



SURREY

COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting

SURREY HEATH LOCAL COMMITTEE

Date: Thursday 28th October 2004

Time: 7.00 PM

Place: St John's Church Link, Windlesham.

Members present:

Surrey County Council [5]

Mr Maurice Neighbour (Camberley East)
Mr Fred Chipperfield (Camberley West)
Mrs Lavinia Sealy (Chobham & Bisley)
Dr B J Coffin (Heatherside & Parkside)
Mr John Phillips (Frimley Green & Mychett)

Surrey Heath Borough Council [4]

Cllr Moira Gibson
Cllr Vivienne Chapman
Cllr Edward Hawkins
Cllr Terence King

All references to items refer to the Agenda for the meeting.
The meeting was preceded by an Open Public Question Time. The notes of this are in Annex A.

Part 1. In Public - Part A.

160/04 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from County Councillor Alan Peirce and from Borough Councillors Keith Bush and Patricia Pearce

161/04 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – 23rd September 2004.

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

162/04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Borough Councillor Terry King declared a prejudicial interest in Item 14.
County Councillor Maurice neighbour declared a personal interest in Item 11.

163/04 PETITIONS

None

164/04 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None

165/04 MEMBER QUESTIONS

None

166/04 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE LIBRARY SERVICE

Rose Wilson, Library Service Manager, outlined the report and the activities available at Surrey Heath Libraries. Issues are on the decline this trend is slowing. Issues have risen in Lightwater, this library is one of only six across the County whose issue numbers have raised.

Geoff Cox, Senior Library Manager, detailed the Bagshot Library refurbishment which was opened by Prince Edward. There has been a rise of 2.8% in borrowing and issues of videos and spoken word resources have risen dramatically. The PC terminals are also put to good use.

Computer based learning is high across Surrey Heath and is available free. Camberley Library has assisted technology. Use of the mobile library service is rising slowly; additional stops are planned in Deepcut and St. Michael's. The last two new mobile libraries should be in place by 2006. An online enquiry service as been launched and use of this is increasing.

Educational videos can be rented for free but entertainment ones cost a small fee of approximately £3.00. The income from this is crucial. The rental of DVDs is just overtaking the rental of videos. Videos and DVDs are seen as part of the modern library service and act as an enticement to users. Many more books are taken out than videos and DVDs.

Camberley Library used to be open until 6pm but local people did not use this time slot and so the opening hours were adjusted.

RESOLVED

The Committee agreed

- (i) That the Committee notes the range of service developments in libraries in response to "Framework for the Future"
- (ii) That the overall direction of developments in libraries in Surrey Heath meets their aims for libraries.

167/04 ANNUAL REPORT ON WASTE

Dave Ricketts, Group Manager – waste policy, attending to introduce the report. Surrey County Council work closely with the Borough Council on waste issues. Surrey Heath has a growth of waste of 2.6%, which is slightly lower than average. The recycling level in Surrey Heath is above average, Surrey Heath is one of the top performing recyclers in the Country and is currently ranked 22nd. The cost of waste handling is about to rise enormously; with the amount of biodegradable waste disposed of to landfill will be reduced year on year. There will be fines for exceeding this target. Surrey County Council uses Surrey Waste Management as its contractor to deal with municipal waste sites. The Wilton Road civic amenity site will be redeveloped in the summer of 2005, the planning application will be put in in the next few weeks. Wilton Road will need to be close during the refurbishment, alternative provision is being planned.

RESOLVED

The Committee agreed that potential exists for the County and Borough Councils to work together to help each other meet the targets that confront them at an acceptable cost to the Council taxpayer.

168/04 ANNUAL REPORT ON PLANNING AND COUNTRYSIDE

Andy Stokes, Senior Development Control Engineer, outlined the report. The issue of the planning policy of having 1 ½ car parking spaces per new house / flat was raised. Members felt that this compromised road safety. This is a national standard and so must be followed but Surrey County Council officers are aware of this issue and are seeking a resolution.

RESOLVED

The Committee noted the report and commented on the performance of the service in the Surrey Heath area.

169/04 REPORT ON THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Mike Abbott, Local Director, outlined the report and Members commented on the need to ensure that the Local Development Framework links with the Borough Community Plan.

RESOLVED

The Surrey Heath Local Committee noted the current consultation and that the draft LDF will be consulted on in the spring of 2005.

170/04 MEMBERS' ALLOCATIONS

Members approved the following allocations:

- £2,000 from Fred Chipperfield to The Watchetts School to assist in the development of the community room project.

- £500 from Fred Chipperfield for signing to St Mary's Church and Camberley Rugby Club.
- £1,500 from the pooled fund to The Beacon Church for the furniture recycling project that they run across Surrey Heath, and towards a Clean-up project on the Old Dean.
- £2,500 from the Pooled fund to Surrey Heath Scouts for part funding of the next Gang Show in 2005.
- £3,000 from the Pooled fund to the Prince's Trust towards activities with young people.
- £1,000 from Maurice Neighbour's allocation to a fence at the Old Dean Youth Club.
- £2,000 from Maurice Neighbour's allocation to the legal bills for the Old Dean Advice Centre.
- £2000 from John Phillips allocation to park furniture at Frimley Lodge Park.
- £750 from John Phillips Allocation to coverings for the cycle storage racks at Cross Farm School.

Members requested a report on the plans for the Blackdown school site at the next meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Surrey Heath Local Committee:

1. Note the breakdown in the Annex,
2. Decides which allocations it wishes to approve.
3. Notes that all allocations must be made at the next meeting on 2nd December 2004.

171/04 FORWARD PLAN

RESOLVED

The Local Committee in Surrey Heath approved the forward plan of committee reports and suggested any additions

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

172/04 TASKS COMMISSIONED BY THE LOCAL COMMITTEE

This report was for information only.

Non- Executive Business

173/04 ALLEGED PUBLIC FOOTPATH BETWEEN WINDSOR ROAD AND RIGHT OF WAY 49A, CHOBHAM

Patricia Birch, Senior Rights of Way Officer, attended to outline the report and the evidence for extinguishment. A corrected recommendation four was agreed.

RESOLVED

The Committee agreed:

- That an extinguishment order be made over section A-B-C under section 118 of the Highways Act 1980.
- That no public footpath rights are recognised over the route C-D on drawing 3/1/81/H50 and that the request for a MMO order under sections 53 and 57 of the

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to modify the Definitive Map and Statement is not approved. The applicant should be so informed.

- That in the event that the County Council is directed to make a MMO over the whole route by the Secretary of State following an appeal by the claimants, the County Council as surveying authority will adopt a neutral stance at any public inquiry, making all evidence available to help the inspector to determine the case.
- That it welcomes the dedication of the public footpath 209 (Chobham) as shown E-F-G on drawing 3/1/81/H55, which is in the ownership of Surrey County Council.

Part B – Transportation.

174/04 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

As in 160/04. In addition Edward Hawkins and Moira Gibson gave their apologies for this part of the agenda.

175/04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A before.

1761/04 PETITIONS

A petition was received from Mr Midgley regarding speed limits in Halebourne Lane, West End and Chobham. Halebourne Lane has no street lighting of footpaths. This road has been left behind in developments across Surrey Heath and wants to catch up. Residents have formed a Neighbourhood Watch and the lane and its speed limits were the main concern. Over 100 residents and users signed the petition to reduce the limit to 30 mph. The main reasons for asking this are:

1. Following the 40 mph signs in Bagshot Road the speed on Halebourne Lane has increased.
2. Residents are finding it difficult to leave their driveways.

Similar lanes such as Red Lion Way have 30 and 40 mph limits but they have pavements. The petitioners are happy to assist officers in making the lane more people friendly.

177/04 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None

178/04 MEMBER QUESTIONS

Two questions were received from County Councillors John Phillips and Maurice Neighbour. These are detailed in Annex B.

179/04 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN (2) TASK GROUP REPORT AND BID

Graham Hodgson, Local Transportation Director, outlined the report. LTP (2) programme will be brought to a future meeting. The Plan in Annex A is flexible and so schemes can be added and would be brought to the Local Committee for agreement.

RESOLVED

The Local Committee in Surrey Heath:

- (i) approved the LTP Task Group recommendations as set out in Annex A for the financial year 2005/06 and Annex B for the subsequent five year LTP2 local priorities, and
- (ii) that these form the basis of the Local Committee's bid.

180/04 CHOBHAM HIGH STREET PROPOSALS

Graham Hodgson outlined the report. The schemes came from the local population. It would not be appropriate to use painted white road markings to deter parking.

RESOLVED

The Surrey Heath Local Committee:

- i) approve that part of the scheme as shown on the attached drawing as Annex C, known as "Southern Buildout Proposal" for permanent installation, and approve that part of the drawing known as "Zebra Crossing Adjustments" as a trial scheme, and that a full consultation with local people including the local Church takes place following this trial, with permanent installation assessment delegated to the Local Transportation Director in consultation with the local County Councillor
- ii) agreed to advertise a Notice in accordance with the Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to implement changes to waiting restrictions as part of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) and to delegate authority to the Local Transportation Director in consultation with the Committee Chairman to determine any sustainable objections to the Notice.

181/04 CYCLE FORUM

Graham Hodgson presented the report. It was noted that the last report was brought to Committee a year ago.

RESOLVED

The Surrey Heath Local Committee acknowledged the role of the 'Cycle Forum' and recognised the progress that has been made since it was established.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

158/04 SECTION 14 (1) and (2) DELEGATED POWERS

This report was for information only.

159/04 TASKS COMMISSIONED BY THE LOCAL COMMITTEE (TRANSPORTATION)

This report was for information only.

The meeting finished at 9.23 pm

Chairman.

Open Public Question Time draft notes.
Surrey County Council's Local Committee in Surrey Heath
28th October 2004 – 6.30 pm St John's Link, Windlesham

1. Kay Alexander, Chobham

Is Surrey County Council aware that Surrey Heath Borough Council has two sites close to Pennypot Lane? Is it appropriate to have such a high number of sites in Surrey Heath?

Reply from Lavinia Sealy – County Councillor for Chobham and Bisley

This is not appropriate. The site at Pennypot Lane is unauthorised and we do have two designated sites in the Borough already. I asked for a study on traveller sites across Surrey, but this has been delayed.

Reply from Mike Abbott – Local Director

Surrey County Council has an Executive paper being taken to the Executive Committee soon regarding all sites across the County. The planning inquiry is taking place in February 2005. I have spoken and will speak again to Police colleagues and can assure residents of Chobham that all partners are working closely with the Police to address issues.

Reply from Moira Gibson – Leader – Surrey Heath Borough Council

This will be an extremely lengthy and difficult inquiry. Surrey Heath are walking a tightrope between ending up with something that no one wants and getting the site back to what it was before the travellers moved onto it. Surrey Heath Borough Council has dealt fairly, justly and equitably with travellers, and has to be cautious because of the CRE sensitivities. We cannot guarantee that the second part of the Surrey County Council study will not say more sites are needed in Surrey Heath.

Reply from Edward Hawkins – Borough Councillor for Parkside

I must emphasise the level of support that Surrey Heath Borough Council has already committed: 5% of the Council Tax per year is spent on this issue, this equates to about £500,000. Resources are under extreme stress but Surrey Heath Borough Council does not begrudge this expenditure at all.

2. Mr Brousson, Pennypot Lane

The illegal travellers site in Pennypot Lane is one of the most serious and expensive issues to face both the Borough and the County. Why have you not appointed a professional co-ordinator to liaise between the Borough, the County, the Environment Agency, the Police and the barrister in order to co-ordinate, expedite and execute policy on planning, the law and enforcement. A successful eviction will only happen with a concentrated and co-ordinated effort by all government agencies.

Reply from Mike Abbott – Local Director

All agencies already have a range of professionals working on this issue. I cannot see the value of an additional co-ordinator that would cost you the taxpayer money when there are already so many specialists working on this.

3. Tina Doble, Chobham

My question relates to environmental health issues concerning Field 81 as local residents are still being forced to contend with human excrement, excessive noise, litter, marauding dogs, highly toxic bonfires, plus rats and stench associated with what has become a landfill site. Abatement notices are not being enforced. What action are you now taking to restore and uphold the human rights of the long-suffering residents around Pennypot who feel completely ignored and letdown by the authorities employed to safeguard their welfare?

Reply from Moira Gibson – Leader – Surrey Heath Borough Council

I cannot answer this question in detail at this time. Environmental Health is a Surrey Heath Borough Council function. Councils are put in a very difficult position, we need to make sure that we get a long-term solution. I will talk to environmental health about these issues. We must make sure that we deal with this situation carefully. The Environment Agency has been very slow to respond.

Reply from Lavinia Sealy – County Councillor for Chobham and Bisley

I support what the Leader of Surrey Heath Borough Council has said. It is unacceptable for this level of anti-social behaviour to continue. We are working with the Borough Council to take this forward.

4. Jane Jeffs, Pennypot Lane.

Why have South Bucks District Council managed to keep on returning to the High Court and have now succeeded in setting an eviction order on travellers while waiting for the public enquiry next June?

Why are you employing travellers from this site to repair local roads?

Reply from Graham Hodgson – Local Transportation Director

Surrey County Council uses a contractor, Ringway Highway Services Ltd. Who they employ is up to them as long as they are able to do the job. I am not aware of who they employ in detail and cannot influence such choices.

Reply from Mike Abbott – Local Director

I don't know about the South Bucks case. I chair the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership for Surrey Heath. This includes County, Borough, Police, Police Authority, Fire and Rescue and Health. I will raise these issues at the meeting next week. Please continue to report any incidents of anti-social behaviour, we are building up evidence that will help with enforcement, abatement and prosecution (including Anti-Social Behaviour Orders - ASBOs)

5. Brian Baker – Surrey Heath Labour Party

What are you doing to decrease the density of traffic in Windlesham at peak times, especially Updown Hill? Speed limits are only enforced for a n hour or so at a time. Can the limits at the top of Updown Hill be reduced and can there be more signs?

Reply from Graham Hodgson – Local Transportation Director

We are very conscious of the volume of traffic. The opportunity to reduce traffic can only be taken by offering realistic alternatives, we do that via the Local Transport Plan

(LTP). We are concerned and are trying to address and answer the underlying issues but the answer lies with us all.

The Police can only enforce as their resources allow as many speeding problems, both real and perceived, are addressed via partnership with Police. Poster campaigns are successful in reminding people of the limits and reducing speeds.

We are legally obliged to adhere to government regulations regarding the use of signs, and would have to obtain special authority from the Department for Transport for signs that do not comply with the regulations. In the example given in the question, this authority would not be given.

6. Cllr Judy Douch - Surrey Heath Borough Councillor for West End

There is local concern about grass cutting. The number of cuts needs to be increase. Also, there is concern about policing as we don't see the beat officer or the police Community Support Officer (PCSO)

Reply from Maurice Neighbour, Chairman of the Local Committee.

We cannot answer for the police but will pass comments on.

Reply from Mike Abbott – Local Director

The two PCSOs have only just started and the third is still being recruited.

Reply from Graham Hodgson – Local Transportation Director

When the Borough Council was responsible for cutting, the County contributed funding so more cuts could be done. Now the function has transferred to the County and is funded by the County only. The budget allows for 5 close cuts and 2 flail cuts a year, no more funds are available and so the number of cuts will not go up.

Risk Assessment and Health and Safety is a huge issue for the contractor and the necessary traffic management is now a large part of the costs. Grass is cut for safety purposes, not for aesthetic ones.

Item 19

Question from County Councillor John Philips

In view of the concern that is growing nationally over the proliferation of street furniture, particularly in town centres, and the increasing difficulty of signs covering signs, what actions are being taken together with partners and other agencies, working in co-operation to reduce and regulate such furniture so as to enhance the street scenes.

Answer from Graham Hodgson, Local Transport Director

Street furniture is placed for a number of reasons. Pedestrian guard railing is used as a safety and guidance feature, to both protect pedestrians and ensure they follow a safe route to and from a crossing point. Other features are sometimes necessary such as waste bins, cycle racks, seats, streetlights etc, for the benefit of the walking public. Whilst I would accept that often such features have been added to over the years due no doubt to public pressure, to rationalise them would be expensive, and not necessarily always needed. However, opportunities through developments can be taken to re-organise the layout of street furniture. Some authorities have taken radical steps to remove significant amounts of pedestrian guard railing and other items to "open" up the street scene. It has yet to be seen as to the impact this approach will have on safety.

Traffic signs again have been subject to proliferation, but within this district every effort is made to rationalise the signing to ensure clarity for the traveling public. This is seen as an important aspect in terms of safety on the highway. Again, the cost of rationalising a group of signs is significant, and opportunities through new developments or even as a result of an RTA which damages sign groups, are taken to ensure such sign clusters are made as clear as possible. The Road Signs Regulations and General Directions give specific instructions as to which signs can have others added to the posts, and which cannot. Generally regulatory signs have to be separate from others, and advisory signs can be clustered. The positioning of ADSs can be critical for clear understanding by approaching drivers, and these need to be made as clear as possible with the correct "x" letter heights. The Highway Authority is the arbiters of sign erection, and all signs on the public highway have to be approved by the authority and comply with the regulations.

Question from County Councillor Maurice Neighbour

Regarding the blocked paving refurbishment of the High Street in Camberley can you confirm that this will be completed no later than Friday 12th November to ensure complete access for the public to walk around the town centre leading up to the Christmas shopping period.

Answer from Graham Hodgson, Local Transport Director

I have had assurance from the constructor that the works in the High Street will be completed no late than Friday 12th November. If for any potential reason this date is not achievable I will instruct the constructor to abandon the works leaving the site in a safe condition and to return in the new calendar year.