

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE IN SPELTHORNE

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4th February 2008 at The Thames Club, Wheatsheaf Lane, Staines.

County Council Members:

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

Borough Council Members:

Councillor Gerry Forsbrey*
Councillor Denise Grant*
Councillor John Packman*
Councillor Jack Pinkerton*
Councillor Robin Sider*
Councillor Richard Smith-Ainsley*
Councillor George Trussler*

*** = present**

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

- 1/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (ITEM 1)**
There were no apologies for absence.
- 2/08 MINUTES (ITEM 2)**
The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th December 2007 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.
- 3/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (ITEM 3)**
Mr Agarwal, Mrs Coleman, Councillor Smith-Ainsley declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 11. Mrs Turner-Stewart declared a personal interest in respect of agenda items 10, 11 and 15.
- 4/08 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (Item 4)**
The Chairman informed Members of the response received from TfL outlining their reasons for being unable to fund half the cost of the Clockhouse Lane Bridge redevelopment.

5/08**PETITIONS (ITEM 5)**

Two petitions had been received in respect of (i) Church Street, Staines and (ii) for parking restrictions in Brackenwood, Sunbury on Thames

Resolved:

- (i) In respect of the first petition (i) additional signage be considered; (ii) traffic calming on the bridge be considered (iii) the signage for the weight restriction be reviewed (iv) alterations to the waiting restrictions to permit parking outside the offices be included in the review of requests for amendments to waiting restrictions; and (v) alterations to the waiting restrictions to protect the entrance to Goring Square be included in the review of requests for amendments to waiting restrictions.
- (ii) In respect of the second petition this be noted.

6/08**MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME (ITEM 6)**

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

7/08**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (ITEM 7)**

Nine public questions were received as set out in the annex attached together with the answers given.

The Chairman made the following statement:

“Having considered the various views and representations concerning the gun club, as Divisional Member and Chairman of the Local Committee I have decided to refer this whole matter to the Council’s Corporate Management Select Committee and Executive. We cannot discuss this as part of the Local Committee’s remit but it has been a useful opportunity to listen to our local residents’ concerns. Given this issue is not within the Local Committee’s remit the only option I have as Divisional Member is to make this referral.” Members concurred with this statement.

8/08**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SERVICE SPELTHORNE DRAFT DELIVERY PLAN (ITEM 8)**

Mr. Leigh Middleton, SCC Youth Development Officer for Spelthorne presented this report explaining that the Plan was a fluid document upon which he was seeking Members views and comments.

Members asked that a glossary of terms be included at the front of the Plan. Members expressed some concerns that given the earlier questions about the future use of Leacroft by the Staines and Rifle Club the proposals to develop Leacroft as a skills centre should be deferred and brought back to the Local Committee for consideration at a later date. Mr Middleton gave assurances that the Plan would receive wide consultation including users of Leacroft.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the Local Delivery Plan for 2008/09
- (ii) To defer consideration of the proposal for Leacroft to be developed as a Skills Centre.
- (iii) That the Plan be referred back to the Local Committee at a later date.

9/08 DDA/IMPROVEMENT WORK TO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTRES (ITEM 9)

Some concerns were expressed about the planning of the timings of the temporary closures.

Resolved:

That the planned works to Spelthorne's Youth Development Centres were essential to ensure Surrey complied with the Disability Discrimination Act and provided modern and improved facilities for young people.

10/08 AIRTRACK PRESENTATION (ITEM 10)

The Chairman welcomed Iain Reeve, Head of Transport who introduced the report and welcomed representatives from CJ Associates and BAA. During the discussions it became apparent that the public consultation document which was due to be circulated did not make it clear that trains in the Terminal 5 station and tunnels would be powered using overhead line electrification. In response to a request from Members BAA undertook to reprint the consultation document and to extend the deadline for public consultation in this first phase.

Resolved:

A further report be submitted to the 17th March meeting of the Local Committee when Members would comment on the various options proposed.

11/08 HEATHROW CONSULTATION (ITEM 11)

Mr David Sutton presented the report and the Chairman thanked him for attending.

The Local Committee was being asked to comment on the Heathrow Airport proposed expansion plans to the Council's Executive as part of the County Council's response. Although the local, national and regional potential economic aspects of the proposed expansion were mentioned, several concerns

were outlined in the debate about the detrimental effects of the expansion plans on local communities, air quality, noise pollution and road networks and what were to be the likely effects of Terminal 5 which had not yet opened.

It was moved by Mr Beardsmore and seconded by Mr Burrell that there be a recorded vote on the officer recommendation in the report namely that:

The Local Committee for Spelthorne is asked to agree that this report, including Annex 1 (answering the consultation questions), be accepted as the proposed response to the consultation proposals, subject to their views being incorporated in the report to the County Council's Executive.

The recommendation was not carried with the recorded vote on the recommendations being Mr Beardsmore, Mr Burrell, Mr Davies, Mrs Coleman, Mrs Turner-Stewart, Mrs Saliagopoulos voting against the recommendation; Councillor Smith-Ainsley, Mr Agarwal, Mr Forsbrey, Councillor Sider and Councillor Packman voting for the recommendation and one abstention (Councillor Pinkerton)

Resolved:

- (i) The officer's recommendation in the report be not approved following a recorded vote.

It was then put by Mr Beardsmore and seconded by Mr Burrell that the recommendation to Executive be that "on balance the Local Committee rejects any further expansion at Heathrow". Upon a vote with five members voting for and four against with one abstention it was

Resolved:

- (i) The motion that The Executive be informed that "on balance the Local Committee rejects any further expansion at Heathrow" be carried.

12/08

SAFER, STRONGER, SPELTHORNE PARTNERSHIP 2008 – 2011 PARTNERSHIP PLAN (ITEM 12)

Mr Tim Kita, Spelthorne Borough Council presented this report and the Chairman thanked him for his attendance.

Resolved:

The Partnership Plan attached as Appendix A to the report be approved.

13/08

LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP SPELTHORNE TOGETHER UPDATE (ITEM 13)

Resolved:

That the Local Committee should continue to support the work of Spelthorne Together and in particular the planned work set out in the report involving SCC specifically.

14/08

WINDMILL GREEN, SHEPPERTON (ITEM 14)

The Local Highways Manager read out a letter from Mr Pegley.

Resolved:

- (i) That Windmill Green remains privately maintained.
- (ii) No further action be taken at this time

15/08

MEMBERS FUNDS (ITEM 15)

Resolved:

- (i) To approve funding of £3556 for school hall curtains at Laleham Church of England Primary School to be funded by £500 from Mrs Saliagopoulos and £1528 each from Mr Davies' and Mrs Turner-Stewart's allocations.
- (ii) To approve funding of £5022 to Spelthorne Borough Council for the installation of a bus shelter in Long Lane Stanwell from Mr Agarwal's allocation.
- (iii) To approve funding of £6909 for the Walton Firs foundation be made with £5909 from Mrs Coleman's and £1,000 from Mrs Saliagopoulos' allocations.

16/08

FORWARD PROGRAMME (ITEM 16)

Resolved:

- (i) The dates of the formal meetings of the Local Committee for the next Municipal Year be 30th June, 29th September, 24th November, 26th January 2009 and 16th March 2009
- (ii) A timetable of three informal meetings be arranged in advance on the basis that if meetings are not required these will be cancelled.

17/08

DATE OF NEXT MEETING (ITEM 17)

The next meeting would be held on Monday 17th March 2008 at The Bishop Wand School, Sunbury on Thames.

The meeting which commenced at 7.10pm, adjourned for a refreshment break for 15 minutes, ended at 11.05pm..

Chairman.....

**Annex to the Minutes of the SCC Local Committee in Spelthorne held on
4th February 2008**

AGENDA ITEM 6**MEMBERS QUESTIONS****Councillor Forsbrey asked the following question:**

“It was recommended at the meeting before last of the Local Committee meeting that speed activated signs would be installed in Fordbridge Road Ashford in the near future .Could the Local Highways Manager please tell me when these signs will be installed?”

The Local Highways Manager gave the following answer:

“Four vehicle activated signs, two in each direction, are programmed for installation on Fordbridge Road, Ashford between Stanwell Road and Church Road, before the end of March.”

Mr Burrell asked the following question:

“Requests have been made to the Highways Department, firstly to refresh the 'Keep Clear' road marking's outside Swan Walk, j/w Walton Bridge Road, Shepperton yet to date the work is still outstanding, and secondly to reinstate the asphalt area outside 13, Glebeland Gardens, Shepperton, where tree roots are growing through the surface.

Could an up date be given as to when these issues will be addressed, and if an unnecessary delay has arisen why this has occurred?”

The Local Highways Manager gave the following answer:

“The footway outside No. 13 Glebeland Gardens is programmed to be resurfaced by the middle of February. A tree had been removed and overlaid but there was then some growth below the new surface. When this matter was first raised it did not present a trip hazard however the growth is now breaking the footway surface.

There are several locations in Shepperton where the road markings will be remarked, funded from the Members' Revenue Allocation. Many locations across the Borough needed to be remarked and generally the areas that

needed marking for safety reasons were given priority, for example “give way” markings.”

Councillor Sider asked the following question:

“Can the Local Transportation Manager inform me why the street lighting on the Victorian viaduct at Walton Bridge has been inoperative for the past two months, having been reported by residents under reference 91007611 that such lighting requires attention?”

The Local Highways Manager gave the following answer:

“The bridge was inspected on 29 January and found that most the lights on the old bridge and three on the main bridge were out. Our contractor has attended the site and carried out repairs to the lights on the old bridge, however those on the main bridge will require traffic light control to carry the works and this is programmed to be carried out by the end of this week, weather permitting”.

Mrs Coleman asked the following question:

“At the last meeting of the Local Committee it was agreed that I should write to TfL in support of the LBH appeal against the decision not to award funding for the scheme for a pedestrian/cycle crossing at the railway bridge in Clockhouse Lane, Ashford. Could the response received from TfL please be made available to this committee, and could the committee pursue other means of funding for this scheme, for example BAA?”

The Local Highway Manager gave the following answer:

“Since receipt of the letter from Transport for London, the London Borough of Hounslow has had a meeting with TfL, during which Hounslow raised the Clockhouse Lane funding issue and explained that the opportunity of joint-funding with Surrey County Council should not be missed. The TfL officer agreed and is hopeful that TfL will find the funds for the scheme design during the financial years 2008 / 2009 and 2009 / 2010 and allocate funds for implementation in the financial year 2010 / 2011.

However, unless the funding situation from TfL / Hounslow is made clear by mid-February, the scheme will be unable to be included on the report to SCC’s Executive which will seek funding for Intermediate Schemes (those that cost over £500,000). When the funding situation of Hounslow and SCC for 2008 / 2009 is confirmed, approaches for funding for the scheme design could be made to third parties such as BAA, if necessary.”

AGENDA ITEM 7**PUBLIC QUESTIONS****Councillor Marian Rough asked the following question:**

“Does the Surrey CC Youth Development Officer for Spelthorne agree with HMG that shooting and its growth amongst the younger generation is a highly desirable development of Olympian Summer and Winter sports at which this country has traditionally excelled?

What steps is he taking to encourage and improve this proven record and widen opportunity for young participants ? and if not why not?”

The Head of the Youth Development Service gave the following answer:

“Yes - agree that it is desirable for this country to do well in all Olympian sports including shooting. The role of the Youth Development Service is to deliver Youth Work and it is usual practice to signpost young people to services and facilities that they raise in youth work discussions. To my knowledge no young person has asked about shooting opportunities. It has been acknowledged nationally that young people do not have a good understanding of all the opportunities available to them locally and the YDS is currently working on this issue regarding advertising positive activity. The YDS has secured a resource through the SCC management trainee scheme to achieve this goal.”

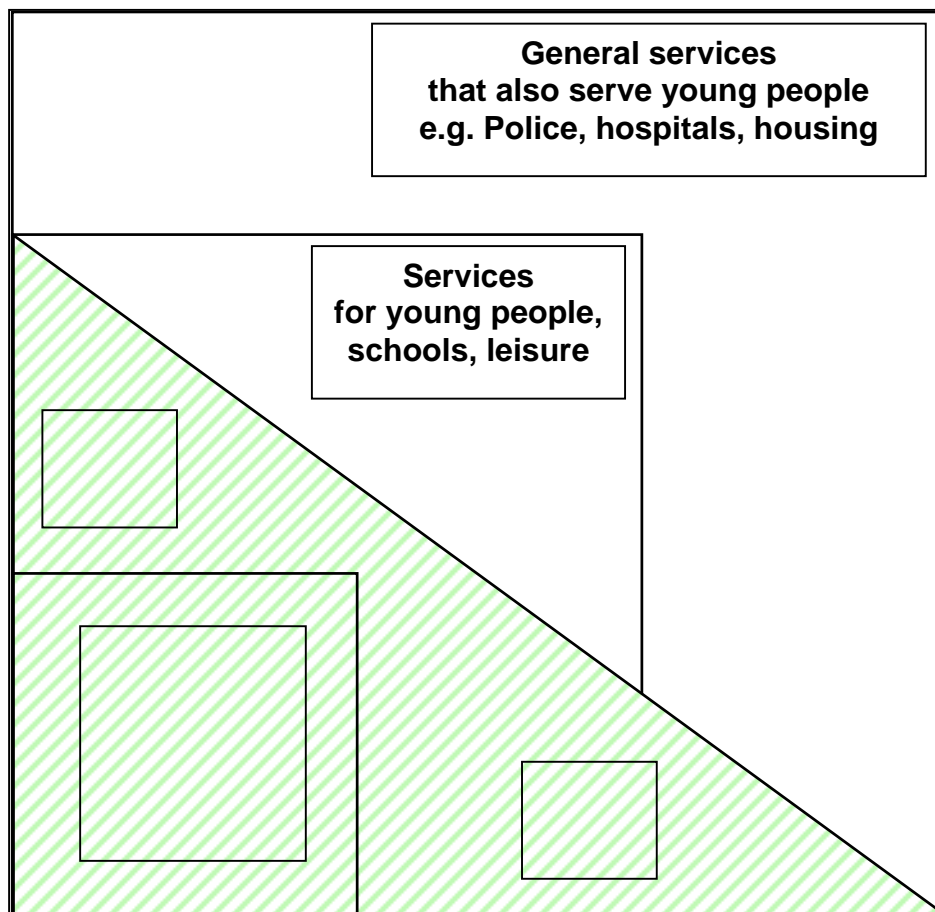
Mr Frank Rough asked the following question:

“It is my understanding the learning of social skills and self esteem through sport is an important part and a valuable part of youth work. Therefore would the CC Youth Development Officer not agree that any leisure activity which requires self discipline, control of mind and body, respect of others and rules in young persons, without injury risk as in some contact sports, is a pursuit which may be supported ? If so would he please explain his reasons for cancelling the extremely successful contribution to the Summer Safe programme which has been run for more than 12 years?

SRPC provides a facility which enables a smooth transition from junior to young person, through adulthood and into maturity. Surely integration of ages is an important lesson in life skills, not segregation and does he not agree this is valuable in a civilised society and this Borough in particular?”

The Head of the Youth Development Service gave the following answer:

“It is agreed that the development of Social Skills and the building of young people's self esteem through activity is important. The opportunities for leisure pursuits are an important part of everyone's lives be they young people growing up or mature adults, therefore leisure activities should primarily be supported by the providers of leisure services e.g. many within Voluntary Sector, Commercial Enterprise and District & Borough Councils. There has been a perception nationally by both young people and adult communities that Youth Services are purely leisure providers. The DFES recognised this and published a document “credit where its due” to help clarify where Youth Work fitted in to the overall service offer to Young People. The diagram below, from “credit where its due”, shows pictorially this relationship and clearly shows that Youth Work and leisure services are different.



The SCC Youth Development Service is assessed under OFSTED Youth Work criteria and during the last inspection of the SCC YDS, OFSTED made it very clear that the YDS would be seen as failing if the inspectors found the service to concentrate on the leisure end of the delivery spectrum. OFSTED summarised the inspection by stating “Surrey Youth Development Service is a good service providing the

County Council with good value for money". SCC YDS was rated as Good, only one service nationally had achieved a higher grade at the time. Many other Local Authority services were seen as satisfactory or unsatisfactory due in part to the emphasis on the more leisure type of provision offered. The vast majority of the SCC YDS pieces of youth work inspected (100 pieces offered) were graded as good or better with only two pieces being criticised as too leisure focused. It is good practise to change Youth Work programmes and not offer the same programme year after year. Many different activities are used as the vehicle for Youth Work delivery. Some activities provide more scope for adaptation than others and it is within this context that all programmes are viewed including summer safe. Integration is key to the development of society in all communities. The YDS are directed to work with the 13 to 19 age band, this was reinforced by the OFSTED inspectorate who specified that all programmes offered by the YDS need to be for the 13 to 19 age range, or would be considered unsatisfactory."

Councillor Colin Davies asked the following question:

"On what basis was the so called "risk assessment " conducted in relation to the use of the Range at Leacroft and with whose authority did Mr Middleton state that he would sell the building rather than permit shooting to continue? It would seem no note has been taken of the views of local councillors"

The Head of the Youth Development Service gave the following answer:

"Employees of the County Council are expected to carry out Risk Assessments and therefore the Risk Assessment was carried as part of normal professional practice in the context of identifying potential risks to young people. The YDS operates within the frameworks of Duty of Care and Safeguarding, therefore aspects like CRB clearances need to be adhered to and CRB clearances are non transferable. The Youth Development Officer's (YDO) Risk Assessment was an initial assessment based upon observations, staff discussions and a need to deepen the understand of the operations of the building and range. The YDO followed up the initial risk assessment by asking for assistance from a more qualified Risk Management colleague. At no time has the YDO stated that he would sell the building rather than permit shooting to continue. Officers work within the political framework of the County Council."

Councillor Flurry asked the following question:

"Does the SCC Youth Officer for borough agree that his decision to close the range at Leacroft has not been properly costed. What precise new use is intended for the range and what will it cost.? What alternatives has he considered that would permit the continuance of target shooting at Leacroft?"

The Head of the Youth Development Service gave the following answer:

“The direction given to the Youth Development Service as part of the Business Delivery Review was to maintain if not improve Youth Work provision whilst reducing the buildings portfolio responsibilities. Thameside Youth Arts centre was closed due to the review. The strategy is therefore to gain greater Youth work value from the remaining Youth Centres. This will entail the re-provision of displaced Youth Work opportunities and wherever possible improve the Youth Work offer whilst gaining economies of scale. The recommendation to close Youth Centres also included an action to reinvest in the remaining Youth Centres to make them more attractive to young people for the delivery of Youth Work. The total costs associated with the new facilities and the reinvestments are not yet known and therefore the offer to young people will be built up incrementally. The vision of this offer is to provide for Group Work, digital music, graphics and CAD design, video editing, Arts & Crafts. Ultimately making the building more versatile leading to possible other arts based developments. Equipment will be a mixture of that brought in from the closure of Thameside Youth Arts Centre and new equipment. All SCC Youth centres have the same basis for priority use, delivery of core business, (Youth Work) comes first, followed by community use at times the centre is not needed for youth work and other groups e.g. commercial outside of these. It is becoming clearer that some hirers & non-core Youth Work Groups that use youth centres are being subsidised by the Youth Work budget this needs to be addressed to ensure best value from the Youth Work Budget. Though there does not seem to be an alternative that would facilitate the continuance of target shooting at Leacroft, there maybe possibilities the Rifle club could explore with regards other property. The County Council’s Estates Planning and Management (EPM) team hold the information with regard SCC property portfolio and there maybe venues the rifle club could explore with EPM e.g. Thameside. There are revenue and capital funds that only young people, (aged 13 to 19) can bid for, these are within the Youth Opportunity Fund that aims to enhance “places to go and things to do”. The decision makers for this fund are also young people.”

Councillor Hyams asked the following question:

“Given the enormous disquiet throughout the borough at the range closure in Leacroft and the loss of a valuable facility would the Youth Officer agree that a 12 month deferral would enable a valid full and correct consultation with a risk assessment by qualified personnel to be carried out?”

The Head of the Youth Development Service gave the following answer:

“The centre needs to be developed to facilitate a greater synergy of facilities and offer of Youth Work opportunities. A deferral for another risk assessment is therefore not the principal issue.”

Councillor Budd asked the following question:

“How many shooting clubs are based and able to shoot in Spelthorne with young and disabled members? What provision is there for the relocation and building which would be required to serve all the expanding needs of those in Spelthorne who wish to practise this leisure pursuit should Leacroft not be available?”

The Head of the Youth Development Service gave the following answer:

“I am not aware of the number of shooting clubs in Spelthorne. It is doubtful that the current range meets DDA requirements. Depending on the type of shooting being undertaken I understand that a range such as the one at Leacroft is not required. The evidence of membership provided by the Rifle club to SCC YDS needs to be clarified, but indicates that the demand for such a club for young people is very minimal. The YDS does not make provision for relocation of non-core activity, but as previously stated, there could be opportunities through EPM, and / or the Youth Opportunity Fund that the Rifle club could explore. The YDS also supports the setting up of youth organisations and has in partnership with the Surrey Council for Voluntary Youth Services (Surrey CVYS) developed a “kit bag” to support those establishing such a group. The support for leisure has been addressed previously, but given the expanding need, a club standing independently could be financially viable or a stronger business case could be made to leisure service providers to assist in meeting this expansion. The national shooting centre is within Surrey and approximately 15 miles from Staines”.

Councillor McShane asked the following question:

“Is the County aware that the TS Black Swan wish to use the club shooting facility at Leacroft for their training and this decision to close it will prevent the cadets shooting.? Are they anti uniformed organisations generally or just prejudiced against shooting?”

The Head of the Youth Development Service gave the following answer:

“The TS Black Swan group is not known to me and I am not aware of their interest. The interest from this group will, as outlined previously, help with the business case for independence or discussions with Leisure service providers. The offer to young people is provided by a number of different types of organisations, including uniformed groups. The County Council has a proven track record of working in partnership with such groups and has provided both financial assistance along with practical support and advice. The YDS was complimented within the OFSTED inspection on its relationship with such organisations and the inspection report highlighted the YDS good

practise by stating “ The partnership with the voluntary youth sector is also very effective, including a mutually beneficial relationship with the Council for voluntary youth service.....The support given to individual voluntary youth groups is highly valued”. The Council is not anti uniformed organisations or prejudice against shooting.”

Councillor Nichols asked the following question:

“Some councils are considering extending 20MPH zones in residential areas. I understand that Portsmouth and Lancashire have gone further and are already committed to general 20MPH zones in residential areas following proven research into road accidents. Camden Council is trialling a traffic light for the government which brings speeding motorists to a halt on straight roads.

Here in Spelthorne, residents from Lower Sunbury and Halliford County Division regularly call for reduced speed limits, particularly but not exclusively around our schools (which are the highest density anywhere in Surrey). What is Surrey County Council's position in principle with regard to extending 20MPH zones and what is the process by which any extensions might be brought forward, consulted upon and implemented? What is Spelthorne LAC's view as to whether 20 MPH neighbourhood zones are a good thing?

Would Surrey CC include a feasibility study on 20MPH extensions, using Lower Sunbury as a pilot, to its work programme for 2008/09?”

The Local Highways Manager gave the following answer:

“Requests for 20mph zones are pursued through the Local Transport Plan process. All requests are considered on their own merits and unique circumstances and suggestions are considered by this Committee. No formal requests for 20 mph speed limits or zones have been received during the last couple of years and the most recent one that was introduced is along the residential length of Church Street, Staines. The introduction of a 20 mph speed limit to Lower Sunbury has been added to the list of Integrated Transport Schemes and a prioritised list of all requested schemes will be considered by this Committee at its next meeting in March. Changes to speed limits must be realistic to ensure they are generally self enforcing and some locations may require speed reducing measures.”

Mrs Budd - Hair By Emile Church Street asked the following question:

“Would Surrey County Council explain the time scale of Church Street projects and the return of surplus monies whilst undertaking to keep the retailers informed on more regular basis?”

The Local Highways Manager gave the following answer:

“Following consultation between the Retailers, Councillor Denise Saliagopoulos and a SCC Officer it had been agreed that two rows of granite setts would be introduced to Church Street. A few months ago, Councillor Budd informed me of his concern that the setts would not have a traffic calming effect and the order for the installation of the setts was postponed. Discussion with the Retailers will take place regarding several other highway aspects of Church Street, as set out in the reporting of a petition elsewhere on the agenda to this Committee. I believe a meeting between SCC Officers and Retailers is best way forward to ensure coordination of all highway matters along Church Street. I have recently asked Councillor Budd for suitable dates to enable me to arrange a meeting.”

Mr Khoshkhahad asked the following:

“Stanwell resembles an island bordered by A30, Town lane Reservoirs and the Airport with only three exit roads. With increased usage and larger freight vehicles using Bedfont which is extremely narrow often riding and exceeding the median line would the CC agree to review this area and in particular the exit from Long Lane which would benefit from a one way system to make the junction safer for other road users.”

The Local Highways Manager gave the following answer:

“Requests for schemes and studies are assessed on an annual basis and they will be prioritised and reviewed at the next meeting of this Committee in March. I have looked at the collision data for the junction of Bedfont Road / Long Lane and found that during the last three years there were three collisions that caused personal injury. However, there was no trend to the vehicle movements.”