

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE IN SPELTHORNE

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12th March 2007 at Bishop Wand School, Laytons Lane, Sunbury on Thames

County Council Members:

Mrs Denise Saliagopoulos (Chairman)*
Mr Victor Agarwal*
Mr Ian Beardsmore*
Mr Laurie Burrell*
Mrs Carol Coleman*
Mr Frank Davies
Ms Denise Turner*

Borough Council Members:

Councillor Gerry Ceaser
Councillor Edward Culnane*
Councillor Gerald Forsbrey*
Councillor Denise Grant
Councillor Jack Pinkerton*
Councillor Robin Sider
Councillor George Trussler*

*** = present**

(All references to items refer to the Agenda for the meeting)

- 58/07 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (ITEM 1)**
Apologies for absence were received from Mr Davies, Councillor Ceaser, Councillor Grant and Councillor Sider.
- 59/07 MINUTES (ITEM 2)**
The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2006 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.
- 60/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (ITEM 3)**
Mr Burrell declared an interest in Item 13 as his wife was a governor of Littleton School. Mrs Coleman declared an interest in Item 13 as a Governor of Ash Technology College.
- 61/07 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (ITEM 4)**
The Chairman was pleased to report that the County Council had received an award for being the best County Council website in the United Kingdom (www.surreycc.gov.uk)
It was also noted that the County Council had agreed to continue the Members funds Scheme and capital allocation for

the new municipal year and from the next meeting on 2nd July any new applications for good causes would be considered.

62/07

PETITIONS (ITEM 5)

Two petitions were received – one from residents of Wraysbury Gardens, Staines for the immediate implementation of waiting restrictions and one from residents of Dunboe Place, requesting the cutting down of conifer trees.

63/07

MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME (ITEM 6)

Two Members questions were received as set out in the annex attached together with the answers given.

64/07

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (ITEM 7)

Six Public questions were received as set out in the annex attached together with the answers given.

65/07

FORWARD PROGRAMME (ITEM 8)

It was noted that the Forward programme had still to be finalised and would be circulated to Members for information shortly.

Resolved:

The dates of meetings for the Municipal year 2007/08 be agreed.

66/07

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMME BID 2007/08 TO 2011/12 (ITEM 9)

Resolved:

1. The LTP programme bid for the year 2007/08 be approved.
2. The LTP programmes and indicative bids for the years 2008/09 to 2011/12 be approved in principle.

67/07

REVIEW OF REQUESTS FOR AMENDMENTS TO WAITING RESTRICTIONS (ITEM 10)

Resolved:

1. That the 32 highest priority locations on the list of requests for amendments to waiting restrictions as shown at Annex A should be advertised by public notice.
2. Subject to no objection being received these restrictions be implemented.
3. If an objection is received before the end of the objection period, it is determined by the Local Transportation Manager in consultation with the Chairman, the Local Electoral Division Member and the Leader of the Borough Council; and
4. The implementation of the amendments is funded from the Local Allocation 2007 / 2008 at an estimated cost of £25,000.

68/07 **CLOCKHOUSE LANE, ASHFORD – PROPOSED 7.5 TONNES WEIGHT RESTRICTION SOUTHBOUND (ITEM 11)**

Resolved:

1. The proposed southbound 7.5 tonnes weight restriction on Clockhouse Lane, Ashford be approved and advertised by public notice.
2. Subject to no objection being received this restriction be implemented.
3. If an objection is received before the end of the objection period, it is determined by the Local Transportation Manager in consultation with the Chairman, the Local Electoral Division Member and the Leader of the Borough Council; and
4. The implementation of the proposal is funded from the Local Allocation 2007/2008 at an estimated cost of £12,000.

69/07 **LOCAL ALLOCATION 2007/08 (ITEM 12)**

Annex B reference to Russell Road should read: hatching and review of speed limit and traffic calming o/s Vine Cottage & Riverbend House. Estimated works cost £9,000.

Resolved:

The programme as shown at Annex B as amended be approved.

70/07 **MEMBERS' FUNDS (ITEM 13)**

Resolved:

1. To note that £450 of the funding given in 2005/6 to Family Links Surrey had been returned as they had been unable to use it. The funding had been returned to contributing Members' and was reflected in the table at paragraph 1.1.
2. To note the funding approved under delegated authority (para 2.1).
3. £1000 be granted towards a bench in Memorial Gardens, to be funded from Ms Turner's allocation.
4. £2500 be granted for the Martindale Club for transport costs, to be funded from Mrs Coleman's allocation (£2225) and Ms Turner's allocation (£275).
5. £1500 be granted towards an event by Surrey Fire & Rescue Service, to be funded equally from Ms Turner's and Mr Beardsmore's allocation.
6. £4084 be granted towards a scheme to be undertaken by SCC Highways to reduce the green area at Woodberry Close, Sunbury, to ease parking congestion to be funded from Mr Beardsmore's allocation.
7. £1250 be granted towards the cost of mobile toilets for the Shepperton Village Fair, to be funded from Mr Burrell's allocation.

8. £500 be granted towards the cost of producing flyers for the Youth Development Service, to be funded from Mrs Saliagopoulos' allocation.
9. £5000 be granted for security lighting in Hadfield Road Stanwell, to be funded from Mr Agarwal's allocation.
10. Additional funding of £2243 be granted to East2West for Youth Provision in Stanwell Moor to be funded from Mr Agarwal's allocation.
11. £1934 be granted for bollards in Nursery Green, Sunbury, to be funded from Mr Davies' allocation.
12. £620.15 be granted for Spelthorne Scouts Association for equipment for a recruitment presence at local events to be funded from Mrs Coleman's allocation.
13. £2080 be granted for Ash Technology School for 4 cookers for the Food Technology classes (£880) and reducing the trees and shrubs on the footpaths and fence area (£1200) to be funded from Mrs Coleman's allocation.
14. £580 be granted to Littleton School, Shepperton towards the costs of purchase and installation of units and work surface in the staff room to be funded from Mr Burrell's allocation.
15. £500 be granted to SCC Children's Service towards a day out for the Parents Support Group and their families as a once off payment from Mrs Saliagopoulos' allocation and £360 be granted to SCC Children's Services for confidence and self esteem courses for vulnerable year 6 pupils stepping up to Ash to be funded from Mrs Coleman's allocation.
16. £1592 be granted Young Enterprise for some Spelthorne primary school children to attend a course in May to be funded from Mrs Saliagopoulos' allocation (£800) and Mrs Coleman's allocation (£792).

71/07 ALTERNATE WEEKLY COLLECTIONS – PRESENTATION BY SANDY MUIRHEAD – SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL

A short presentation was given by Sandy Muirhead.

72/07 COLNE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK (ITEM 15)

A short presentation was given by Mrs Coleman.

73/07 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday 2nd July at St. David's Parish Centre, Everest Road, Stanwell.

74/07 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC (Item 17)

It was agreed that by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting to enable the discussion of the report at agenda item 18.

75/07 FUTURE STRATEGY FOR ADULT AND COMMUNITY LEARNING (Item 18)

Resolved:

That the Committee's views be conveyed to the County Council's Executive.

The meeting which commenced at 7pm ended at 9.15pm

Chairman.....

**Annex to the Minutes of the SCC Local Committee in Spelthorne held on
12th March 2007**

AGENDA ITEM 5

MEMBERS QUESTIONS

Councillor Forsbrey asked the following question:

“What has Surrey County Council done regarding the speeding of traffic along the entire stretch of Fordbridge Road, Ashford, Middlesex, as some 18 months ago a petition was handed to County Councillor Coleman asking for measures to be put in place to reduce speeding? In addition to this On Monday 18th September 2006 Annette Williamson the Local Transportation Manager for Spelthorne visited Fordbridge Road with Councillor Coleman (as advised to my wife in Cllr Coleman’s letter of 14th Sept. 2006).

What was the outcome of this meeting as of today nothing seems to have been done, only a tragic RTA on Saturday 27th January 2007 when a young woman lost her life speeding along Fordbridge Road?

What measures are being put in place following my wife’s letters of 12th Sept., 2006 and 29th Jan., 2007 on speeding etc., to Mrs Coleman?”

The Local Transportation Manager gave the following answer:

“Along Fordbridge Road, Ashford the 85th %tile speed of vehicles measured over a 5-day period at the end of September / early October 2005, and as reported to the Local Committee in October 2005, was 36mph with an average speed of 29mph. A survey carried out by the Police near to the junction of Manor Road over a 5-day period in May 2006 found the 85th %tile speed to be 34mph with an average speed of 28.7mph.

A total of 48,780 vehicles were recorded during the latter survey. 22800 vehicles travelled towards the A 308 with an average of 28.5 mph and an 85th%tile of 34 mph and 25980 vehicles travelled towards Church Road had a average of 29 mph, with an 85th%tile of 35 mph.

This data does not show excessive speeding during the survey periods by the vast majority of drivers although in the May survey 10 vehicles were recorded to have travelled between 60 and 73 mph, 8 of which travelled towards Church Road.

The outcome of the petition and other enquiries was to add the location to the list of requests we receive for traffic calming and other schemes. This list has been prioritised in accordance with the objectives of the Local Transport Plan as shown at Item 9 on this Agenda. At the request of Mrs Coleman, posters

have been erected along Fordbridge Road to remind drivers not to exceed the speed limit.”

Councillor Sider asked the following question:

“Further to his reply to my question at the Local Committee meeting on the 11th December 2006, and with the increasing anti-social behaviour in Shepperton, of which Surrey County Council and its relevant partners are aware, can the County Council Youth Development Officer inform me whether the YDS team in Spelthorne, having identified the resources to recruit three new part time workers for Shepperton Youth Development Centre as stated in his reply, these persons are now in post, and if so are the second weekly drop in sessions now operational, and if not why not?”

The Youth Development Officer gave the following answer:

“The Youth Development Service commenced a recruitment campaign for part time assistant youth workers in the middle of January 2007, the applicants who were interested in working in Spelthorne will be interviewed on Thursday 8 March and Monday 12th March 2007. Any suitable candidates who are offered appointments will then have to wait until suitable references have been received, CRB check is complete and other pre-employment checks have been completed, this can take between 4 - 8 weeks, therefore they will not be commencing employment until after Easter. The deployment of any new staff will be dependant on their availability, skills and experience.”

AGENDA ITEM 6

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Mr D Penney asked the following question:

“I have noted the suggested improvements at the junction with Kingston Road with which I agree, but note that the pinch point at the Iron Bridge still presents a problem to traffic proceeding west towards the town centre. Is it possible to modify the phasing of the lights such that traffic can flow into South Street from the Iron Bridge, whilst at the same time vehicles can proceed Easterly from either South Street or Two Rivers?”

The Local Transportation Manager gave the following answer:

“The timings of the traffic signals at the Iron Bridge were altered late last year to improve the traffic flow along London Road into South Street. Traffic turning into South Street from High Street cannot be phased to run at the same time as traffic turning left from Mustard Mill Road onto High Street due to the potential collision of large vehicles traveling in opposite directions”.

Mr. John Carruthers asked the following question:

“Although the County Council is responsible for all decriminalised parking enforcement within the Borough, they have contracted Spelthorne BC to carry out these duties on their behalf, but they unfortunately clearly are not doing so as required.

What control do the County Council have over Borough efficiency and effectiveness in this work and how does the County Council ensure that this contracted work is actually done to instructions and contract, and that the duty is discharged, and as this Local Committee is responsible for the successful operation of decriminalised parking enforcement within Spelthorne, what do they intend to do about ensuring that it is carried out efficiently?”

The Local Transportation Manager gave the following answer:

“Spelthorne Borough Council enforces the waiting restrictions across the Borough under an Agency Agreement with the County Council. County and Borough Officers meet on a regular basis to monitor and review the enforcement and this is a key agenda item discussed by the Decriminalised Parking Enforcement Task Group, which Members and officers attend bi-monthly. The County Council believes the restrictions could be better enforced but has recognised that the Borough has had operational difficulties that included cash collection, opening / closing of the multi-storey car parks and the low efficiency of Pay on Foot cash machines. These difficulties are now largely overcome. The County Council will commence a Countywide review of the Agency Agreements later this month.”

Mr Robert Watts of Shepperton Residents Association asked the following question:

“At the SCC Local Committee meeting on 12th December 2005 it was reported by the Local Transportation Manager that a number of gullies in Shepperton were blocked with no time scale for rectification. Areas of roads in Green Lane, Laleham Road, the Service roads in the High Street and Squires Bridge Road still have problems with standing water that causes unnecessary problems to pedestrians and motorists.

Now that SCC are allocating an extra £1 million for gully cleaning and highway flood prevention will the long standing problems in Shepperton be finally rectified to allow safe highway use. Please confirm when the work will be properly carried out. I would be pleased to meet SCC officers to indicate the "wet spots" in Shepperton, should this assist in rectifying this long standing problem.”

The Local Transportation Manager gave the following answer:

“It is proposed that an additional £1m is spent Countywide on drainage works during 2007 / 2008. This would be allocated from within existing capital maintenance budgets and will be considered by the Executive. At this stage I

have no information on whether this funding will be used to support resurfacing schemes or be determined locally.”

Mrs. Caroline Nichols asked the following question:

“Green Street Action Group has asked Spelthorne Borough Council to put into the public domain the specification and tender documents for the redevelopment of the Benwell Day Centre site. Spelthorne Borough Council has refused, attributing the objection to Surrey County Council. Please would Surrey County Council explain, quoting the relevant Freedom of Information Act clauses, the reason for preventing disclosure?”

The Area Director gave the following response:

“The Committee is aware that a separate full reply has already been issued to both Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Nichols, by Mr. Michael Graham Head of Corporate Governance at Spelthorne Borough Council, and that the specification and tender invitation documents have now been sent to them.

As stated in that letter, Surrey County Council did not refuse to release the documentation. As indicated in Mrs. Nichols question and the original request, there was some confusion and lack of clarity in the requests as to whether the specification and tender invitation or, the tenders themselves, were being requested.

The joint Project team, made up of officers from both councils, has never objected to the disclosure of the specification or the tender invitation.

There would however, be an issue in any request for a copy of the actual tender submissions, which during the tender process would generally be viewed as subject to the section 43 prejudice to commercial interests exemption (though there is a public interest test attached so each request has to be considered on its own merits and the exemption does not automatically apply), and/or section 41, information provided in confidence where there is an actionable duty of confidence.

The Committee trusts that this reply satisfies the question, and notes that the Spelthorne Borough Council and Surrey County Council officers and Members involved have a very good and harmonious working partnership on this project”.

Mr. J.R. Dickinson asked the following question:

“Please reinstate the derestricted speed limit on the A308 –‘Q Garage’ to the Crooked Billet as it is safer.

When I rang Spelthorne Borough Council offices in June 2001 to ask why the speed limit was being lowered from 70mph to 50mph on the A308 from the ‘Q Garage’ to the Crooked Billet Roundabout, the spokeswoman replied that it

was “to stop confusing motorists with multiple speed limits on the same stretch of road”. When I said that this would probably lead to an increase in accidents, as traffic tends to bunch-up at lower speeds, she stated that for every 1mph reduction in speed there **would** be a 5% reduction in accidents. This appears to be a mantra, trotted out by anybody who has been to college/university to study “traffic management”. Incredulous, I pointed out to her that this would mean a total absence of accidents (5% x 20mph = 100% reduction). I do not think she comprehended the basic arithmetic!

As the first accident happened on the actual day of the introduction of the new reduced speed limit, I contend her supposition to be fatally flawed.

In the intervening years I have seen the aftermath of approximately 30 vehicle collisions. More seriously though, there have been at least 3 **fatalities*** and the number of **serious accidents** has **doubled***, as have the number of slight accidents*.

As I travel on this stretch of road very often I am not comforted to know that my chances of being killed or seriously injured have increased so much since the ‘planners’ did their work. Therefore I think it would be prudent to reinstate the 70 mph speed limit, as statistically it was safer.

- Accident figures were eventually supplied by Mr Alan Harvey (Principal Engineer for SCC), under the Freedom of Information Act.”

The Local Transportation Manager gave the following reply:

“Accident rates are monitored by the Accident Working Group which is an officer level meeting. Several collisions that caused death or serious injury occurred along the Staines By Pass. To address the problem along that length of road the Safety Camera Partnership monitors drivers’ speeds and enforces the speed limit and a safety barrier was installed during 2004 / 2005.

The Department for Transport has requested that the speed limits on all A and B roads are reviewed by 2011. The proposal is not to commit extra resources to this task but to ensure that a speed limit assessment is carried out when a new scheme is developed. In this way we will carry out a systematic review of speed limits in line with our priorities.”

Mr Keith Johnson asked the following question:

“Green Street waiting restrictions are at the top of your agenda.
-The biggest problem is the school run, followed by the inadequacy of the Health Centre car park.
All side residential side roads get completely blocked with parked cars.
-What study has been done on the implications of the proposed waiting restrictions on the immediate residential neighbourhood ?
-What resources are being supplied to police the proposed restrictions bearing in mind the very serious financial restraints on County, Borough and Police?

- What restrictions are being proposed regarding on-pavement parking?
- When are planning departments going to stop allowing cumulative developments in the area with sub-standard parking facilities on the grounds that there is public transport available?

Ownership of a car is a necessity in this area!

Already this is apparent at the new apartment block Arona which has only 8 spaces for nine 2-bed flats resulting in pavement parking.

- What proposals are there in place to increase the parking provision of the Sunbury Health Centre which has increased its patient list with every new intensive development over a wide area?"

The Local Transportation Manager gave the following answer:

"The waiting restrictions have been prioritised in accordance with the objectives of the Local Transport Plan (LTP) of congestion, accessibility, safety and the environment with the additional factor of enforcement as set out in paragraph 2.1 of Item 10 on this agenda. The introduction of waiting restrictions will inevitably increase the pressure on kerbside parking adjacent to the restrictions but our priority is to apply the LTP objectives to Green Street, as the major route through the area."