

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE IN SPELTHORNE**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2010 at Spelthorne Borough Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines.**

**County Council Members:**

**Mrs Denise Turner-Stewart (Chairman)\*  
Mr Victor Agarwal\*  
Mr Ian Beardsmore\*  
Mrs Carol Coleman  
Mrs Caroline Nichols\*  
Mrs Denise Saliagopoulos  
Mr Richard Walsh\***

**Borough Council Members:**

**Councillor Colin Davis\*  
Councillor Gerry Forsbrey  
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)

- 46/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (ITEM 1)**  
Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Coleman, Mrs Saliagopoulos, Councillor Forsbrey and Councillor Grant. Councillor Davies substituted for Councillor Grant.
- 47/10 MINUTES (ITEM 2)**  
The minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
- 48/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (ITEM 3)**  
In respect of agenda item 9 Mr Beardsmore declared an interest as a member of the County Council's Planning Committee and Councillors Sider and Smith-Ainsley declared interests as members of the Borough Council's Planning Committee.
- 49/10 PETITIONS (ITEM 4)**  
Mr Hugh Shelmerdine presented a petition with 42 signatures requesting the imposition of a ban on heavy goods vehicles in Walton Lane, Shepperton. The Local Highway Manager reported there was no funding for new schemes for this current

year but the request would be included on the list for consideration in the future.

**50/10 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (ITEM 5)**

Two questions were received and the answers are as set out in the Annex to these minutes.

**51/10 PUBLIC QUESTIONS (ITEM 6)**

Three questions were received and the answers are as set out in the Annex to these minutes.

**52/10 PROPOSED UPDATED SPEED LIMIT POLICY FOR CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL COMMITTEES (ITEM 7)**

The Chairman welcomed Duncan Knox, Safety Camera Partnership Team Manager to the meeting who gave a short presentation.

**Resolved:**

To welcome the opportunity to set speed limits but requested the Cabinet be informed of the Committee's concern about potential enforcement by the Police and the availability of budgets needed to implement any schemes

**53/10 HEATHROW AIRTRACK OBJECTIONS TO THE TRANSPORT AND WORKS ACT ORDER 1992 (Item 8)**

The report had been withdrawn from the agenda for this meeting and the Area Director read out the following statement:

"The agenda for the SCC Local Committee in Spelthorne lists a report under item 8 of the agenda entitled "Heathrow Airtrack". The Chairman of the SCC Local Committee in Spelthorne has made the decision to defer the report on Heathrow Airtrack to a future date of the SCC Local Committee in Spelthorne.

The decision to defer this item follows a meeting between SCC representatives and BAA and a subsequent discussion with Councillor David Hodge and Councillor Ian Lake during which it was agreed that the Airtrack report to the Local, Select Committees, Cabinet and Council should be pulled from the current cycle. The SCC Airtrack team was not in a position to communicate this request until after the sets of committee papers for the SCC Local Committee in Spelthorne has been despatched.

The reason for the deferment of this item is to allow the County Council and BAA to enter into detailed negotiations over a number of key outstanding objections with the express aim of agreeing suitable mitigation for the scheme impacts. When the paper is brought back in the autumn it should be possible to set out clearly the basis for any agreement reached with BAA.

The current paper has a number of objections where no information can be given due to an on-going dialogue with BAA taking place over the next few weeks. It was felt by Senior Members that the paper would not provide a sufficient update on matters discussed previously and the deferment was preferable.”

**54/10 PROPOSED ECO PARK AT CHARLTON LANE UPDATE (ITEM 9)**

The Chairman welcomed Dr Lynne Hack SCC Cabinet Member for the Environment, Ian Boast, Waste Management and Minimisation Manager and Lee Titterton, SCC Waste Project Manager to the meeting. Ian Boast gave a presentation. There was a detailed discussion on the various issues and a summary of the views expressed is attached at Appendix A.

**Resolved:**

- (i) To note the report as part of the consultation process.
- (ii) To note that further presentations would be offered to the Local Committee as requested.
- (iii) Agreed to delegate authority to the Chairman and Vice Chairman in consultation with the Area Director to approve the statement of views expressed by the Local Committee attached as Appendix A to pass to Lynne Hack and Ian Boast and copied to all members of the Local Committee
- (iv) Agreed to hold a special meeting of the Local Committee in September to consider submitting comments on the draft planning application for the Eco park proposals.
- (v) To note that Mrs Nichols did not support recommendation (i) above and that she wished to have it recorded that she she dissented from this recommendation as she could not accept some of the premises within the consultation nor that a proper consultation process was being followed.

**55/10 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE (ITEM 10)**

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Sarah Greenhalgh, Surrey Police, Tim Kita from Spelthorne Borough Council and Les Dodd from Surrey Fire and Rescue Service to the meeting. The Area Director presented the report.

**Resolved:**

- (i) That the community safety funding of £2500 delegated to the Local Committee be transferred to the Spelthorne Safer and Stronger Partnership
- (ii) That the Area Director manage and authorise expenditure from the budget delegated to the Local Committee in accordance with the Local Committee’s decision
- (iii) To note the funding of £12,000 to the Spelthorne Safer Stronger Partnership for the provision of Domestic Abuse outreach in Spelthorne

- (iv) To receive and note the end of year report on activities for 2009/10
- (v) To note details of the Partnership Plan 2010 - 2013

**56/10****FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS AND PLANS (ITEM 11)**

The Chairman welcomed Deborah Fox, SCC Senior Manager Environment and Economy and Sandy Muirhead, SBC Head of Sustainability and Leisure to the meeting.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The skills and expertise in the respective authorities should remain so, and where possible, existing budgets should be protected.
- (ii) The principle of partnership in delivery of flood risk management services in Surrey will be upheld between the county council and borough council
- (iii) Spelthorne's committees and groups on flood risk provide the best arrangements, given the likelihood of increased flood risk over time.

**57/10****INTEGRATED TRANSPORT SCHEMES OUTTURN 2009/2010 AND CURRENT POSITION 2010/2011 (ITEM 12)****Resolved:**

- (i) The financial outturn for Integrated Transport Schemes 2009/2010 be noted.
- (ii) The current budget position for 2010/11 in respect of the capital budget for Integrated Transport Schemes be noted.

**58/10****MEMBERS' FUNDS (ITEM 13 and Addendum report)**

The Chairman agreed to the addendum report being considered as an urgent item.

It was reported that the carry forward for capital monies was being considered for approval on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2010. Mrs Saliagopoulos had confirmed she would be willing to contribute £500 from her allocation and Mrs Coleman would be willing to contribute one seventh of the £1,000 requested for the Surrey Wildlife Trust application

**Resolved:**

- (i) To note funding bids approved under delegated authority since the last Local Committee meeting.
- (ii) Funding of £1,000 for Surrey SATRO towards the provision of science workshops at two primary schools within Ashford be approved from Mrs Coleman's allocation.
- (iii) Funding of £6,000 for Surrey Highways to enable flooding alleviation measures within Long Lane, Clare Road and Hadrian Way, Stanwell be approved from Mr Agarwal's allocation.

- (iv) Funding of £500 from Mrs Saliagopoulos' allocation, £143 from Mrs Coleman's allocation and £71 from Mr Agarwal's allocation be approved for Surrey Wildlife Trust towards the costs of a minibus for volunteers.
- (v) Funding of up to £6070 be approved for Surrey Highways to provide an upgrade of street lights (2 in Edinburgh Drive and 2 in Kingston Road) to enable festive decorations and lights to be added from Mrs Turner-Stewart's capital allocation £4285 and her revenue allocation £1785.
- (vi) Funding of £1100 for Surrey Police for a football project for local youths in Shepperton be approved from Mr Walsh's allocation.

**45/10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING (ITEM 14)**

The next scheduled meeting to be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2010 in the Council Chamber, Spelthorne Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines but a special meeting be arranged for the end of September to consider the draft planning application for the Eco Park proposals.

The meeting, which commenced at 7.00pm ended at 9.22pm

Chairman.....

**APPENDIX A****Views expressed on the Eco Park proposals Agenda Item 9**

- The figures showing the projected reduction in vehicle movements shown in the presentation conflicted with the figures shown in the report
- Concern about SITA's, the developer's, consultation method which was in effect excluding some groups of residents from being involved in the process and not being given the information and letting down SCC. SITA were informing residents that it was not part of their consultation policy to take part in public meetings as these did not provide useful forums for discussion. It was suggested that SCC should ensure SITA had a proper consultation process in place and asked to have well managed public meetings
- Concern that the important information was being lost if a reliance was being placed on messages being communicated onwards to residents via the liaison and technical group
- Request that proper consultation be undertaken by SITA because concerns were raised that the public generally were not being fully informed
- Request that the structure with the lowest carbon footprint be constructed
- Officers were asked if egress from the M3 to the site had been investigated and noted that the Highways Agency could not support this
- In response to a question it was noted that the traffic and environmental impact assessments were currently being undertaken and would be available soon
- It was noted that SCC had withdrawn its application to extend opening hours for the site given the SBC's objections
- The Divisional Member Caroline Nichols was concerned about (i) the fundamental nature of the consultation which gave no opportunity for Borough Ward Councillors or the County Councillor Divisional Member to be involved (ii) the decision to have the Eco Park on the Charlton Lane site when there were suitable alternative sites such as Trumps Farm and that no scrutiny of the decision had been undertaken either by the Local Committee or Spelthorne Borough Council (iii) SCC not ensuring proper consultation (iv) adequate consideration had not been given to scaling back the Charlton Lane site and developing other sites (v) the terminology of Eco Park was misleading and the context of the proposals within the SCC's Waste Strategy needed to be explained to residents
- The proposals need to be considered within the context of the SCC Minerals Plan due for consultation

- Residents in the Shepperton division were mostly concerned with the number of lorry movements but given the projected reduction in lorry movements and that processing waste is an economical and environmental benefit this was a way forward

**AGENDA ITEM 5****MEMBERS QUESTION TIME****Councillor Sider asked the following question:**

"I am in possession of correspondence dating back some 8 years in which I drew to the County Council's attention that the highway flower beds in both the High Street and Walton Lane, Shepperton were their responsibility. During this period of time, the County Council have only thrice given the aforesaid flower beds any attention. Such was the state of the one in the High Street that in 2008, Borough Council Members spent in excess of £1000 of their small neighbourhood grant in having the bed in the High Street weeded and re-planted with shrubs. Offenders serving community services have also attended the beds on one occasion. To date both flower beds are in a disgraceful condition, the one in the High Street being detrimental to the ambience of the area and receiving continual complaints from individual residents and from Shepperton Residents Association, which has a membership in excess of 2000 members. A 70 year old lady has endeavoured to sort out the bed in Walton Lane, but can no longer take on this responsibility. Can the Local Highway Manager assure me that both flower beds, will receive regular maintenance in the foreseeable future"

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

"There is no budget allocated to the maintenance of flower beds and the county council's only direct resource for this type of work is the Community Gang. The weeding of the flower bed in High Street, Shepperton was due to be carried out last week, but unfortunately other works, including safety and emergency works, took priority.

We are in discussion with Spelthorne's Senior Community Safety & Economic Development Officer to determine whether the probation service are able to arrange this work to be carried out. Alternatively, the Community Gang will carry out the work when available. Although I am unable to guarantee regular maintenance for these flower beds, I will ensure some work is carried out in the very near future."

**Councillor Sider asked the following question:**

"Although waiting restrictions were carried out in Gresham Road, Staines following dialogue in February 2009, it is understood that a mistake was made about where the double yellow line was supposed to end at the northern end of the aforesaid road. It is believed that the double yellow line should have ended at the rear of the taxi rank. However it ends 15 to 20 yards short of the



rank, level with the pedestrian footbridge to Staines Station. I am informed that this work should have been completed by the end of March 2010. As such this work has not been carried out. Can the Local Transportation Manager inform me when we can expect the double yellow line to extend to the rear of the taxi rank as arranged?"

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

"The double yellow line restrictions in Gresham Road were agreed by this Local Committee in June 2008. The Committee agreed that the lines should extend "to pedestrian over bridge at railway station", which was at the time in line with where the taxi rank started. The taxi rank was subsequently relocated a few metres along the road, but once it became apparent that the double yellow lines would therefore not extend as far as the taxi rank, it was too late to make any changes as the proposal had already been advertised. The work that was expected to have been completed by the end of March 2010 was the implementation of the originally agreed plans, which has now been carried out. The extension of the lines up to the taxi rank is on the list for consideration during the next parking review in Spelthorne, which is scheduled to take place during February and March 2011, with a report being brought to committee in July of that year."

**AGENDA ITEM 6**

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**Mr J Carruthers asked the following question and the responses from the Area Director are set down in each component part.**

*My question is to ask if you have changed those initial basic principles and intentions, and how can you bring life back into this committee?*

**The Local Committee continues to consider and debate matters of local concern, fulfilling a vital local role, its focus remains unchanged. The current financial strictures placed on Councils in providing services, means that the role for Local Committee going forward in ensuring that services meet the needs of residents is as relevant today as ever before.**

**Great importance is placed on ensuring that the public are able to attend meetings follow proceedings and to participate where applicable. The development of the local committee is kept under continuous review with feedback from the public is invited and encouraged toward further enhancing the experience of participants.**

**Responses in relation to specific points raised:**

- *Meetings are no longer held in various neighbourhoods.*

**Active Consideration is given to the location of local committee meetings and to ensuring that these are accessible to the public**

and this situation is kept under constant review. The local partnerships team researches venues across Spelthorne to assess their suitability for hosting local committee meetings

Feedback forms to date have highlighted the difficulties in ensuring consistent standards for sound and communications media and accessibility when hosting meetings across a variety of different venues.

The utilisation of different venues across Spelthorne also incurs additional costs in terms of venue hire and PA equipment on the County Council

- *These is no longer a break in the middle for any resident to have an immediate and quick discussion with Councillors*

In view of the importance of the issues needing to be discussed and the finite time available within each meeting agenda, Local Committee meetings do not currently feature a break in the middle for informal discussion. The facility of informal question time in the half hour prior to a local committee provides any residents in attendance with the immediate opportunity to raise issues.

- *LCs are now held in the very formal Borough Council Chamber.*

Feedback forms to date have highlighted the attendant difficulties in ensuring consistent standards for sound and communications media and accessibility when hosting meetings across a variety of different venues.

The Borough Council Chamber provides consistent standards for sound and communications media for residents attending the Local Committee. The venue is accessible with available parking and known to the majority of residents. The location of local committee meetings is kept under active review.

- *Even with microphones the people are distant with most councillors speaking with their backs to the public.*

Great steps are taken to ensure that residents in attendance at the meeting are able to follow proceedings and to participate where the opportunity presents itself.

The set up of the Council Chamber for Local Committee meetings is designed to best deliver this, within the constraints that the majority of the furniture in the Borough Council Chamber is in a fixed position.

- *The Councillors do not speak up, so what they are saying is actually lost*

The Chairman when chairing Local Committee places great importance on encouraging and reminding members of the local committee throughout each meeting to use the microphones provided when speaking. This is done out of consideration for the public to enable those present to follow the proceedings.

- The agenda has been reduced to virtually highways matters, and councillors publicising giving money away.

The process of developing the agenda for each local committee is detailed and exhaustive. The Chairman and members of the committee have direct input to the development of the forward agenda of the Committee.

The Chairman of the Local Committee places great importance on the need for the Local Committee to consider and debate matters of local concern within its meetings. This is reflected in the agenda of Local Committee meetings to date, for example with items on youth provision, waste & minerals and the provision of bus services on recent agendas.

- Public are of no importance

Great importance is placed on ensuring that the public are able to attend follow proceedings and to participate where the opportunity presents itself.

The facility of an informal question time is just one innovation introduced to enable the public to participate and provides any member of the public in attendance with the immediate opportunity to raise issues.

The Local Committee is a formal committee of the County Council. Whilst meetings are held in public and open to the public, Local Committees are not public meetings.”

**Sally Fletcher asked the following question:**

“I am asking a question about the possibility of reducing the speed limit from 30 to 20 mph on the Shepperton Towpath.

As the name implies, it is a tow path, and is walked along by many people, not just residents, for pleasure. It is also extensively used by joggers and dog walkers. Much of the riverbank is eroded to the point where there is nowhere else for anyone to walk, let alone lift pushchairs etc over the barriers, so they have to go on the Towpath

Two of four cats we've had have been run over, two of many others apparently. This is symptomatic of some road behaviour in what

should be a quiet peaceful road. Only a few days ago, my daughter, son in law and grandson had to jump out of the way of some boy racers going at high speed while they were walking down the Towpath. This is not an isolated incident, and causes a lot of stress

I know that there is a limited budget for this kind of thing, but surely it cannot cost much to exchange 30mph for 20 mph signs. There is widespread support for this measure, and there has been for some years. Would the Local Committee confirm whether this will be possible?"

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

"The cost to alter a speed limit depends on the extent of the scheme and small schemes currently cost about £10,000. The process requires consultation with the police and approval by the Local Committee to enable the proposal to be advertised by public notice. Subject to resolving any objection that is received in response to the public notice, a traffic regulation order is then made. The speed limit must be signed at the start of the restriction and also at intervals along its length where the speed limit differs from 30mph. To enable the speed limit to be enforced by the police this process must be adhered to.

Unfortunately there is no funding allocated to Local Committees for new schemes this year, as described at Item 12 of this agenda and funding for future years is uncertain. However, I have added your proposal to reduce the speed limit to 20mph along Towpath, Shepperton to the list of requests we have received for traffic management measures. The proposals on the list will be prioritised and those that achieve the highest priority will be implemented when funding is made available.

At Item 7 of this agenda an item entitled "Proposed updated speed limit policy for consultation with Local Committees" seeks comment on the county council's policy on the setting of speed limits, which may be of interest."

**Keith Johnson asked the following question:**

" Why have the wet spots at Station Road Sunbury and The Ridings Sunbury been omitted from Annex 1 Agenda item11?

Photographs of these were submitted in Green Street Action Groups submission to the LDF consultation on 1st August 2007. "

**Deborah Fox, Senior Manager Environment and Economy gave the following answer:**

"As far as we are aware, the flooding at Station Road, Sunbury, and The Ridings, Sunbury, had not yet been reported to Asset Planning Group, the part of Surrey Highways that produces the list of 'wetspots' published on the Surrey County Council website.

We have made sure that flood risk management issues at Station Road and The Ridings have now been added to the agenda for the next annual Spelthorne Borough Council and Surrey County Council 'wetspot' meeting, which is in August. A scoring will take place by engineers accordingly.

We are also aware there is a 'wetspot' in Green Street (SP002) that is currently awaiting rescore, following some surfacing work, which should have reduced the risk at this site.

Highways problems and enquiries including flooding can be reported via the Surrey County Council website [www.surreycc.gov.uk](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk), or by telephone on 0300 200 1003."