

**MINUTES: of the meeting of the Tandridge Local Committee held at 10.15am on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2006 at the Council Offices, Oxted**

**County Council Members**

- \* Mr Peter Langham - Chairman
- \* Mr David Hodge - Vice-Chairman
- \* Mrs Sally Ann B Marks
- \* Marian Myland
- \* Mr Ken Rimington
- \* Mr N W Skellett

**District Council Members**

- Cllr Richard Allen
- \* Cllr Martin Fisher
- \* Cllr Robin Harling
- \* Cllr Alan Jones
- \* Cllr Eric Morgan
- \* Cllr Jeremy Pursehouse

\* = Present

**27/06 INTRODUCTION TO NEW MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Local Committee were re-elected by Surrey County Council's Executive Committee. District representatives were nominated by their Council and subsequently ratified by the Chief Executive on behalf of Surrey County Council to take effect from the first formal meeting of the year. District Councillor Jeremy Pursehouse replaced District Councillor Jeffrey Gray.

**28/06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1b]**

Apologies were received from District Councillor Richard Allen.

**29/06 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 MARCH 2006 [Item 2]**

The minutes were agreed as accurate.

**30/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]**

There were none.

**31/06 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS [Item 4]**

There were none.

**32/06 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS [Item 5]**

District Councillor Jeremy Pursehouse asked for information on proposals for the closure of civic amenity sites and, in particular, Godstone due to be discussed by Surrey County Council's Executive Committee. Nick Skellett responded that it was inappropriate to comment at this point because no report had, as yet, come to the Executive committee.

### 32/06 MEMBERS' ALLOCATIONS [Item 6]

Members have been allocated £11,000 each for 2006/07 plus £35,000 for capital projects for voluntary sector organisations in the local area giving a total of £101,000.

Members considered five new requests for funding from the Members' Allocations budget as at Annex A of the report and **AGREED** as follows:

* <b>Bluehouse Festival</b>	<b>£ 600</b>
* <b>1st Oxted Scouts</b>	<b>£ 2,500</b>
* <b>Tandridge Youth Forum</b>	<b>£10,000</b>
* <b>Lingfield Cricket Club</b>	<b>£ 3,000</b>
* <b>1st Godstone Scouts</b>	<b>£ 600</b>

Members also considered a bid for £10,000 towards a Surrey Air Ambulance, which they were keen to support in principle. This was deferred to the next committee meeting pending further investigation into whether other Local Committees would contribute or whether Surrey County Council was involved centrally on this project.

### 33/06 TANDRIDGE YOUTH FORUM [Item 7]

Since 2004, Tandridge Local Committee has given £10,000 of its Members' allocation to the members of the Youth Forum annually to spend on local initiatives for and on behalf of local young people. Apart from the immediate benefits to the local groups who apply, this offers an opportunity for the Youth Forum to learn about how democracy works in practice, complexity of decision-making where public funds are involved and the implications of those decisions.

With the active support of the Youth Development Team they have developed some robust and effective practices and have a successful track record of good financial management and proven benefits to their community.

Four members of the Tandridge Youth Forum (TYF) gave a PowerPoint presentation on progress throughout the year 2005-2006 and circulated a spreadsheet detailing how their allocation of £10,000 had been spent. District Councillor Robin Harling, who continues to support the Forum on behalf of the Local Committee and regularly attends their meetings, applauded the young people on their enthusiasm and effectiveness.

The Forum is developing very well locally and has a core of 10-12 young people who regularly attend. The TYF is represented at Surrey Youth Parliament and on the SE Regional organisation. A residential weekend is currently being planned. The Committee has attended TYF meetings in the past and will continue to support them in future.

### 34/06 SELF RELIANCE PROJECTS IN TANDRIDGE [Item 9]

There are two self-reliance projects piloted in Tandridge which are currently in their third and final year of funding. This interim report evaluated their progress and future prospects.

The project co-ordinators for each of the projects in Caterham and in Hurst Green were invited to attend and to respond to questions. The Caterham worker gave apologies, due to illness, but the Hurst Green project was described in some detail and the benefits of both projects were drawn to the attention of the Committee.

Members were concerned that both projects should continue into the future and Mr Nicholas Skellett gave his opinion that there was no reason why this should not happen and the Area Director was tasked with pursuing the process outside of Committee.

Members also explored the possibility of extending such projects across the District where need was identified. The recommendations were varied accordingly.

The Committee:

- (i) NOTED the content of the report
- (ii) STRONGLY SUPPORTED the continuation of these initiatives, and
- (iii) AGREED to explore extending provision into other areas on a needs basis.

#### 35/06 **COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP – HOW COUNCILLORS ENGAGE WITH COMMUNITIES** [Item 8]

This item was deferred and the Area Director for East Surrey gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Community Strategy in Tandridge and an explanation of Local Area Agreements (LAAs), which is currently being worked on by partners with a view to publishing targets in a new strategy document due out in the autumn.

The LAA is a three-year agreement between the Government and councils, public services and other partner organisations in the county – grouped together as the Surrey Strategic Partnership - to work together to boost quality of life and local services. The LAA comprises eight priority projects aimed at promoting the well-being of the area in terms of economic development, travel, housing, lifestyles and cultural issues and democracy. It gives the County Council and its partners greater freedom of action and will channel funding for key programmes, particularly around tackling crime and disorder and supporting children and young people.

A conference is planned for the autumn to explore progress.

#### 36/06 **PETITIONS** [Item 10]

There were two petitions. The first was from Mrs Fiona Loveland whose daughter was knocked down in Lingfield High Street at the same point where she, herself had been hit by a car some twenty years previously. Mrs Loveland requested safety measures to be put in place and Keith Scott responded on behalf of the Local transportation Service that he was aware of the problems in the area, that it was listed as one of the local priorities and although there are no guarantees that this will result in works being carried out in this financial year, it will be under consideration.

The second was presented by a member of Tatsfield Parish Council, Chris Botton, who was concerned about the withdrawal of local bus services in north Tandridge and, in particular, route 409. An officer from the SCC Passenger Transport Team responded by explaining the rationale behind the decision and the alternatives that had been put in place.

#### 37/06 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS** [Item 11]

No written questions were submitted in advance. There were four informal questions on the closure of Fairchildes Road, on grass cutting, on flooding in Godstone and on speed management in Rook Lane. As the Local Transportation Manager was unable to attend, responses were provided by Keith Scott, the Area Maintenance Team Manager for East Surrey.

#### 38/06 **MEMBERS QUESTIONS** [Item 12]

There was one formal written question from Mr Peter Langham, which was deferred in view of the absence of the Local Transportation Manager.

District Councillor Robin Harling asked a detailed question about the Carillion contract. Due to recent publicity, he had concerns about invoicing and financial monitoring processes; inspection of works and productivity, and allegations of overcharging. He was concerned that when the contract came up for renewal procedures would be sufficiently robust to ensure that the council would receive compensation for past failures and guaranteed value for money in future.

Mr Nicholas Skellett responded that surveillance reports would be made available to the public and that, despite the recent negative publicity, the contract did bring benefits and had achieved successes. The problems that had been raised were initially identified by SCC staff and demonstrated that there was adequate supervision and awareness of difficulties and that these were being addressed. Renewal key performance indicators were being met by the contractor and it would therefore not be in the council's interest to withdraw from the contract at this time, as it would incur significant cost but that the council and Carillion were both concerned to improve their working relationship. Despite the negative slant of recent publicity, lessons had been learned and were being actively addressed.

[NOTE: Mr Nicholas Skellett left at 1.15pm]

39/06 **ANNUAL HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT PLAN IN 2006-2007** [Item 13]

This report sought approval to the Annual Highway Maintenance Management Plan for Tandridge (as part of the East Surrey Transportation Service) for the year 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007, noted the expenditure made in last years plan and detailed the outcome for the financial year 2005/2006 Highway Maintenance Management Plan. It also set out the new maintenance programme for this financial year as detailed in Annex A to the report. The report listed all of the maintenance work planned for the East Surrey Transportation Service, including Tandridge District.

The Committee AGREED to:

- (i) approve this draft report as the Annual Highway Management Plan for Tandridge for 2006/2007;
- (ii) note the outturn figures for the Maintenance Programme for 2006/2007; and
- (iii) note that there is discretion for the Area Transportation Director, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman to vire up to 100% of the indicative allocations for each expenditure head within the revenue budget whilst retaining the County Councils policies and standards.

40/06 **SPEED MANAGEMENT IN TANDRIDGE** [Item 14]

This report updated the Committee on traffic speed management in Tandridge and provided an opportunity to consider priorities for future work. A report to the Local Committee on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2005 set out proposals for speed management in Tandridge and gave details of the first roads to be targeted. The current report gave information on this work and recommended targeting the highest priority routes. The report also summarises many other speed management initiatives in Tandridge, such as Community Speed Watch and area speed limit schemes. Members' views were sought to help prioritise the use of the funding and resources available for speed management in Tandridge.

[NOTE: Martin Fisher left at 1:35 pm]

After some debate it was agreed that low priorities rated '1' should be deleted from Annex B. Marian Myland asked for an exception to be made for Church Hill but this was defeated in a vote by 5:2 after it was made clear that this decision was taken on the grounds of available funding. The chairman then proposed a third recommendation, which the Committee approved on a majority vote.

The Committee AGREED to:

- (i) note the contents of the report and comment on the priority of the various speed management initiatives in Tandridge;
- (ii) continue to support the speed management initiative to target specific routes based on the prioritisation given in Annex A.
- (iii) allocate 70% to speed management schemes in Annex B roads and 30% to village area schemes, schemes for Woldingham, Chelsham & Farley, Tatsfield & Titsey to be progressed as funding permits, all others to be reported to committee.

**41/06 DECRIMINALISED PARKING ENFORCEMENT (DPE) – PART 1 [Item 15]**

This report sought formal approval of a proposed agency agreement between the County and Tandridge District Council for Decriminalised Parking Enforcement within the district area and to agree a Decriminalised Parking Policy in line with the transfer of the operational tasks of DPE from Surrey Police to Tandridge District Council later this year.

The Committee AGREED to:

- (i) note the good work between the County Council and the District Council in progressing towards the introduction of DPE in Tandridge;
- (ii) agree the terms of the agency agreement as set out in Annex A and recommend approval to the Head of Transportation;
- (iii) approve the Decriminalised Parking Policy as set out in Annex B.

**42/06 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC [Item 16]**

Under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public was excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information under the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

**43/06 DECRIMINALISED PARKING ENFORCEMENT (DPE) – PART 2 [Item 17]**

This report was deemed confidential and not for publication under paragraph 9 which excludes any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the Authority in the course of the negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services. The decision was recorded as follows.

Members AGREED the Operational Policy for the introduction of DPE in Tandridge.

**[Meeting Ended: 01.56 pm]**

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**Chairman**