

DRAFT MINUTES: of the meeting of the Surrey County Council Local
Committee held at 6.30pm on Monday June 27th 2011 at
the RBC Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Addlestone.

Surrey County Council Members

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

Runnymede Borough Council appointed members

Councillor P. Roberts
Councillor A Alderson
Councillor T. Dicks
Councillor D. Cotty
Councillor R. Edis
Councillor P. Tuley

PART ONE - IN PUBLIC

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

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm.

15/11 APPOINTMENTS [Item 1]

The new chairman requested that the Committee's thanks be recorded to Ms Carolyn Rowe, the former Area Director, for her support to members. He welcomed co-opted members of the Committee from Runnymede Borough Council and introduced Mrs Michelle Collins, the new team leader in the Community Partnership Team at Surrey County Council.

16/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 2]

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Mary Angell and Miss Marisa Heath.

17/11 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 7th 2011 [Item 3]

The minutes were approved and signed.

18/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 4]

None received.

19/11 WRITTEN MEMBERS' QUESTIONS [Item 5]

None received.

20/11 **PETITIONS** [Item 6]

An e-petition had been received with 111 signatories (further were added after the deadline passed), mostly from parents of children at the infant school in Virginia Water, calling for a reduction in the speed limit on the section of Christchurch Road outside Christchurch School. In supporting documentation sent to councillors (included as Annex A) the lead petitioner said that "the desired outcome is a reduction in the speed limit, either a permanent reduction or the introduction of a variable speed limit which is reduced to 20 mph at peak times on weekdays during term time".

The lead petitioner, Dr Helen Kardos-Stowe, addressed the Committee arguing for a variable speed limit by the school on weekdays. She noted that the school was not easily visible to motorists passing through and cited a survey of parents which found that half had experienced some damage to cars parked alongside the road at school times, illustrating the risk associated with getting out of the car on such a busy road with limited visibility. She argued that other local authorities were implementing lower speed limits and cited a press release from the Department for Transport which proposed making it easier for authorities to introduce variable speed limits.

The local member said that he had raised this location with Highways officers previously, as he considered that it was inconsistent for there to be a 30mph limit further along the road outside St Ann's Heath school but 40mph on this section. He was aware that the road was heavily used as a rat run off the A30 from Bracknell to the M25, and suggested that the school warning "wig wag" signs could be adjusted to flash a lower limit during school drop-off and pick-up times. He also expressed concern that there was no controlled crossing.

Mr Jason Gosden (Senior Engineer, Surrey Highways) advised that there had been a trial of variable speed limits by the Department for Transport in the 1990's which had concluded they were not effective in reducing speeds, although he recognised that the recent press release indicated a change in thinking. He said that speed surveys undertaken in 2007 found relatively high speeds and suggested that a reduction in the limit to 30mph would not result in a change in driver behaviour.

Several borough councillors spoke in support of a reduction in speed limit, and the local member proposed a new resolution. The resolutions were passed with six members in support and four against. The chairman noted that, in light of the rejection of officer and Police advice, the matter would be referred to the Cabinet Member for Transport.

RESOLVED

- i) to reject the officer's recommendation;
- ii) We recommend that, with immediate effect, the speed limit be changed to a variable limit of 30mph within school hours, and that the wig-way signs are adjusted to flash to indicate this.

A question had been received from Mrs Anne Prevost of Runnymede:

“How can our representatives on Surrey County Council justify charging for parking in our High Streets and shopping areas, when local businesses they claim to support are struggling to survive and customers will be driven out of town centres? By so doing, they will be signing the death warrant of local traders and kill off the community spirit in the towns and villages they claim to represent.”

The Chairman gave the following written reply on behalf of members:

“The drivers for change in the proposed arrangements for on-street parking are threefold: firstly Surrey County Council has to make savings of £207million in its costs over the next four years; secondly at both County and Borough level, parking service costs presently run at a deficit; lastly income from on-street parking will allow for improved enforcement of parking restrictions, very necessary in some areas.

Members of the Local Committee met informally and reviewed the initial proposals put forward by the Parking team in February and then advised the team that in general they supported the proposals, subject to several provisos. The issues contained in the Cabinet’s request to Local Area Committees are noted below:

The Cabinet of Surrey County Council has asked Local Area Committees to agree proposals at local level that:

- Ensure churn of vehicles, for the benefit of local shops
- Stop long term parkers from blocking shopping areas and provide alternatives in appropriate locations
- Provide a 30 minute free period only where it is appropriate
- Safeguard small shopping areas from being disadvantaged by nearby large supermarkets which offer free car parking
- Protect the viability of local shopping areas by assessing the proportion of empty shops;
- Set consultation timeframes through the Parking team at Surrey County Council.

You will note from the above that the Local Area Committee is in a position to negotiate what is best for their area, and you can be assured that Runnymede county councillors will be pro-active in seeking what is best for the borough.

The proposals for Runnymede will be discussed in public at the October 10th Local Committee meeting, and members of the public will be able to submit written comments as part of the public consultation.”

There was no supplementary question.

22/11 ADULT SOCIAL CARE [Item 8]

Mrs Sarah Mitchell, Director of Adult Social Care, gave a presentation accompanied by Powerpoint slides. She noted a range of good practice at borough level, including the partnership work which had led to a new dementia support service being put in place at Runnymede Borough Council's Orchard day centre from July, the development of user-led hubs which had been piloted in Epsom and Ewell, the importance of matching needs to delivery of services, and the potential impact of the Dilnott report given that the majority of Surrey residents would be self-funded.

Members asked about the impact of the threatened closure of the Southern Cross care group in Surrey, the debate about what the borough/district provides alongside county provision, the method of constraining price increases in care services in an inflationary environment, and the recognition of carers.

Mrs Mitchell advised that three Southern Cross homes in the east of Surrey were potentially at risk, and that in the event of a collapse the county would put in Surrey staff as an interim measure to avoid having to move very vulnerable residents. She said that there were further conversations to be had about who provides what on the comprehensive spectrum of care, as part of the personalisation agenda. She explained that ASC had taken a tough stance with providers over inflationary increases, knowing that Surrey was paying more than surrounding areas and had an over-supply of places, but could not say whether this approach could be maintained over time.

Mrs Deborah Blowers (Head of Housing and Community Services, Runnymede Borough Council) advised members that existing users of the Orchard day centre in Chertsey would be transferred to the Manor Farm centre in Egham or Eileen Tozer centre in Addlestone as part of the plan for the Alzheimers Society to use the Orchard to support people with dementia.

23/11 COMMUNITY SAFETY IN RUNNYMEDE [Item 9]

Mrs Wendy Roberts (Community Safety Manager, Runnymede Borough Council) and Inspector Roger Nield (Safer Neighbourhoods Inspector for Runnymede, Surrey Police) gave a brief introduction to the Community Safety report, noting that a dramatic reduction in budget from 2012-13 would mean that partners would need to seek inventive solutions. Inspector Nield noted a correction to the Summary section of Item 9, advising that public confidence was rated as 88% not 85% as stated.

Members asked about provision of ward level crime data, the financial contributions of the partners, the location of the CCTV camera at Pooley Green recreation ground, and the public consultation document referred to under Drive Smart in Annex 4 (tabled). They also noted the work of the Biz and its impact on youth crime, and expressed concern about the advent of police commissioners from Summer 2012 and the risk of losing gains made in recent years.

RESOLVED

- i) that the community safety funding (£2500) delegated to the Local

- Committee be transferred to the Community Safety Partnership (CSP);
- ii) that the Community Partnership Manager should manage and authorise expenditure from the budget delegated to the Local Committee in accordance with the Committee's decision;
 - iii) to note that the funding of £12,000 which is ring fenced for the use of the CSP subject to domestic abuse outreach being provided, would be paid to the Surrey Community Safety Unit who were now managing and administering the funding to the domestic abuse outreach providers in Runnymede borough.

24/11 HGV LICENSING [Item 10]

Mr Mike Green (Transport Development Control manager, West) answered members' questions on this information report.

Mr Mel Few asked to attend the training for members referred to in the report. Other members asked about the process for assessing the suitability of sites, and were advised that Surrey County Council officers would always undertake a site visit before offering recommendations to the Commissioner who issued the licences. In the event that other relevant factors came to light subsequently the County Council would bring these to the Commissioner's attention.

25/11 HIGHWAYS UPDATE [Item 11]

Mr Andrew Milne (Area Highways Manager) noted that the revenue maintenance budget had been fully utilised in 2010-11 and that in the coming year, by matching developer contributions with allocated highways budget there was scope for £318k worth of improvements in Runnymede.

Members asked about the removal of parking in the lay-by outside St Peter's Hospital, the rationale behind the cost-benefit figure on Annex 1, the congestion ranking which gave the Runnymede Roundabout a similar score to the Thorpe cycleway, and the possibility of funding from the Olympic Delivery Authority for the Runnymede roundabout.

Mr Milne advised that, if the county council was successful in July in its Sustainable Transport Fund application to the Government, it was likely that a report would be brought to the next Local Committee.

RESOLVED

- i) to note the Integrated Transport Scheme (ITS) highways and developer-funded schemes being progressed;
- ii) to note the revised highways schemes list at Annex 1;
- iii) to note that a further Highways Update report would be brought to the next meeting of the Committee.

26/11 FRANKLANDS DRIVE – PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING [Item 12]

Mr Jason Gosden (Senior Engineer, Surrey Highways) advised that, following further consultation with residents a majority had supported Option 3, with 80%

favouring a re-aligned junction, but that there was no guarantee of further funding from the developer to implement speed cushions.

The local county councillor and borough councillor expressed their support for the recommendations.

RESOLVED

- i) to authorise completion of the detailed design and subsequent construction of the scheme proposed as Option 3 (as detailed in the plan attached as Annex 4 to the report);
- ii) to authorise the Area Team Manager, in response to requests made through the recent consultation, to seek the inclusion of either a speed table or speed cushions in Franklands Drive (near property numbers 52 & 54) placed at the developer's expense, without returning this matter to the Local Committee;
- iii) subject to the installation of a speed reducing measures (near property numbers 52 & 54) being agreed, to authorise the advertisement of a notice in accordance with Highways Act 1980 detailing the proposed measure, and subject to no objections being maintained the measure be constructed;
- iv) authorise the advertisement of a traffic regulation order to ban vehicles from:
turning left into the access road to the new development from Franklands Drive,
turning right out of the access road from the new development into Franklands Drive;
- v) agreed that any objections to the Traffic Regulation Order be considered and resolved by the Area Team Manager for the north west area in consultation with the divisional member and Chairman, but if any objections proved insurmountable, that the matter is reported to Committee;
- vi) that once any objections have been considered and resolved, the Order be made.

27/11 COMMUNITY PRIDE FUND [Item 13]

Mr Andrew Milne advised members that a total of £30k was available for Runnymede, to enable councillors to request minor works on their patch, following the removal of community gangs. He advised members to contact their local highways contact Mr Ian Paterson in the first instance so that he could confirm likely costs and whether the work was already covered by the revenue maintenance budget.

Members noted that the county-wide budget for community gangs had been £900k whereas the total Community Pride Fund budget was £400k, and sought confirmation that any safety-related works would be undertaken automatically through the maintenance budget.

RESOLVED

- i) to agree funding is devolved to each County Councillor based on an equitable allocation of £5,000 per division;

- ii) to note that individual Members allocated their funding based on the principles detailed in Annex 1
- iii) to note that Members should contact the Area Maintenance engineer to discuss any specific requirements and arranged for the work activities to be managed on their behalf.

28/11 **LOCAL PROTOCOL FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT** [Item 14]

Councillor Alan Alderson proposed that, rather than allocate a full thirty minutes for informal public questions prior to the Committee, this should be reduced to fifteen minutes with the provision for the chairman to delay the start of the Committee if there were a number of questions.

RESOLVED

- i) that the Committee will offer an opportunity for public engagement and informal questions **for fifteen minutes** before each Local Committee meeting commences (subject to annual review);
- ii) that written public questions, dealt with as part of the formal agenda, may be accepted up to 12 noon four working days before the day of the meeting;
- iii) that the Committee will accept a petition carrying 50 or more signatures (although in exceptional circumstances the chairman may use his/her discretion to accept petitions with fewer signatures in cases where it would not be appropriate to get 50 signatures, e.g. where a proposed scheme affects fewer than 50 properties);
- iv) to note the County Council's standing orders concerning public participation on Rights of Way applications, which also apply to local committees.

29/11 **APPOINTMENTS TO TASK GROUPS/EXTERNAL BODIES** [Item 15]

Councillor Patrick Roberts advised the Committee that Councillor Derek Cotty and Councillor Michael Brown had been appointed as the representatives from Runnymede Borough Council for the CPE task group.

RESOLVED

- i) the terms of reference for the Civil Parking Enforcement Task Group and the Runnymede Youth Services Task Group be approved as set out in Annexes A and B;
- ii) Mr Chris Norman be appointed to attend the Community Safety Partnership and Mr John Furey be appointed to attend the Local Strategic Partnership;
- iii) the chairman and vice chairman be appointed to the CPE Task Group in 2011/12;
- iv) the Chairman, Mr Mel Few and Mrs Mary Angell (substitute) be appointed to the Runnymede Youth Task Group;

30/11 **MEMBER ALLOCATIONS FUNDING** [Item 16]

Mr Chris Norman advised that he would allocate £2,000 towards the Substance Misuse project at 2.5.

RESOLVED

- i) to agree the proposed expenditure (as described in paragraphs 2.2. to 2.4 and as amended at 2.5) from the Member Allocations Budget 2011-12;
- ii) to delegate to the Community Partnerships Manager and CPT team leader (West) the authority to approve applications up to and including £1000 from capital or revenue, subject to these being reported to the Committee at the following meeting;
- iii) to note the expenditure approved by the Area Director under delegated powers since the last Committee, described at 3.0.

31/11 ANNUAL REPORT ON MEMBER ALLOCATIONS FUNDING 2010-11
[Item 17]

Members noted the report.

32/11 FORWARD PROGRAMME: FOR DECISION [Item 18]

No further items were added at this time.

RESOLVED

to agree the Forward Programme as contained in the report.

[Meeting ended at 18.44 pm]

Chairman's signature _____