estimate; he undertook to inform Mr Lowther once the actual cost was known.

RESOLVED

- a) to approve the proposals for introducing the refuge island and associated kerb build-out as detailed on drawing reference 4418-01 for construction in 2009/10.

40/08 UPDATE OF LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMME [Item 9]

Mr Bolton noted that members had requested a presentation and opportunity to speak to the Surrey Highways contractor. He explained that this had been delayed because of ongoing discussions about procurement and contract changes as part of the county council's Transformation project, and that he had sent a weblink to members to enable to view the reports to the Transport Select Committee. He undertook to arrange for Mr Jason Russell of Ringway to attend Local Committee. He then presented some images of recent highways works, and noted that the timeframe and costs outlined in Annex 1 of the report were estimates based on assumptions which may change in future. He noted that proposals to install signage in Guildford Street (3.2) as a result of Government authorisation would be funded from a central cycling budget. Mr Bolton noted that the allocation of the additional £325,000 (the area's share of the additional £5 million announced by the Leader) had been decided by the Chairman and Vice Chairman in conjunction with the head of the Transportation service.

Mrs Lay asked when the yellow lines in Egham Hythe would be repainted following resurfacing, and whether the highways manager would consider the need for accident prevention measures following another fatal accident on the Windsor Road A308. Mr Lowther asked for details of the process for inspecting bollards, following an accident involving a child in Addlestone town centre as reported locally, and also asked that contractors seek to minimise congestion approaching Addlestone in light of forthcoming scheduled works at Hatch Hill (A318) and Green Lane.

Mr Bolton confirmed that white then yellow lines would be repainted imminently in Egham, and noted that he had discussed the accident on Windsor Road with Surrey Police and would undertake a site visit with them in early October. He explained that the frequency of routine inspection of bollards was determined by the class of road where sited, and that when members or public reported a faulty bollard an inspection would take place at once. He noted Mr Lowther's comments on the road works and said that this would be monitored and works halted if congestion became excessive.

Mrs Whiteley asked why the Virginia Water Station Path improvements were due for completion in 2011, and whether friction surfacing would be installed at the Lyne Lane crossroads. Mr Bolton explained that the former had been delayed because of

potential development, and confirmed that the surfacing would go ahead. Councillor Mrs Gillham asked if the highways department considered the possibility of future use by mobility scooters when constructing cycleways, and Mr Bolton said that this was not a consideration at present.

Councillor Norman asked for background on the proposed gate across Guildford Street, commented that he saw further work at Stevens Bridge as unnecessary, and did not support any further signage or lighting on Windsor Road beside the historic Meadows.

Mr Lowther declared an interest as Chairman of the Feoffees, as did Councillor Norman as a member of the Feoffees.

Mr Bolton explained that it had been suggested on the Members' Tour that consideration be given to introducing a pedestrianised zone in Guildford Street Chertsey on Saturdays only. This was technically feasible (and had proved popular in Egham) and would require extensive consultation.

Councillor Davies asked for some analysis of lines painted around the entrance to schools and their enforcement. Mr Bolton noted that the borough council was the appointed agent on behalf of the county for enforcement, and said he would consult the chairman about bringing a report from the sub-group on parking enforcement to the Local Committee.

RESOLVED

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

41/08 MEMBER ALLOCATIONS FUNDING [Item 10]

The Chairman noted that there was a tabled addendum to this report.

RESOLVED

- a) to agree the proposed expenditure (described in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.14) from the Members' Allocation budget.

42/08 UPDATES [Item 11]

This item was noted.

[Meeting ended 11.05 am]

Chairman's signature