

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE IN SPELTHORNE

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th July 2012 at Spelthorne Borough Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines.

County Council Members:

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

Borough Council Members:

Councillor Colin Davis
Councillor Gerry Forsbrey*
Councillor Isobel Napper*
Councillor Jean Pinkerton*
Councillor Joanne Sexton*
Councillor Richard Smith-Ainsley
Councillor Robert Watts*

*** = present**

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

40/12 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS OF SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL TO THE LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR THE ENSUING MUNICIPAL YEAR (Item 1)

It was noted that the SCC Chief Executive has appointed Councillors Davis, Forsbrey, Napper, Pinkerton, Sexton, Smith-Ainsley and Watts as Members of the Local Committee and Councillors Ayers, Bannister, Dunn, Friday, Leighton, Patel and Webb as Substitute Members for the ensuing municipal year.

41/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item 2)

There were no apologies for absence.

42/12 MINUTES (Item 3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd May 2012 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

43/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 4)

Mrs Carol Coleman declared an interest with reference to Item 15, as she is a governor at Echelford Primary School.

44/12 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (Item 5)

The chairman explained he wanted to use this opportunity to raise good news stories in the borough. He explained that a major focus this year for Spelthorne Schools Together, is the transition from Primary to Secondary School:

The schools have worked together to add to the existing programme of transition work. Spelthorne Schools Together has sponsored 4 secondary schools to provide transition summer schools or events, organised a one-day conference for Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinators (SENCOs) to discuss the needs of pupils in an efficient way and every Y6 pupil in the Spelthorne Schools Together primary schools has received a Life Skills Workshop which will help given them confidence and useful skills as they move into secondary school.

The chairman announced he would take Items 7 and 8 before Item 6.

45/12 MEMBER QUESTION TIME (Item 7)

Three Member questions were received from Mrs Saliagopoulos. These were received after the deadline for questions so the brief answers are as set out in Annexe 1 to these minutes.

46/12 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (Item 8)

Five Public questions were received. The questions and answers are set out in Annexe 1 to these minutes.

Question 3. Mr McLuskey asked the following supplementary question: Does the committee accept that Stanwell Quarry is actually quite large, that it is nationally rich in bio-diversity and historical interest and that it has been of major concern for many years?

Question 4. Mr Leer asked the following supplementary question: If we allow people to breach contracts, why does SCC bother entering into the agreements?

Question 5. Mr Hirsh asked the following supplementary question: May I take it then, that Cllr. Furey as the lead for strategic planning matters, will have an executive function in relation to all the cumulative development outlined in my question of 19th March to Local Committee; and that this executive function will take precedence over and above that of the local planning authority in relation to the cumulative development so described?

47/12

PETITIONS (Item 6)

One petition was received, attached as Annexe 2. Ms Julia Paxton presented a petition (a total of 720 signatures including those submitted online). The petition read:

"We PETITION Surrey County Council to build a safe pedestrian crossing or bridge at Fordbridge Roundabout in Ashford, Surrey.

Resolved:

- (i) that the petition be received
- (ii) that the petition be responded to in Item 9

Reason for decision: The committee is required to respond to petitions.

48/12

HIGHWAYS SCHEMES 2012/13 REPORT (Item 9)

The Chairman welcomed Andrew Milne, Area Highways Manager for NW Surrey, who presented the report. The chairman encouraged Members to identify early and notify officers quickly of work that they would like to be carried out to allow for possible long lead times. Concerns were expressed about whether the Fordbridge Pedestrian Crossing as requested at Item 6 would go ahead. Officers assured the members that any review of the design would be minor and it should be delivered by April 2013. Members questioned whether other contractors could be used if May Gurney did not have sufficient resource. There has been a new initiative in Woking where local organisations are being asked to carry out maintenance work in the town centre. Members would like more detailed reports with financial information and updates on the progress of highways work in the borough; **also details of what was left from last year, due to the 35% underspend.** Members discussed some schemes which were not listed in the Appendices to Annexe A. Members requested indicative costs for the schemes listed in Appendices 1 and 2 of Annexe A to the report to help them make decisions on which schemes to fund at a 'Special' meeting of the Local Committee, which will take place as soon as feasible.

Resolved to agree:

- (i) the proposed revenue allocations in Table 1
- (ii) the proposed capital Integrated Transport Programme in Table 2 and that the Area Highways Manager, in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and locally affected Member(s) progress the proposed crossing facility at Fordbridge Rd R/A as soon as practicable subject to no significant objections being received following local consultation.

- (iii) the principles of the capital maintenance budget
- (iv) further to (i) and (ii) to delegate authority to the Area Manager in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman and locally affected Members to amend budgets throughout the year if required to ensure the budget is allocated and spent in a timely manner
- (v) to hold a 'Special' meeting of the Local Committee to approve the Local Committee Maintenance Schemes
- (vi) the proposed Community Pride allocation per Member
- (vii) to set a cut-off point of end October 2012 for any unallocated Community Pride funds to be reallocated if appropriate elsewhere in the Borough.

Reason for decision: The Local Committee wishes to enhance and maintain the Highway in Spelthorne.

49/12

WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS FELTHAM RD PETITION RESPONSE (Item 10)

The Chairman asked the Committee if he could adjourn the meeting to allow Cllr Chris Frazer to speak. The Committee agreed and the meeting was adjourned at 8.50 pm.

The meeting was restarted at 8.54 pm.

The officer Andrew Milne responded to the petition explaining there is a legislative process to follow and by waiting until the completion of the Freight study a better understanding of the whole situation will be obtained. Draft proposals from the Boroughwide Freight study will be presented at the meeting on October 9th 2012.

Resolved to note:

- (i) the response and await the completion of the Boroughwide Freight Study.

Reason for decision: The committee is required to respond to petitions.

50/12

PARKING – SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR SIGNS (Item 11)

The Chairman welcomed Rikki Hill, who introduced the report. It is hoped that the work to upgrade the school keep clear markings will be completed by the end of 2012. The enforcement will be carried out by Spelthorne Borough Council Civil Enforcement Officers. Before the work is carried out the schools will be contacted to discuss what timings would be appropriate for the notices.

Resolved to agree:

- (i) that all the existing SKC markings in Spelthorne are included in the TRO;
- (ii) that the County Council's intention to make the amendment to the TRO under the Road Traffic Regulation act 1984 is advertised and, if no objections are maintained, the order is made;
- (iii) that if objections are received the Parking Strategy and Implementation Team Manager is authorised to try and resolve them;
- (iv) that if any objections cannot be resolved, the Parking Strategy and Implementation Team Manager, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of this committee and the county councillor for the division, decide whether or not they should be acceded to;
- (v) an amendment order to the TRO is made in future if any new SKC markings are introduced, and that the steps described in (ii) to (iv) are followed for that order.

51/12

**APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES and TASK GROUPS
(Item 12)**

Cheryl Poole introduced the report. There were proposals for all groups requiring a Local Committee representative except for one vacancy for a Borough Councillor Local Committee Member to sit on the Youth Services Task group.

Resolved to agree:

- (i) to appoint Members to the outside bodies, partnerships and task groups as detailed in the report and for a borough councillor, appointed to the Local Committee, to be nominated to sit on the Youth Services Task group
- (ii) to allow Members to bring update reports from those bodies and partnerships to the Committee, when relevant.
- (iii) the terms of reference of the Youth Services Task Group and the On Street Parking Partnership, as detailed in Annexe A to the report and to agree the addition to the Terms of Reference for the On Street Parking Partnership that 'the Task Group will make recommendations to the Local Committee with regard to Taxi Ranks and Bus Stop Clearways'.

Reason for decision: To enable the Local Committee to be represented on relevant bodies and partnerships and for

Committee members to be able to report back to the Local Committee when appropriate.

52/12

LOCAL COMMITTEE PROTOCOLS (Item 13)

Cheryl Poole introduced this report. The Local Committee Protocols need to be agreed annually and there was only one amendment from the Protocols agreed in 2011. The deadline for written public questions and petitions to be submitted for a Local Committee meeting was clarified as being 4 full working days i.e. noon on Monday for the meeting the following Monday.

Resolved to agree:

- (i) to approve the Local Committee Protocol on Public Engagement set out in Annexe A.
- (ii) to approve the Local Committee Financial Protocol set out in Annexe B.

Reason for decision: An agreed Local Committee protocol on Public Engagement is necessary to reflect any amendments to the Council's Constitution.

The Local Financial Protocol enables delegated decisions on Member Allocations of £1,000 or under to be agreed in between formal meetings.

53/12

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE (Item 14)

The Chairman welcomed Keith McGroary, Spelthorne Borough Council, who presented his report.

Resolved to:

- (i) receive and note the 2012-2015 Partnership Plan (Appendix A)
- (ii) receive and note the details of the Performance Overview and Performance Data 2011-2012 (Appendices B & C)

Reason for decision: Under Part 3, Section 1 of the County Council's Constitution, the Local Committee is responsible for monitoring services provided locally and contributing to the borough based community safety strategy

54/12

LOCAL COMMITTEE BUDGETS (Item 15)

Sandra Brown presented the report. There was a discussion about the application for funding from Manna – the Food Bank in Staines, but the Members believed they would like further information and requested that the decision be deferred.

Resolved to:

- (i) note the summary of the Local Committee's Member Allocation expenditure in 2011/12 as detailed in section 2.

- (ii) agree the items presented for funding from the Local Committee's 2012/13 revenue funding as set out in section 3 of the report and summarised below:

The Echelford Primary School	Outside Classroom	£9,527
Penton Hook Association	Jubilee Street Party	£499
Staines Village Residents	Jubilee Street Party	£500
& Traders Association		
Surrey CC	Leader's Bursary for LAC	£3,500
The Lifetrain Trust	Live & Direct	£1,400

- (iii) agree the items recommended for funding from the Local Committee's 2012/13 **capital** funding as set out in section 3 of the report and summarised below:

Shepperton Youth Centre	Courtyard Redevelopment	£3,000
SCC Ashford Library	Children's area furniture	£1,527
The Salvation Army	Ten week parenting course	£1,000
Staines		
The Echelford Primary School	Outside Classroom	£3,473
A2 Dominion Group	Refurbishment of lounge area	£4,126

- (iv) note the expenditure previously approved by the Community Partnerships Manager and the Community Partnerships Team Leader under delegated authority, as set out in section 4.
- (v) note any returned funding and/or adjustments, as set out within the report and also in the financial position statement at Appendix 2.
- (vi) agree that the community safety budget of £3,160 that has been delegated to the Local Committee be transferred to the Spelthorne Community Safety Partnership and that the Community Safety Partnership Manager authorize its expenditure in accordance with the Local Committee's decision, as detailed in section 5.

Reason for decision: The Committee is asked to decide on these bids so that the Community Partnerships Team can process the bids in line with the wishes of the Committee.

55/12

YOUTH SMALL GRANTS FUND (Item 16)

The Chairman, Richard Walsh, explained that the application for funding to be considered had been presented at the previous Local Committee meeting on 22nd May 2012, but had not been approved as the Committee had been wrongly advised that it did not meet the criteria.

Resolved to agree:

- (i) to approve the application for funding of £5,000 for Kayaking Equipment for Spelthorne Scouts.

Reason for decision:

The Committee is required to ensure appropriate deployment of the Youth Small Grants Fund.

56/12

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS FUND (Item 17)

Sandra Brown introduced the report. She explained how much funding was still available to be applied for and that one Spelthorne project, Shepperton MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) had been successful in the first round of funding.

Resolved to agree:

- (i) to note the information on the first round of bids considered for funding through the Community Improvements Fund and the dates for the second round of bids.

Reason for decision: The Committee is asked to note the information and use it to inform residents and community groups of the deadlines and criteria, if they want to submit a bid.

57/12

FORWARD PROGRAMME 2012/13 (Item 18)

A report on Teenage Pregnancies was proposed as a possible future item.

Resolved to:

- (i) agree the Local Committee in Spelthorne Forward Programme 2012/13 as outlined in Annexe 1, indicating any further preferences for inclusion.
- (ii) consider any further themes for Informal Local Committee meetings during 2012/13.

58/12

DATE OF NEXT MEETING (Item 19)

To be held on **Monday 8th October 2012** at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Spelthorne Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines TW18 1XB. (6.30pm – 7pm: Informal Public Question Time.)

The meeting, which commenced at 7.00 pm, ended at 10.00 pm.

Chairman.....

SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN SPELTHORNE – 9th July 2012

AGENDA ITEM 7

MEMBER QUESTION TIME

1. Mrs Denise Saliagopoulos will ask the following question:

Can our officers please investigate a growing problem at the following location: There is a small traffic island opposite St Peter's Church, Laleham Road Staines (near to the junction of Edgell Road and Laleham Road). Once again one of the lighting bollards has been knocked over by a vehicle. The road narrows on both sides due to the traffic island. Residents are parking their vehicles almost opposite the traffic island which then narrows the road even further. Can we look into either moving the traffic island to a wider part of the road or prohibiting vehicles from parking and endangering other road users and pedestrians. We would hope that residents would be aware of the dangers in this particular area, but apparently they are not. Only this morning it was impossible to pull out of Edgell Road due to cars parked which blocked all sight of fast moving traffic coming from the Town. Thank you for considering this item as a matter of urgency.

2. Mrs Denise Saliagopoulos will ask the following question:

I would like to put our officers on notice that I have received a request from residents of Wraysbury Gardens, Staines for the County Council to look at a Residents' Parking Scheme. Officers may be aware that 2 years ago we installed double yellow lines to the entrance of Wraysbury Gardens. Commuters were parking all day on the dangerous bend. It appears that commuter vehicles are now parking within the Estate, on the pavements and in some cases blocking residents' drives. We knew that when we installed Residents' Parking at nearby Lammas Drive it would start to displace vehicles. In view of the development taking place in Moor Lane (residential units) we can see this to be a growing problem of where commuters will park. With respect, my residents should not be inconvenienced by commuter parking. This is becoming a growing problem in Staines. I am talking with the residents of Wraysbury Gardens and we will undertake an informal consultation. I have also been contacted by residents in Knowle Park Avenue, Staines. The new office block in Kingston Road does not seem to have adequate parking for employees. I would ask that officers please contact the business and inform them that their employees parking in Knowle Park Avenue and Gordon Close, are causing a problem. When officers have spoken with this business, I

would like to pursue the option of Residents' Parking for the residents in Knowle Park Avenue and Gordon Close.

3. Mrs Denise Saliagopoulos will ask the following question:

Thank you to officers for dealing so quickly with the issue of the roadworks at the top of Wheatsheaf Lane, Staines. Our contractors appear to have let us down. Residents have commented that a motorway could have been constructed more quickly in China than just the couple of dropped kerbs that appear to have taken our contractors more than 1 month!! I have to say also that the quality of the work is very poor indeed.

In this same area can officers please assure me that the double yellow lining proposed for the junction of Penton Hook Road and Wheatsheaf Lane will be carried out asap? This is another junction where residents cannot see to pull out of Penton Hook Road safely. Once again, some residents are parking near to the junction (which is actually a criminal offence). This is a particular problem on Match Days at Staines Town Football Club. Residents are not concerned so much about the football traffic. It is inconsiderate parking at this junction that is an accident waiting to happen. Double yellow lines extended would make this area much safer. Can I please also have an update as regards the s106 monies that have been secured for improvements to the road safety of Wheatsheaf Lane?

As the questions were received after the deadline for Members' Questions **Matthew Scriven (Former Area Highways Manager – Environment & Infrastructure Directorate) will give the following answer:**

Officers will liaise with the Local Member following the Committee on the issues raised. The works on Wheatsheaf Lane will be visited by Officers and any remedial works considered necessary will be requested of the contractor.

AGENDA ITEM 8

WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

1. Mr Adam Shire (Resident) will ask the following question:

Would the committee resolve to request relevant Officers to consult Wheatley's Eyot residents with a view to Surrey County Council submitting a proposal to the Environment Agency to re-open its footbridge access to Sunbury Lock Island from Sunbury (which is connected to the Thames Path and Walton side of the Thames)?

Steve Mitchell (SCC Countryside Access Team Manager) will give the following answer:

The Environment Agency do not have any plans to open the footbridge across the weir to Sunbury Lock Island and said that the footbridge is for operational purposes only and would require significant work to meet health and safety standards for public use. In addition careful consideration would also need to be given to access from the Walton side onto Sunbury Lock Island.

The main responsibilities of the Countryside Access Team are managing the existing public rights of way network. They do occasionally investigate potential 'improvements', but don't have any budget and these are schemes that (if successful) would become new rights of way. It may be possible for residents to take the matter up directly with the Environment Agency and to see if anything could be agreed, with the Environment Agency possibly 'allowing' access on a permissive basis, but this is not something the Countryside Access Team would be able to do for them and would be entirely at the Environment Agency discretion. As the Environment Agency states that the bridge is not suitable for public use, there may be significant costs associated with work to allow access.

If it would be helpful, one of the Countryside Access team, would be able to provide some informal advice on access, perhaps at a site meeting, but wouldn't be able to pursue the scheme with local consultation or pulling together a proposal.

2. Mr Fred Wallin (Resident) will ask the following question:

Please can I have an update on the plans for the footbridge over the railway bridge in Clockhouse Lane, Ashford.

Matthew Scriven (Former Area Highways Manager – Environment & Infrastructure Directorate) will give the following answer:

The Local Committee resolved to allocate funding to undertake: Ground surveys, Feasibility, Options Design, Design and Tender Documentation of a footbridge over the railway on Clockhouse Lane in 2010. The project was being led by Hounslow BC and funded as a joint initiative. To date, both SCC Officers and Members have requested scheme updates from Hounslow BC with little substantive information / update being given. The issue will now be escalated to Senior Officer level in a bid to seek immediate guarantees that funding has been spent as originally requested and that the outputs above will be delivered as a priority for Local Committee consideration.

3. Mr Andrew McLuskey (Resident) will ask the following question:

Why was the Planning Committee of SCC allowed, with no notice given to registered contributors, at the recent Aggregates Recycling Enquiry to short circuit that exercise and 'jump the gun' by granting planning permission for

developments at Stanwell Quarry, developments which were due to be discussed at the Enquiry on 23 March and to assist in the discussion of which I personally had registered to speak and, accordingly, had spent a great deal of time in consulting with local residents and preparing a presentation?

Alan Stones (SCC Planning Development Control Team Manager) will give the following answer:

The planning permission referred to in the question allowed the development of a temporary recycling facility on the site of Stanwell Quarry. The permission (Ref. SP08/0337) was granted by the Planning and Regulatory Committee on 27 April 2011, subject to conditions and the prior completion of a section 106 agreement. The legal agreement was signed and the decision issued in October 2011.

The Government has issued advice (The Planning System: General Principles ODPM 2005) on the determination of planning applications where a Development Plan Document (DPD) is being prepared or is under review but has not been adopted. The advice notes that a refusal may be appropriate where a proposed development is so substantial, or where the cumulative effect would be so significant, that granting planning permission could prejudice the DPD by predetermining decisions about the scale, location or phasing of new development which are being addressed in the policy of the DPD. The advice continues that a development which has an impact on only a small area would rarely come into this category. Officers took the view as a matter of fact and degree that the proposed temporary recycling use fell into the lesser category of development where a refusal was not justified on the grounds of prematurity.

A planning application is determined in accordance with current planning policies, however account can also be taken of policies in emerging DPD's. The weight to be attached to such policies depends on the stage the Plan has reached. The Committee Report in April 2011 referred to the emerging Surrey Minerals Plan Core Strategy, which had undergone examination and the Aggregates Recycling DPD, which was at the time at draft stage. The Committee report stated (para 100) that only limited weight can be attached to the inclusion of the site in the draft DPD at this point in time in view of the emerging nature of that document. The emergent status of the DPD was unchanged at the time of the completion of the legal agreement and the issue of the planning decision in October 2011.

In summary, there was no procedural or regulatory requirement to delay determination of the planning application pending the outcome of the DPD independent Examination for which the public hearings did not begin until March 2012.

4. Mr John Leer (Resident) will ask the following question:

Can it be explained how planning permission can be given to Morris Fertilizers, when there was a legal contract signed by Morris fertilizers not to apply for anymore planning at Oak Leaf Farm?

Planning permission was granted by Surrey County Council (Sp08/0992). As planning follows an application it is without doubt that an application was made, in that case a breach of contract was also committed with the planning department aware.

Alan Stones (SCC Planning Development Control Team Manager) will give the following answer:

The question refers to a legal agreement entered into by the landowner following a Planning Inquiry in 1996. The legal agreement gave a commitment on the part of the landowner to cease the waste related use of the land, remove screen bunds and restore the site to its previous condition by the end of a ten year period expiring on 24 July 2006.

Without any further change or action the legal agreement would have remained a significant planning document for the site. However the planning position was modified significantly following the adoption of the Surrey Waste Plan (SWP) 2008 which sets out planning policies for the control and location of waste related development across Surrey. The SWP 2008 identified Oak Leaf Farm, Horton Road, Stanwell as a site where, subject to satisfying Green Belt Policy requirements and any other technical or amenity considerations, planning permission would be granted for development involving the recycling, storage, materials recovery and processing of waste (Policy WD2). A flooding constraint was recognised for the site and the likely need for a flood risk assessment. The SWP 2008 was subject to extensive consultation and was accepted as sound by two Inspectors appointed by the Planning Inspectorate. The Inspectors were aware of the previous planning history of the Oak Leaf Farm site.

With regard to the subsequent grant of planning permission, the County Planning Authority must determine planning applications in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The provisions of the legal agreement were superseded by the findings of the Planning Inspectors for the SWP and the subsequent adoption of the Plan by the County Council. The reference to a breach of contract is not relevant or appropriate in this planning context. Members gave significant weight to the site's identification in the SWP 2008, as they were entitled to do, when granting planning permission for a recycling use and associated works at the site.

5. Mr John Hirsch (Hon. Chairman, Lower Sunbury Residents' Association) (LOSRA) will ask the following question:

Further to my question and supplementary question put to this Committee on 19th March, I must now ask yet again that my questions be answered. What I received was not an answer but an assembly of facts already known to me, and indeed to anyone who took the trouble to visit the SCC and SBC Websites. The answers previously given are a recipe for buck-passing between different authorities, their officers and elected members.

Given that the proposed developments outlined in my questions cross County and Borough areas of responsibility, may I be advised of the ONE NAMED INDIVIDUAL who may be held accountable by the electorate for ensuring that ALL strategic matters relating to infrastructure, transport and environment comply with policy as outlined in my primary question?

Jan Haunton (SCC Strategy Group Manager) will give the following answer:

Cllr John Furey, Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure at Surrey County Council, is the lead individual for strategic planning matters relating to infrastructure, transport and the environment.

SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN SPELTHORNE – 9th July 2012

Agenda Item 6

PETITIONS

To receive any petitions in accordance with Standing Order 64

- (i) Ms Julia Paxton will present a petition (a total of 720 signatures including those submitted online) which reads:**

"We PETITION Surrey County Council to build a safe pedestrian crossing or bridge at Fordbridge Roundabout in Ashford, Surrey.

