

DRAFT
MINUTES:

of the meeting of the Surrey County Council Local
Committee held at 10.00 on Friday October 2nd 2009 at the
Runnymede Centre, Addlestone.

Surrey County Council Members

Mrs Mary Angell
Miss Marisa Heath (Chairman)
Mrs Yvonna Lay (Vice Chairman)
Mr Mel Few
Mr Chris Norman

Runnymede Borough Council appointed members

Councillor P. Francis
Councillor A. Davis
Councillor J. Ashmore
Councillor Mrs E. Gill (substitute)
Councillor D. Parr
Councillor D. Cotty

PART ONE - IN PUBLIC

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

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am.

28/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Linda Gillham and Mr John Furey.

29/09 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 26TH JUNE 2009 [Item 2]

The minutes were approved and signed.

30/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

No declarations of interest were received before the meeting.

31/09 WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 4]

No written public questions had been received.

32/09 WRITTEN MEMBERS' QUESTIONS [Item 5]

No questions had been received.

33/09 **PETITIONS** [Item 6]

No petitions were received.

34/09 **EMERGENCY PLANNING AND BUSINESS CONTINUITY REPORT FOR INFORMATION** [Item 7]

Mr Ian Good (Surrey County Council Emergency Management officer) gave a brief introduction to his report, which highlighted the county's capability to respond to high risk events such as flooding. He noted that the Surrey Local Resilience Forum (LRF) had considered the implications of the Pitt Review, including the requirement for off-site reservoirs, and was re-assessing arrangements for Runnymede as one of the top ten area nationally with a substantial population at risk from flooding. The LRF had established a Task and Finish sub-group to address flooding. He said that Surrey County Council worked closely with the borough councils and emergency services as equal partners, undertaking regular exercises in preparation for an incident.

Mr David Dodd, (Community Safety Manager at Runnymede Borough Council) informed members that the Safer Runnymede control room in the new Civic Centre was staffed 24 hours and was capable to respond as soon as a report of an incident was received on the police radio. He noted that the borough worked closely with the county council's social care services in preparation for setting up rest centres for the public should the need arise.

In answer to a question, Mr Good said that the LRF was looking at establishing a countywide Flood group to which local flood forums could feed in, and that the Fire Service was represented at senior level in the LRF.

35/09 **ADDRESSING FLOOD RISK IN RUNNYMEDE : REPORT FOR INFORMATION** [Item 8]

Mr Ian Tomes, (Environment Agency, Flood Risk manager for the South East) introduced his colleagues Mr Graham Piper (Lower Thames Strategy project manager) and Mr Clive Malcolm (Communications Officer for the Strategy). He explained that the Agency's 2009 publication "Flooding in England" had placed Runnymede at number nine in the top ten areas in the country with a significant population at risk of flooding. He noted that along the stretch of the River Thames covered by the Lower Thames strategy, there were 15,000 properties at risk of a 1 in 100 year flood (i.e. the annual risk to those homes was 1%). He said that implementation of the Environment Agency's proposals would be costly and the process of obtaining approval (allowing for a Public Inquiry) lengthy, there being no guarantee that the Treasury would agree to fund the project.

Mr Graham Piper outlined the proposals in the Lower Thames Strategy consultation document, noting that in Reach 3 (from Walton Bridge to Datchet) a total of 12,200 properties (average 29,600 people) were subject to the 1% annual flood risk. The document had been in development for over two years, and evaluated three possible approaches to the problem but concluded that flood channels were the most effective option. He said that Diversion Channel 2, to take excess water from Egham Hythe stretch (adjacent to Chertsey Lane) down to Chertsey Weir, was the

proposal of greatest interest to Runnymede residents. All properties within the 1% floodplain area had been sent publicity flyers notifying them of the public exhibitions (including October 8th from 3pm to 8pm in the Hythe Centre) and consultation, which would close on December 4th.

Mr Malcolm Loveday (Chairman of the Chertsey Society and a member of Runnymede Flood Forum) then gave a presentation about the impact of flooding in Chertsey arising from the River Bourne. He advised the meeting that the Bourne was liable to flood every ten years, presenting a greater risk to the town than the Thames, although he welcomed the Environment Agency's proposals. He suggested that the most effective way to prevent the Bourne flooding the Chertsey area (given its source near Bagshot), would be to divert excess water into the Thorpe Park lakes, as suggested in a £7 million scheme originally proposed in 2003 but now incorporated into the Lower Thames Strategy.

Councillor Derek Cotty, chairman of the Runnymede Flood Forum, gave his support to the positive solutions put forward. He noted that the county council's Pitt Review task group (in which he had participated) had recommended the appointment of an experienced professional at county level to liaise with Government, and he suggested that officers in Runnymede Borough Council possessed the necessary experience and expertise. He indicated that implementation of the Lower Thames Strategy was a long way off and advocated lobbying Surrey MPs to support its adoption by Government.

Mr Tomes noted that a Parliamentary grouping of Thames MPs was in existence and agreed to send details to members. He explained specialist pumping equipment retained by the Fire Service was not seen as a first response option for dealing with fluvial flooding, as the pipe diameter was only six inches, but provided an important resource for addressing surface water flooding in accordance with the Environment Agency/Fire and Rescue Service agreed protocol. He confirmed that any works agreed as part of the Lower Thames Strategy would have to begin with the compensatory works in Reach 4 before working upstream.

Mr Steve Child (West Area Maintenance manager, Surrey County Council) added that in reference to surface water flooding, there were thirteen identified "wetspots" in Runnymede against a total of 850 county-wide.

Mr Norman proposed the following motion which was seconded by Mrs Lay and agreed unanimously by the Committee.

RESOLVED

This Committee asks the Cabinet that:

- a) the Environment Agency proposals for flood channels are supported by the County Council
- b) they recognise the Runnymede Flood Forum has those with the skills and knowledge to aid the County Council to lead on technical matters
- c) that they continue to apply pressure to central Government to accept the urgency of this issue, particularly in light of the fact that Runnymede has been identified as one of the ten area nationally at significant risk.

Mr Steve Child introduced Mr Nicholas Healey as the new Local Highways Manager in Surrey County Council.

Mr Healey introduced the report, noting the need for a correction on page 3, Table 2: “financial outturn” to read “financial allocation”. He noted that the capital allocation to be decided by the Local Committee was £160,000 in 2009/10 and members had undertaken a tour of the borough in September to view and discuss potential improvement schemes at various locations. He noted that one scheme on the Forward Programme, for a zebra crossing at Windsor Street, had estimated costs of £70-80,000 considerably in excess of the original £20,000, and suggested that recommendation 3 should be amended in light of this.

Mr Few asked for clarification of why the budget in 2008-9 was overspent (at 2.3). Mr Healey explained that at the end of the financial year the estimated cost of work in progress was accrued and then adjusted following receipt of invoices, but he was unable to confirm the final figures as some costs remained under dispute.

Mr Norman, the local member for Chertsey, said that he had considerable reservations about the need to proceed with the Windsor Street crossing given a lack of recent accidents or public support, and suggested it could be abandoned – Cllr Cotty, also a Chertsey councillor, agreed. Members asked Mr Healey to indicate what would be the impact on the Forward Programme.

Mr Healey said that removal of the scheme would leave £70,000 unallocated in 2009-10, acknowledging that to avoid an underspend, it may be possible to bring forward schemes such as Queen Mary Drive zebra crossing, preparatory work on Runnymede roundabout, anti-skid surfacing at Church Road, new signage in Stonehill Road and Staines Road, and design of the Thorpe Lea scheme. Mr Steve Child highlighted the need to identify funding of approximately £50,000 to provide new fencing at two lay-bys in St Peter’s Way, to prevent further episodes of illegal fly-tipping of tyres.

Members questioned other aspects of the Programme discussed at the Members Tour, including Weir Road and Green Lane, Chertsey, and the footway on Holloway Hill adjacent to St Peter’s Hospital.

RESOLVED

- i) to note the financial outturn for Integrated Transport Schemes for 2008/09 and allocations for 2009/10;
- ii) to approve the recommendations arising from the Members Tour of September 2009, in respect of eight new Integrated Transport Schemes, as set out in Table 3;
- iii) **to remove the Windsor Street zebra crossing scheme from the forward programme and replace it with schemes to be agreed by the Local Highway Manager in consultation with the Local Member and Chairman, and if such schemes need to be advertised that the LHM will do so, and the results will be reported to the next Committee.**

- iv) to approve the recommendations arising out of initial feasibility work for the various schemes detailed in sections 2.17 to 2.23
- v) to approve the programme of Integrated Transport Schemes for Runnymede for 2009/10 to 2013/14 funded by Local Transport Plan and Local Allocation, as set out in Annex 1.

**37/09 ANNUAL HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE PLAN 2009-10
(FOR INFORMATION [Item 10])**

Mr Steve Child presented this item. He confirmed that the Street Lighting PFI contract was due to commence in 2010, and that budgets would need to be adjusted when it started. He clarified that the total budget for gully cleansing county-wide was £1.4 million.

Miss Heath tabled a motion concerning the need for the county council to seek greater value for money and to diversify use of contractors in its maintenance contract, which was due for review by the Cabinet in November, and this was seconded by Mr Few. Members voted in support of the motion.

RESOLVED:

The Committee would like to make the Cabinet aware that:

- a) in spite of ongoing reviews we are still concerned that we are not getting value for money out of the current contract;
- b) we would like to see the Cabinet investigate the possibility of more local responsive works to be done outside of the large contract.

**38/09 RESPONSE TO BAA AIRTRACK TRANSPORT AND WORKS ACT
APPLICATION: REPORT FOR INFORMATION [Item 11]**

Members noted the response from Runnymede members which had been incorporated into the report to Surrey County Council's Cabinet. Members expressed concern that issues of parking capacity at Chertsey station, and the impact of air pollution at Addlestone level crossing, were given insufficient prominence in the report.

**39/09 PRIORITY AREAS IN RUNNYMEDE: REPORT FOR
INFORMATION [Item 12]**

Ms Sylvia Carter gave a brief introduction to the report about priority areas identified for Runnymede, noting that these had been locally determined and would be reported on to the Local Strategic Partnership, which took an overview for the area.

40/09 MEMBERS' ALLOCATIONS FUNDING: FOR DECISION [Item 13]

The chairman asked members to note the following changes in the tabled version of the report:

2.4 Eikon allocation – the amount was revised to £1300;

new 2.5 was added – a proposal to fund science workshops in New Haw schools. Consequently recommendation i) had been amended.

Mrs Lay asked that a correction to 2.2 be noted, to reflect the fact that she had agreed to support the Carers Support Christmas lunch from her allocation.

RESOLVED

- (i) to consider and agree the proposed expenditure (described in paragraphs 2.2 to 2.9 **as amended**) from the Member's Allocation budget;
- (ii) note the expenditure approved by the Area Director under delegated powers, as described at 3.1.

41/09 FORWARD PLAN: FOR DECISION [Item 14]

The Chairman explained that the Forward Plan was flexible, and encouraged members to suggest additional items and amendments.

Mr Healey advised that under s3 for 27 February 2010, the item "waiting restriction amendments" should be withdrawn and the item "Controlled Parking Scheme feasibility report" be substituted. He requested that a further item for February 2010 be added, to report on the results of the Wapshott Road residents' consultation.

Mr Few requested the following items as update reports, arising from priorities identified in the Leader's Speech:

- HGV restrictions: delegation of powers
- Anti-Social Driving Initiative as implemented locally.

RESOLVED

to agree the Forward Programme contained in the report, as amended.

42/09 LOCAL UPDATES, FOR INFORMATION (NO REPORT) [Item 15]

The items were noted.

[Meeting ended 12.15 pm]

Chairman's signature