

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE IN SPELTHORNE**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at Thamesmead School, Manygate Lane, Shepperton**

**County Council Members:**

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

**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)

**79/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item 1)**  
Apologies for absence were received from Mr Davies and Councillors Forsbrey and Grant.

**80/08 MINUTES (ITEM 2)**  
The Minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2008 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

**81/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (ITEM 3)**  
Mr. Beardsmore, Laurie Burrell, Mrs Coleman and Mrs Turner-Stewart declared interests in respect of the question from Mr Leer under Public Questions, as Members of the SCC Planning and Regulatory Committee.

**82/08 PETITIONS (ITEM 4)**  
Three petitions were received on proposed parking restrictions in Laleham.

**Resolved:**

That the objections be taken into account when the final decision was taken.

- 83/08 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME (ITEM 5)**  
Three Member questions were received as set out in the annex attached together with the answers given.
- 84/08 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (ITEM 6)**  
Five public questions were received as set out in the annex attached together with the answers given.
- 85/08 B375 RUSSELL ROAD, SHEPPERTON – REVIEW OF TRAFFIC CALMING AND CONSIDERATION OF 20MPH SPEED LIMIT (ITEM 7)**  
Councillor Sider asked that it be noted that he did not support the recommendation.  
**Resolved:**  
No action be taken.
- 86/08 REVIEW OF REQUESTS FOR AMENDMENTS TO WAITING RESTRICTIONS (ITEM 8)**  
Mr Burrell proposed that the Waiting Restrictions for The Broadway, Laleham and Shepperton Road, Laleham were dropped from the current list of restrictions, and that waiting restrictions be retained for Thames Side, Laleham & Northfields Road, Laleham.  
  
Annexes A, B and C had not been circulated to the Local Committee in advance of the meeting and apologies for this omission were given to the Local Committee.  
**Resolved:**  
To defer this item to the special meeting in April.
- 87/08 PROPOSED CONTROLLED PARKING ZONE (RESIDENTS PERMITS) GEORGE STREET, MOORMEDE ESTATE AND LAMMAS CLOSE (ITEM 9)**  
Mrs Coleman voiced her concerns about the proposals in the context of having a more strategic report in the autumn and other requests received and the use of limited resources and did not wish to support the recommendations.  
**Resolved:**  
**1. George Street**  
(i) The proposed Controlled Parking Zone with residents permits for George Street be statutorily advertised using the Road Traffic Act (1984, amended).  
(ii) Subject to no objection being received the zone be implemented.  
(iii) If any objection is received it be determined by the Local Highways Manager in consultation with the Chairman, the Local Electoral Division Member and the Leader of the Borough Council.

**2. Moormede Estate**

- (i) The proposed Controlled Parking Zone with residents permits for Moormede Estate be statutorily advertised using the Road Traffic Act (1984, amended).
- (ii) Subject to no objection being received the zone be implemented.
- (iii) If any objection is received, it be determined by the Local Highways Manager in consultation with the Chairman, the Local Electoral Division Member and the Leader of the Borough Council.

**3. Lammas Close**

- (i) A discussion be held with the Department of Transport to see if Lammas Close is a suitable candidate for introducing a Controlled Parking Zone with residents permits without signing and lining.
  - (ii) If a positive outcome is achieved in the above a proposed Controlled Parking Zone with residents permits is statutorily advertised using the Road Traffic Act (1984, amended).
  - (iii) Subject to no objection being received the zone be implemented.
  - (iv) If any objection is received, it be determined by the Local Highways Manager in consultation with the Chairman, the Local Electoral Division Member and the Leader of the Borough Council.
- 4(i) Joint Surrey County Council/Spelthorne Borough Council funding of £14,000 that remained from the Controlled Parking Zone consultation for Staines be used to part fund this project.
- 4(ii) The balance of funding of £16,000 be made available from the Local Allocation 2009/2010.

**88/08****TAXI RANK PROPOSALS (ITEM 10)****Resolved:**

- (i) The bus stop clearway at High Street, Staines be amended to apply only between the hours of 06.00 and 23.00 daily and a taxi rank operate there between 23.00 and 06.00 hours daily as shown at Annex A.
- (ii) The proposed extension to the taxi rank on Gresham Road, Staines as shown at Annex B be approved; and
- (iii) The removal of the existing taxi rank on High Street, Shepperton as shown at Annex C be approved.

**89/08****LOCAL ALLOCATION 2009/2010 (ITEM 11)**

The Local Highways Manager undertook to raise with Hounslow Council concerns about the road falling away along the embankment on Hounslow's side of the bridge along Clockhouse Lane and their speed limit changes on that section.

**Resolved:**

That the programme as shown at Annex C be approved subject to the deletion of £25,000 Waiting Restrictions, 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment and an increase to £5,000 for borough wide bus stop infrastructure improvements.

**90/08 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRAMME FOR 2009/2010 (ITEM 12)**

**Resolved:**

That requests for traffic schemes continue to be listed but are not yet prioritised according to the LTP criteria due to the schemes previously approved for implementation and the available budget.

**91/08 AREA IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME – PRESENTATION (ITEM 13)**

The Chairman welcomed Michael Graham Head of Corporate Governance, Spelthorne Borough Council.

**Resolved:**

That the presentation be noted.

**92/08 SPELTHORNE SCHOOLS CONFEDERATION – PRESENTATION (ITEM 14)**

The Chairman welcomed Alex Williams, Spelthorne Schools Together Co-ordinator

**Resolved:**

The presentation be noted.

**93/08 NORTH SURREY DOMESTIC ABUSE OUTREACH SERVICE – PRESENTATION (ITEM 15)**

The Chairman welcomed Jane Bourgeois Manager of the Walton, Weybridge and Hersham CAB and North Surrey Outreach Service.

**Resolved:**

That the presentation be noted.

**94/08 CHILDREN'S CENTRES IN SPELTHORNE (ITEM 16)**

**Resolved:**

The report be noted.

**95/08 MEMBERS' FUNDS (ITEM 17)**

**Resolved:**

1. To note funding given by Members of the Local Committee in 2008/9 (appendix 1).
2. To note funding given by Spelthorne Borough Councillors towards the Youth Café costs, thus reducing Mrs Saliagopoulos' contribution to £2553 (paragraph 2.1).
3. To note change of use of funds for the Friends of the Fordbridge Centre (paragraph 2.2)
4. To note funding approved under delegated authority (paragraph 2.3-2.12).

5. To approve an application for funding of £343.50 from Surrey Police towards the costs of a bicycle for the PCSO, to be funded from Mrs Saliagopoulos' allocation.
6. To approve an application from the Youth Development Service for funding of £6957 for Stanwell Youth Centre replacement, to be funded from Mr Agarwal's allocation.
7. To approve an application for funding of £6000 from Stanwell Fields School for library books, to be funded from Mr Agarwal's allocation.
8. To approve an application from St Nicholas School for funding of £3000 for an outdoor stage area, to be funded from Mr Burrell's allocation.
9. To approve an application for funding of £2420 from the Rotary Club of Ashford to supply dictionaries to Year 5 school children within Spelthorne.
10. To approve an application from Surrey Highways for funding of £900 towards the costs of tree trunk removal at Dunboe Place Shepperton from Mr Burrell's allocation.
11. To approve an application from Surrey Highways for funding of £3185 for an upgrade of the zebra crossing on Fordbridge Road, to be part funded from Mrs Coleman's allocation £2901 and the capital allocation £284.
12. To approve an application from Staines Shopmobility for funding of £4040 for 3 new scooters and 1 electric wheelchair, to be funded from Mr Burrell's allocation £1648 and the capital allocation £2392.
13. To approve an application for funding of £14027 from Matthew Arnold School towards the costs of a new outdoor football pitch and sports ground, to be funded from the capital allocation.
14. To approve an application for funding of £1990 from Spelthorne Borough Council towards new equipment for the GP referral scheme, to be funded from the capital allocation

**96/08**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING (ITEM 18)**

The next meeting would be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2009 at a venue to be confirmed..

The meeting which commenced at 4.00pm ended at 7.12 pm

Chairman.....



**SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN SPELTHORNE – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

**AGENDA ITEM 5**

**MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

**Councillor Sider asked the following question:**

“Can the Director for Youth Services inform me how many evenings during the week, and at what times Shepperton Youth Centre is open, and what groups avail themselves of this facility.”

**The Youth Development Officer gave the following answer:**

“The Centre for Young People at Shepperton is currently used or reserved at the following times both daytime and evenings:

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Tuesday   | 08.30-16.00: YDS Life Skills Course (OCN Accredited)<br>19.00-21.30: Open Youth Session (temp closure, due to staffing shortage)            |
| Wednesday | 08.30-16.00: YDS Self Esteem Course (OCN Accredited)<br>19.00-21.30: Targeted Project Session (temporary closure, due to staffing shortage) |
| Thursday: | 19.00-22.00: Targeted Project Session   |
| Friday:   | 19.00-21.00: Junction Youth Club (biweekly, delivered by local church with support from the YDS)  |

The centre is also regularly used:

- Thursday/Fridays: 09.30-15.00: Surrey Care Trust (STEPS Programme)
  - Wednesday: 10.00-12.30: Badminton Club (non YDS)
- Periodically used by National Childbirth Trust at weekends.

The above list is an indication of all the usage for Shepperton Young People's Centre as requested. Although we are temporarily closed on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, we have identified new staff for this work and aim to get the session open in April.”

**Councillor Sider asked the following question:**

“At the meeting of the Local Committee on the 24th November 2008 I asked a question regarding the drainage at Walton Bridge by the petrol station. The reply I received was that it would be investigated, prioritised with other drainage problem areas and the outcome reported to the Ward and Divisional Members. Bearing in mind that I made known that such drainage problems at this location had existed since 1999, can the Local Transportation manager inform me whether the result of such investigations have been made known to Ward and Divisional Members and if not at what stage are these investigations?”

**The Local Highways Manager gave the following answer:**

“The gullies were cleaned out when Walton Bridge Road was closed for resurfacing work during the week commencing 27 October 2008. Concrete was found in one of the gullies beside the petrol station and another gully was found to be full. The clearing of these gullies appears to have resolved the drainage problem in this area. I have not previously communicated this information to Members, for which I apologise.”

**Mrs Coleman asked the following question:**

“A letter from UNISON, the union representing Surrey's social workers, to Surrey County Council has warned that staff are ‘extremely concerned’ that the horrific death of Baby P after months of neglect could be repeated in Surrey. The union also passed a motion at last month's AGM warning that social workers were handling unacceptably heavy case loads and being pressured to prioritise financial needs over the interests of children. This is from an article in local newspapers.

What is the position in Spelthorne?

- Do social workers in Spelthorne have unacceptably heavy case loads?
- How many cases per social worker are there in Spelthorne, and how does this compare with other areas in Surrey?
- What are local Members doing to put right any inequalities, and help safeguard children at risk?”

**The Head of Children's Services gave the following answer:**

“The locality team in Spelthorne is in a high need area for social care referrals. Social workers there have caseloads averaging 19 to 20 cases per full time worker. A review of workloads across the County has been carried out and the Spelthorne team was identified as needing more social workers. The local Members have been consistently supportive of the team and have visited regularly. When the Baby P case in Haringey first came into the public domain the Local Committee Chairman sought a meeting with our local Children's Services to seek reassurances. There was an informal meeting of

the Local Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> January from which the Chairman and the Vice of the Local Committee have requested a meeting with the Executive Portfolio holder for Children and Families Mrs Dorothy Mitchell and this will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> March.”

**AGENDA ITEM 6****PUBLIC QUESTIONS****Mr Carruthers asked the following question:**

“The Council have painted white lines on many roads designating the part of the road next to the kerb as a 'Cycle Lane'. this though provides us with an unanswered question.

When a vehicle wishes to park or stop in one of these roads, where does it correctly park? Next to the kerb thus blocking the cycle lane, or next to the white line thus projecting severely into the carriageway? Some cycle lanes in places are very narrow, also being obstructed by deep gully dishings, so that even parking at the white line would probably still obstruct cyclists.

The above is not covered in the Highway Code, no advice has ever been published, and the Police when asked were unable to give advice on this. It could even be said that the cycle lanes, particularly the narrow ones, are creating a danger by cyclists having to swerve out in the centre of the carriageway.

May I have an authoritative answer to the above. Where should a car that has to stop be parked and where should it not please?”

**The Local Highways Manager gave the following answer:**

“The Highway Code states:

“**Cycle lanes.** These are shown by road markings and signs. You must not drive or park in a cycle lane marked by a solid white line during its times of operation. Do not drive or park in a cycle lane marked by a broken white line unless it is unavoidable. You must not park in any cycle lane whilst waiting restrictions apply.”

Drivers who wish to park where there is a cycle lane should therefore park elsewhere, unless it is unavoidable.”

**Mr McLuskey asked the following question:**

“Given the serious outbreak of gang violence in Stanwell during the snowy period in February, along with other recent widely reported breaches of public order in the area, does the Committee agree that the time is ripe for the building of a Police Station (similar to Ashford's ) in the division?”



**The Area Director gave the following answer:**

I have consulted with the Borough Police Inspector who has advised that:

*"This issue has been raised previously by Mr McLuskey in a letter to the Chief Constable. He has been advised that there is a room for police in the current Community House at Laburnum Way. We have now secured investment to put an IT facility at this location which will allow officers to spend a greater proportion of their time there rather than having to return to Ashford to access the Surrey Police computer system.*

*The Safer Neighbourhoods Teams are aware of the problems of youth disorder and are taking pro-active and robust action to deal with any offenders, particularly working alongside partner agencies. On Monday 16th February police launched a 'Week of Action' in Stanwell to target anti-social behaviour in general and to offer intervention initiatives. The week took the form of different enforcement and engagement activities with a variety of agencies participating including Surrey Police, Spelthorne Borough Council, Surrey County Council's Trading Standards, PCT, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, DVLA, VOSA and A2 Dominion, to name but a few. In addition, we had a construction bus from Skills4work which offered young people the opportunity of a 'taster' session in plumbing, carpentry and brick laying with a view to getting them enrolled on courses.*

*In addition, we have a specific tasking for the response teams and the Roads Policing Unit to patrol the vicinity vigorously on a regular basis, so there will be an increase in the numbers of officers in the area".*

Stanwell was also selected for the latest partnership action day on the 17th February which included a range of enforcement activities from Police and other key agencies including SCC trading Standards being represented."

**Mr Terry Lyden asked the following question:**

"When will Surrey County Council provide safe and clear pedestrian crossing facilities outside Staines Station in Gresham Road for the majority of residents including the disabled and blind in accordance with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act to meet up with the existing facilities of the station. In doing so move the rank of 12 or more cars and reduce dangerous driving so that peace is returned to residents and access of highway and pavements is free for all to use"?

You have read all my other comments so you will have enough background information but we do think that those members of registered disabled and especially the blind who live in Staines and all nearby Residents should be consulted at first hand."

**The Local Highways Manager gave the following answer:**

“There is no current proposal to introduce dropped kerbs with tactile paving to the footways along Gresham Road although I recognise it would be beneficial to do so. Funding would need to be identified for an area-wide scheme however dropped kerbs could be introduced in the vicinity of the station and, subject to Members’ agreement, funded from the Local Allocation. The taxi rank is discussed elsewhere on this agenda with a proposal to increase the waiting space from three to five taxis.

There is no proposal to introduce a pedestrian crossing on Gresham Road, however I have added the proposal to the list of requests we receive for schemes for prioritisation at a later date. The criteria used to assess requests for improvements to the highway network is in accordance with the Local Transport Plan objectives to reduce congestion and to improve accessibility, road safety and the environment and, where possible to align the implementation of improvement and maintenance schemes. Funding for this proposal would need to be identified and it can be seen from elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting that this year’s funding has already been allocated to schemes.

Gresham Road is already traffic calmed and there is no proposal to introduce further measures in the vicinity of the station.”

**Mr Tim Evans asked the following question:**

"At the last Local Committee meeting held on 24 November 2008 agreement was given to the feasibility of a 20mph zone along part of Thames Street. in Lower Sunbury extending into the first few hundred yards of Green Street, Church Street, The Avenue and French Street. My understanding is that the proposal will be subject to Public Consultation probably some time in the Autumn.

I have surveyed the nearest local residents to ask whether or not they agree with the proposal. I have received 192 replies some 58% of whom are in favour.

Amongst those in favour (and as a reason given by many of the "againsts" to be against) there is considerable concern about enforcement. To that end, almost everyone in Church Street has asked if the proposal could be extended to include speed bumps in Church Street. Three sets of bumps, at the beginning, middle and end of Church Street would be sufficient. In support of this request it may be noted that all the other roads affected already have speed bumps in the affected areas."

**The Local Highways Manager gave the following answer:**

“Enforcement of the 20mph speed limit can only be carried out by Surrey Police however the proposal should be self enforcing. Drivers’ speeds were measured along Church Street and the average speed recorded for Church Street was 21.2mph. Although this does not quite meet the required 20mph average speed, it was not considered high enough to exclude Church Street from the zone. It was also not considered to be value for money to introduce traffic calming along Church Road.”

**Mr John Leer asked the following question:**

“Charles Morris Fertilisers Ltd failed to honour the legal agreement entered into by CMF and SCC to return the site at Horton Road to Green Belt by 2006, and no enforcement was taken. Are we now to expect that any legal agreement made by the County or local Council will be treated in the same way? Is there any point in having legal agreements if they are just ignored?”

The Senior Planning Officer Minerals, Waste and County Development Division will give the following answer:

“Planning permission was granted on Appeal by an Inspector in 1996 for Oak Leaf Farm, Horton Road, Stanwell Moor. A Unilateral Agreement was entered into by the landowners, J & F Holdings Ltd and James Charles Morris; and the operators CMFL, which referred to the site being restored within ten years (July 2006) and in accordance with a scheme to be approved by Surrey County Council. In June 2006 the Applicant sought to postpone the date for restoration to allow the outcome of a review of the Surrey Waste Local Plan and proposals for inclusion of the site in the document. This planning application was refused in November 2006 and the Applicant subsequently sought to appeal the decision.

The Surrey Waste Plan 2008 was adopted in May 2008. This document sets out planning policies for waste related development and identifies Oak Leaf Farm as a site where, subject to satisfying Green Belt Policy requirements and any other technical or amenity considerations, planning permission will be granted for development involving the recycling, storage, materials recovery and processing of waste (Policy WD2). The Unilateral Agreement referred to above, has not been ignored and was taken into account when the status of the site was addressed through the Surrey Waste Plan 2008. The Surrey Waste Plan process was overseen by independent Inspectors and reflects changed circumstances in the need to provide for waste related facilities recognised in local, regional and national policy.

With regard to enforcement action, Surrey County Council must act reasonably and must have regard to Government advice on enforcement which is set out in Circular 10/97: Enforcing Planning Control: Legislative Provision and Procedural Requirements. The Circular advises that the Local Planning Authority (LPA) should only issue an enforcement notice where it appears to be ‘expedient’ having regard to the provisions of the Development Plan and to any other material considerations. The question of expediency is a discretionary matter, which the LPA must decide in the particular

circumstances of each case. An alternative to taking enforcement action for the LPA is to invite a retrospective planning application. The LPA should consider the merits of granting planning permission for unauthorised development in the same way as they would approach a planning application for a proposed development.

A planning application has now been lodged and is currently being processed. It is anticipated that this planning application will be reported to the Planning and Regulatory Committee meeting to be held on 22 April 2009. The planning application is for the construction and use of a recycling, recovery and processing facility for construction and demolition waste including buildings, site infrastructure and landscaped bunds. The current planning application relies in part on the identification of the site in the SWP 2008.

Given the identification of the site in the adopted Surrey Waste Plan 2008 and the submission of the current planning application, Surrey County Council has concluded that it is not expedient to take enforcement action against the use of the land at this stage. The Planning Appeal referred to above has now been withdrawn.

In making planning decisions, the County Planning Authority will always have regard to any other material considerations including the relevance of any Legal Agreement and this was the course followed in the case of Oak Leaf Farm.”