

Item 14

The Standing Citizens' Panel for Surrey Heath

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S LOCAL COMMITTEE
(SURREY HEATH)**

26th July 2007

KEY ISSUE:

The report updates Members on the last meeting of the Standing Citizens' Panel for Surrey Heath.

SUMMARY:

On 5th June 2007 the Citizens' Panel met to discuss local community safety issues and the future of the panel.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Local Committee notes the report.

INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

1. The Standing Citizens Panel for Surrey Heath was set up following a meeting of the Local Committee on 17th July 2003. At this meeting, Members agreed that the Panel would be an innovative way to engage and consult with local people on local issues.

2. Notes from the Panel meeting on 5th June 2007.

PRESENT: Jo Proctor
George DGLISH
Keith Steel
Ray Bates
Diane Carol
Angela Mitchell

OFFICER PRESENT Carolyn Rowe, Surrey County Council
Jane Biscombe, Surrey County Council
Amber Jenkins, Surrey County Council
Inspector Mark Adams, Surrey Police

3. The panel discussed the last SCP meeting and the report that went to the Local Committee meeting in March 2007. Panel members noted that Point 4 on the last Local Committee report should have referred to critical care. Point 5 of report should read brain injury and not mental health.

Community Safety issues.

4. The meeting was attended by Insp. Mark Adams, Surrey Police. The Police use statistics to show trends and want to focus on residents reporting crime. Reduction in crime locally has been due to an increase in number of detections. Reasons for this were good Community links, working closely with partners and having a larger and more informed neighbourhood team. 5 years ago there were 5 beat officers, now there are 10. A Rapid Response Team and C.I.D support

these. There would be no further increase to Police staffing levels but members of the public would see better “value for money”.

5. An emphasis has been put on low-level disorder leading to a reduction in violent crime. Police now work closely with Surrey Heath Borough Council and clubs and bars, which now served all drinks in plastic, not glass. On Club nights, Taxi Marshals assist in monitoring and dispelling clubbers out of the town. The Pubwatch scheme is in operation, where licensees get together to discuss local issues, the Atrium Group will join them. Police can ask for applications for licences to be turned down if they feel the new licence would contribute to existing problems or if they have any specific concerns.
6. Some issues are the subject of seasonal trends i.e. summer holidays, Halloween, Christmas.
7. Insp. Adams was asked if kicking a ball against a wall and causing distress to residents was a crime, Insp. Adams answered that continuous kicking of ball would be harassment and if it led to affecting someone's health then would be classed as violent crime.
8. Insp. Adams was asked if statistics were correlated for social aspects (i.e. people's marital status, from lone parent families, divorced background). Insp. Adams said that much behaviour is learnt and early intervention with families is essential. Some panel members thought that there should be more involvement from the Police with lone parent families and their specific issues but other members and Insp. Adams felt that social and family issues were not a role for the Police, who would refer to the appropriate Agency.
9. Panel members praised the local role played by officers on their patches, especially around the Tomlinscote area and in Mytchett and Deepcut.
10. Concerns were raised about youth in the Frimley Green/Deepcut area. There have been talks about a Teen Shelter but some residents were not keen. Panel members asked what can be done to engage youth. Insp. Adams replied that Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) work closely with other Agencies eg Surrey County Council's Youth Development Service, to provide activities for youth in those areas. The role of the J.A.G (Joint Action Group) and C.I.A.G (Community Incident Action Group) were discussed. Panel members felt that more should be done to encourage young people to join local groups such as sports and arts clubs.
11. Insp. Adams was asked what the Police were doing about anti-social behaviour, in particular, nuisance neighbours. Insp. Adams replied that incidents must be reported so that action can be taken. The Police work with Housing Agencies and other partners on incidents and are based on the facts of the case.
12. The panel asked what the Police thoughts were on gated residential developments – did they think they were a good thing? Insp. Adams replied that gated developments could act as a deterrent but could also lead to isolated communities.
13. With the summer holidays coming up, how can residents help keep the youth occupied? Insp. Adams replied that the Police's role is law enforcement but that they work closely with partners who provide activities during school holidays.

Residents need to help promote activities and keep local officers informed of local issues as they develop.

Future of the Standing Citizens Panel

14. A list was circulated that gave ways that members of the public can engage with Surrey County Council. This included Local Committees and 50+ network. (attached as annex A)
15. It was felt because of the many ways residents can now engage, the attendance at the SCP has dropped significantly and consistently. There are opportunities being brought into the area including Tune In. On 22nd May a first "Tune In" meeting was held in Surrey Heath covering Mytchett and Deepcut. These multi-agency Neighbourhood Improvement Workshops are designed to encourage members of the community to work together to talk through the issues and opportunities and deliver improvement in their areas.
16. Surrey County Council consultations are on the SCC website for members of the public to view and take part in. www.surreycc.gov.uk/consultation
17. Panel members asked how SCC could engage the Youth. Groups are available for young people i.e. Youth Parliament. Young people had been included on the SCP but have not attended recently.
18. Carolyn Rowe thanked members for their time and efforts and panel members in turn thanked officers for their work with the panel over recent years.

CONSULTATION

19. The Panel is a consultative group of local representatives. The notes in this report reflect the views of Panel members.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

20. None

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

21. None.

CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

22. As detailed above.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

23. The Panel is representative of the Surrey Heath Community, however, attendance at panel meetings is not.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Local Committee notes the report.

LEAD/CONTACT OFFICER:	Jane Biscombe
TELEPHONE NUMBER:	01276 800269
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	None
ANNEXES	1

Annex

Ways to engage with Surrey County Council

Contact your local Member

Cllr Fred Chipperfield	Camberley West	01276 65138
Cllr David Ivison	Heatherside & Parkside <i>david.ivison@surreycc.gov.uk</i>	01276 27778
Cllr Maurice Neighbour	Camberley East <i>maurice.neighbour@surreycc.gov.uk</i>	01276 63631
Cllr Alan Peirce	Bagshot & Windlesham <i>alan.peirce@surreycc.gov.uk</i>	01276 453721
Cllr Chris Pitt	Frimley Green, Mytchett & Deepcut <i>chris.pitt@surreycc.gov.uk</i>	01252 834221
Cllr Lavinia Sealy	Chobham, Bisley & West End <i>lsealy@surreycc.gov.uk</i>	01932 873875

Surrey County Council's Local Committee

The next meetings are on 26th July at Chobham Community Centre, 8th November at Kings International College. If you do not already get a copy of the agenda and would like to please let us know.

There are three main ways you can get involved in the Local Committee meetings:

a. Ask an Open Public Question.

Open Public Questions are asked for 30 minutes before each Local Committee meeting. Just put your hand up and ask, no prior notice is required.

b. Ask an Official Public Question.

To ask an Official Public Question you must let the Local Support Officer have the text of your question in writing no less than 7 days before the date of the meeting. You will then get a written reply to your question at the meeting.

c. Present a petition.

A petition can be presented to the Local Committee so long as it has at least 100 signatures on it. You must let the Local Support Officer have a copy of the petition no less than 14 days before the meeting. At the meeting the petitioner will be able to address the Committee for three minutes and then present the petition which will be received without comment. A full written report on the petition subject will then be brought to the next appropriate Local Committee meeting where it will be discussed in full.

Join the Surrey 50+ network

Surrey 50+ offers people over 50 the opportunity to influence decisions about many issues. Membership is free, for further information call 020 8541 8593 or email surrey50+@surreycc.gov.uk

Tune In Neighbourhood meetings

These are joint agency meetings that will be held in each neighbourhood. The first was held in Deepcut on 22nd May. Future meetings have yet to be planned but will be advertised locally.

Take part in consultations

Surrey County Council runs many consultations and you can keep an eye on these at www.surreycc.gov.uk/consultations

Youth Engagement

Part of Surrey County Council's website is dedicated to the services available for young people and the various ways young people can get involved with Surrey County Council like the youth parliament and youth forums.

www.surreycc.gov.uk/youngpeople