

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE IN SPELTHORNE

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8th October 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)

- 65/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item 1)**
Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Denise Turner-Stewart and Councillor Richard Smith-Ainsley. Councillor Vivienne Leighton substituted for Councillor Smith-Ainsley.
- 66/12 MINUTES (Item 2)**
The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd August 2012 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.
- 67/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)**
There were no declarations of interest.
- 68/12 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (Item 4)**
The Chairman updated the Local Committee on the progress of the Surrey Minerals and Waste Plan – Aggregates Recycling Joint Development Plan Document and how it is proposed to delete four sites in Spelthorne borough from it.

The Vice Chairman also explained to the Local Committee that she had received an update from the Keep Out – Crime Diversion Scheme, which had been supported by Members'

Allocation funding and how there was the opportunity to visit the prisons to see how the scheme is working.

69/12 PETITIONS (Item 5)

There were no petitions received.

70/12 MEMBER QUESTION TIME (Item 6)

One Member question was received from Mr Victor Agarwal. The question and response are set out in Annexe 1 to these minutes.

Mr Agarwal asked the following supplementary question. What were the SCC budgets for breakfast club places in 2011/12 and 2012/13? In addition, what procedures have been put in place to prevent errors occurring again when responses to Freedom of Information requests are provided? It was agreed that a response would be obtained from SCC officers after the meeting.

71/12 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (Item 7)

One Public question was received. The question and answer are set out in Annexe 1 to these minutes.

Councillor Chris Frazer asked the following supplementary questions. Why is Feltham Rd not addressed in the response to my written question? Why can SCC not install road humps on Feltham Rd? How can a weight restriction be valid on M4 but not on a narrow road like Feltham Rd?

Nick Healey (Area Team Manager (Highways NE)) provided the following response: Feltham Rd was not deliberately missed out of the response. The Freight Study will cover the whole area and will look at future freight movement as well as the current situation. Traffic calming measures are not normally recommended if the issue is HGV traffic. The weight restriction on the M4 is a temporary one due to concerns about the structure.

72/12 PRESENTATION: PROGRESS ON HIGHWAYS CONTRACT WITH MAY GURNEY (Item 8)

The Chairman welcomed Mark Borland (SCC) and Jim Harker (May Gurney), who gave a presentation on the May Gurney contract with SCC. The presentation covered the improvements that had been made since the contract had started in April 2011 and how they were intending to improve their engagement with Councillors and Local Committees. A new member of staff has been recruited for this purpose, Jon Tovell. Members asked a selection of questions including on the following subjects:

- a) May Gurney's performance
- b) the 'Improve My Road' initiative

The Chairman, Richard Walsh, said he wished to ensure that the work of Mark Borland's team, Nick Healey's team and the Local Committee could dovetail together.

73/12

HIGHWAYS UPDATE (Item 9)

The Chairman welcomed Nick Healey, Area Team Manager (Highways) for NE Surrey, who presented the report.

Nick Healey explained that in addition to the 2012/13 Revenue budget there is also £80,500 carry forward from 2011/12 as shown in table 1. Approximately two thirds of this budget has currently been committed. It was proposed to reassign the £10,000 parking allocation from the Revenue budget to other Highways schemes, but Members did not agree to this suggestion. Mrs Denise Saliagopoulos proposed that the £10,000 Parking allocation be spent on repainting existing faded lines on the roads. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Robert Watts and the Members voted 5 to 3 in favour of this proposal. Mr Richard Walsh abstained from voting. Mrs Carol Coleman expressed her concerns that the Parking Review report had not been brought to this meeting and therefore there will not now be sufficient time to implement, by the end of March 2013, any agreed amendments to parking restrictions after the Local Committee to be held on 21st January 2013, when the Parking Review report is now due to be brought. It was agreed that the chairman, Mr Richard Walsh, would write on behalf of the Local Committee to the Parking team explaining how unhappy the Committee is.

Nick Healey explained that the Fordbridge Road Roundabout Toucan Crossing scheme in table 2 will be completed in two phases. The road requires resurfacing before the anti skid surface can be installed. Phase 1 is expected to be completed before Christmas 2012 and phase 2 after Christmas.

Most of the schemes in table 3 are expected to be completed before Christmas 2012. Members expressed concerns that the Capital Maintenance Programme budget was not being divided equally among the divisions. Nick Healey said there needed to be some flexibility as only completing part of a job would not reflect well on SCC or on the divisional Members, but he was mindful that the Members liked to spread the budget equally between the seven divisions.

The second part of the report concerned setting priorities for 2013/14. Members of the Local Committee discussed the benefits of option 1 and option 3. Members felt that option 1 had been promised for many years and that it would benefit many residents as it is a major junction in the centre of the borough of Spelthorne. Others were reluctant to spend the entire budget on

one major scheme. Members voted against option 1 by 2 votes to 6. Mr Richard Walsh abstained from voting. Option 3 was chosen, but with the proposal that some revenue allocation was put towards the schemes and also the total was divided equally between the seven divisions. Mrs Carol Coleman was not in agreement with the decision to choose option 3.

Resolved to agree:

- (i) that the Parking allocation be used to repaint existing faded lines within the borough
- (ii) the priorities for next Financial Year's Capital programme (paragraph 2.15 details options for next Financial Year's priorities). An amended option 3 was the agreed priority; to divide the Capital ITS and Capital Maintenance allocations, and also part of its Local Revenue allocation, into seven equal amounts - one for each Division - and for the divisional Member to work with the Area Team Manager to identify preferred schemes
- (iii) that subject to (ii), if Committee prioritises Capital Maintenance schemes for 2013-14, to reassign the Forward Design allocation to enhance the general maintenance programme funded under the Local Issues allocation (paragraph 2.3 refers)
- (iv) (retrospectively) to assign the Revenue Carry Forward to enhance the general maintenance programme funded under the Local Issues allocation (paragraph 2.4 refers)
- (v) to assign part of the Capital Carry Forward to cover the cost of the Fordbridge Road Roundabout Toucan Crossing scheme (paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8 refer)
- (vi) to authorise the advertisement of the Legal Notice for the Fordbridge Road Roundabout Toucan Crossing and delegate authority to the Area Team Manager, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Divisional Member(s) to consider any representations made to this Notice (paragraph 2.9 refers)
- (vii) to authorise the advertisement of the Legal Notice for the developer funded Feltham Hill Road Zebra Crossing, and to delegate authority to the Area Team Manager, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Divisional Member to consider any representations made to this Notice (paragraph 2.10 refers)
- (viii) to allocate part of the Capital Carry Forward to cover the cost of the Capital Maintenance Programme, in the event that the value of this programme exceeds the Capital Maintenance budget (paragraph 2.12 refers)
- (ix) to delegate authority to the Area Team Manager to undertake all necessary procedures to deliver the agreed

programmes, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Local Members affected by each project

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

74/12 GOODS VEHICLE OPERATORS LICENCES: ANNUAL REVIEW (Item 10)

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Caroline Smith, who presented her report. Members asked various questions and Caroline explained that the licences issued do vary and some have additional conditions attached to them. Councillor Vivienne Leighton felt an annex attached to the report explaining the procedure to follow, if Members wanted to query the operation of particular HGVs, would be useful. Mr Ian Beardsmore requested a ball part figure of how many licences are currently held in the borough of Spelthorne. Members expressed concerns about how little power the local authority has to restrict the movement and parking of HGVs. The Local Committee agreed for the Chairman to write on its behalf to the local MP, to ask him to make representation to give local authorities to increased powers.

Resolved to note:

- (i) The continued operation of the system for notifying and consulting Members of applications in their Divisions.
- (ii) The contents of this Annual Information Report.

Reason for decision: An annual update was requested, which helps to ensure the consultation with County Councillors on operators licence applications in their divisions continues to work well.

75/12 SURREY LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (Item 11)

The Chairman welcomed Mark Howarth and Deborah Fox, who introduced the report. Deborah explained the objectives and the action plan of the Strategy is available in more detail on the website. There was concern expressed that Spelthorne Borough Council was not represented in the core memberships of the Surrey Flood Risk Partnership Board. Councillor Robert Watts was asked to follow this up. Deborah Fox asked the Members to notify the service of items to be added to the Surrey Flooding Asset Register. Mark Howarth agreed to forward to all

Members a document showing the wet spots in Spelthorne, once an imminent review has taken place.

Reason for decision: There is a role for everyone to play in the management of flood risk. We can coordinate our services better so that the risk of flooding is reduced and the aftermath of flood incidents are as minimal as can be.

The Local Protocol of the SCC Local Committee for Spelthorne states 'Meetings will not normally be longer than three hours'. Mr Ian Beardsmore proposed that the meeting should be extended to enable the completion of the business on the agenda and this was seconded by Mr Richard Walsh. It was agreed by 4 votes to 2 to continue the meeting.

76/12 LOCAL PREVENTION COMMISSIONING 2012/13 (Item 12)

The Chairman welcomed Leigh Middleton, who introduced the report. Leigh Middleton explained the reasons for the proposal to extend the current contract and in-house provision for five months to the end of August 2013. The Members discussed and asked questions about this proposal. They did not agree with recommendation c) and made the decision that should Members of the Youth Task group not be re-elected as Councillors at the election in May 2013, then the decision on replacements would be made by the Chair and Vice Chair or re-elected Members of the Local Committee in consultation with the Assistant Director for Young People.

Resolved to agree:

- (i) To extend the Local Prevention contract and in-house provision for five months to 31 August 2013
- (ii) To extend the remit of the Youth Task Group to constitute up until the first Local Committee of the municipal year
- (iii) That the decision to appoint Members to the Task Group be made by the Chair and Vice Chair or the re-elected members of the Local Committee in consultation with the Assistant Director for Young People to replace any members who are no longer Councillors as a result of the elections

Reason for decision: The local needs assessment for at risk young people has not changed, there are no significant performance concerns with the current provider, the quality of the delivery plan is an improvement on the original bid and the recommendations in this report address specific Member feedback. The benefits of the amended timetable include a longer period of time for providers to prove their performance, at least 9 months evidence for Members to evaluate before making longer term strategic commissioning decisions, more time for

market development and the alignment of the commissioning cycle with the academic year which will provide greater consistency of service to young people.

77/12

YOUTH SMALL GRANTS BIDS (Item 13)

Leigh Middleton introduced this report. The Members expressed concerns that bids no.s 2 and 3 were not helping many people, especially bid 3, which was only benefitting one person. Members voted as follows:

Bid 1 – 6 in favour

Bid 2 – 4 in favour 2 against

Bid 3 – 1 in favour 5 against

Resolved to agree:

- (i) to award £2,500 to 6th Staines Scout group for a climbing wall
- (ii) to award £1,000 to the East to West Trust
- (iii) not to award £3,000 to Camp International for Camp Borneo

Reason for decision: Recommendations have been made based on the criterion of addressing local needs of young people aged 10 – 19. The Committee is required to ensure appropriate deployment of the Youth Small Grants Fund.

78/12

LOCAL COMMITTEE FUNDING (Item 14)

Sandra Brown introduced the report. Mrs Carol Coleman asked whether Local Committee funding could be paid to private organisations. The recommendation was that each application needs to be considered on an individual basis. Mr Denise Saliagopoulos asked for a request for urgent funding from Spelthorne Borough Council for £2,000 towards a pump for the biodiversity ditch project, not listed in the committee papers, to be considered. The Committee members were in favour.

Resolved to agree:

- (i) the items presented for funding from the Local Committee's 2012/13 revenue funding as set out in section 2 of the report
- (ii) the items presented for funding from the Local Committee's 2012/13 capital funding as set out in section 2 of this report
- (iii) to note the expenditure previously approved by the Community Partnerships Manager and the Community Partnerships Team Leader under delegated authority, as set out in section 3

- (iv) to note any returned funding and/or adjustments, as set out within the report and also in the financial position statement at Appendix 1
- (v) to award £2,000 funding from Councillor Saliagopolous's revenue allocation towards a pump for Spelthorne Borough Council's biodiversity ditch project

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.

79/12

FORWARD PROGRAMME 2012/13 (Item 15)

Cheryl Poole introduced the report. A Member requested that future Local committee meetings were not scheduled for the same weeks as Political Party conferences.

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.

Reason for decision: The Forward Programme enables officers to publicise meetings and prepare the necessary reports.

80/12

DATE OF NEXT MEETING (Item 16)

To be held on **Monday 21st January 2013** 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 10.35 pm.

Chairman.....



SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN SPELTHORNE – 8th October 2012

AGENDA ITEM 6

MEMBER QUESTION TIME

1. Mr Victor Agarwal will ask the following question:

In the Observer it is reported that Surrey CC has cut its provision for breakfast clubs from 2870 to 1200 pupils.

Why has Surrey chosen to do this? What cost savings are projected by this? What is the proposed cut in numbers across Spelthorne?

Joanna Lang (Research & Project Officer – Early Years and Childcare Service) will give the following answer:

The article appears to be referring to data we sent in a freedom of information request in August 2012. Unfortunately some of the information that was provided was incorrect and the figures for 2010/2011 'before school places only' and 'after school club places only' were reversed. The correct data actually shows a decrease of 347 breakfast club only places and an increase in after school club places. The number of combined before and after school places has also decreased from 2010/2011 to 2011/2012.

It should also be noted that before school clubs in Surrey are not run or managed by Surrey County Council. We offer advice and support to breakfast clubs, after school clubs and holiday playschemes run by the private, voluntary or independent sector (PVI) or are directly school managed. The Early Years and Childcare Service has not made any cuts in the support offered to these settings, including financial support. We are currently working with prospective settings in Spelthorne. Please note that the 'Combined before and after school places' are provided by settings offering both types of care and assumes the same number of breakfast club places as after school places (which is probably an overestimate in most cases). Breakfast club only places in Spelthorne have decreased only slightly from 287 in 2011 to 252 places in 2012, which could be due to a setting closure or a discrepancy in the figures.

The correct data from the freedom of information request is shown below

	Before school places only	After school places only	Combined before and after school places	Total places	Number of before and after school settings
2011/2012	1200	3008	3196	7404	254
2010/2011	1547	2870	3598	8015	266
2009/2010	1452	3258	2637	7347	238
2008/2009	1179	2851	2007	6037	203

AGENDA ITEM 7

WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

1. Cllr Chris Frazer will ask the following question:

Will the chairman recall that on 9th July this Committee was promised an urgent holistic report tonight on the noise and disruption caused by HGVs in Spelthorne, highlighted by the situation in Clockhouse Lane and Feltham Rd in Ashford East and why is this report not ready for this evening's meeting?

Nick Healey (SCC Area Team Highways Manager) will give the following answer:

It was intended to bring to this evening's Committee meeting a comprehensive freight study covering the Spelthorne Borough area. The purpose of the study is to provide evidence to facilitate the development of a freight strategy, which will define routes where HGV traffic will be accepted and encouraged to support local industry and commerce, and areas where HGV traffic can be discouraged, to protect local communities from the adverse impact of HGV traffic.

The freight study has been delayed for a number of reasons. In the first instance Surrey's Highways service intended to deliver the study in-house. Accordingly the Council's Design Team were briefed in Autumn 2011. It became apparent that the Council did not have sufficient expert resource to undertake a study of this nature, and therefore in May 2012 the Council's consultant, WSP, was commissioned to undertake the study. The study commenced in earnest in Summer 2012, and had involved numerous traffic surveys.

All the traffic surveys are now complete with the exception of those in the vicinity of Clockhouse Lane. At the time of writing this response, the completed traffic surveys are being analysed and plotted onto plans in

preparation for presentation to the Local Committee, but unfortunately the delays have meant that we will not meet the deadline for this evening's Committee meeting.

As for the surveys near Clockhouse Lane, these surveys are very sensitive, in so far as they must be seen to be robust enough to satisfy Hounslow Borough in the context of negotiations over a possible future southbound weight restriction in Clockhouse Lane. Since the beginning of Summer 2012 there has been a 7.5t weight restriction in place on sections of the M4, while the Highways Agency carry out investigations on the Boston Manor Viaduct. This may have affected HGV movements in the north of Spelthorne and erode the validity of any traffic surveys near Clockhouse Lane. So far the Highways Agency have not indicated how long the weight restriction will remain in place. Ultimately this will depend on the outcome of their investigations.

In practice this means that the results and initial conclusions of the freight study, with the exception of the area around Clockhouse Lane, are expected to be drafted in October 2012. Officers will then work with the Chairman to decide how best to bring the information to the Local Committee, with a view to drafting and approving strategy for the next few years. Committee will also need to consider what consultation would be appropriate, before giving final approval to the strategy. Given the history of the Clockhouse Lane weight restriction, it is considered by officers to be imprudent to complete this aspect of the study before traffic conditions in the region are seen to return to normal.