

MINUTES: of the meeting of the Tandridge Local Committee held at 10.15am on Friday 29th September 2006 at the Victoria Club, Lingfield

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

44/06 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** [Item 1]

There were none.

45/06 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 JUNE 2006** [Item 2]

District Councillor Alan Jones asked for the following amendment to be made:

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

“A South Tandridge speed limit scheme had not been included in the transportation report and the chairman suggested that Dist Cllr Jones take it up with Derek Poole to see when this will be implemented.”]

46/06 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** [Item 3]

With reference to **CHILDREN’S CENTRES IN TANDRIDGE** [Item 7], Mr Ken Rimington declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in NYCPE.

47/06 **PETITIONS** [Item 10]

[NOTE: This item was brought forward as the subject of the petition was not transportation.] The Committee received a petition from District Councillor Ashley Burrige objecting to the closure of Surrey County Council’s amenity sites in Bond Road, Warlingham and Chaldon Road, Caterham. The Chairman received and noted the petition then made a brief statement objecting to the wording of the petition, which gave the impression that these sites had been scheduled for closure. He assured the petitioners that there was no intention to close either of these sites until or unless a suitable new site could be found. He pointed out that these sites were too small and that the use of ladders was a Health and Safety consideration so there is a need to replace them, but reiterated that there is currently no closure proposal. He also said that this information was available on the Surrey website.

District Councillor Jeremy Pursehouse asked the Chairman for details of the relevant Surrey County Council policy document where this was set out and the Chairman agreed to put this in writing to him.

48/06 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS** [Item 4]

No formal questions were received prior to the meeting.

48/06 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS** [Item 5]

There were none.

49/06 **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 11 new requests for funding from the Members' Allocations budget as at Annex A of the report and **AGREED** as follows:

* Caterham Horticultural Society	£ 580
* Centenary Hall	£8,525
* Tandridge Young Parents Group	£1,000
* Bletchingley Football Club	£1,000
* Live & Direct	£3,000
* St Bartholomew's Organ Appeal	£2,000
* Master Park Pavilion	£1,000
* Surrey Family Links Training at Hurst Green School	£2,000
* Surrey PCT Samba Drumming Project	£1,550
* Lingsfield in Bloom	£ 950
* Oxted CAB refurbishment	£2,975

A bid for £7000 for Buses 4U was deferred to the next meeting pending further information.

50/06 **CHILDREN'S CENTRES IN TANDRIDGE** [Item 7]

This report sought to update the Committee on the establishment of Children's Centres in Tandridge. As part of a ten-year strategy, Choice for Parents, the Best Start for Children, the Government's objective is to see a Children's Centre for every community equating to 3,500 across the country by 2010. The second phase of these developments will see the creation of 2500 centres by 2008 with 46 centres established in Surrey. Four sites have been identified in Tandridge in Phase 2. Sue Turton, the Children's Centres Development Officer for East Surrey, gave a presentation outlining progress that has been made in Tandridge.

There was some discussion about how the sites were identified and what the criteria were for selecting these areas. The figures came directly from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and there was some concern that they didn't take local factors into account. The areas covered by the identified sites, for example, were not natural communities, eg Bletchingley/Nutfield and Merstham. The officer noted the comments and said that there was no way to influence the decisions already taken but that they were working on ways to ensure that provision was brought to the areas of greatest need, for example, by using mobile units. Despite these reservations, Members were enthusiastic about the scheme and wanted to be more closely involved.

The Committee :

- (i) WELCOMED the programme to develop Children's Centres across the county but had some concerns over the specific sites in Tandridge;
- (ii) CONSIDERED ways in which to support delivery of these services at a local level in the future and asked to be involved in consideration of Phase III.

51/06 **CATERHAM HEALTH CHECK** [Item 9]

The Local Committee had supported the Health Check with funding from its allocations and Chris Windridge, the chairman of the steering group, gave a presentation on progress to date. The project, branded as 'A Better Caterham,' has attracted a lot of press attention and is gathering a large pool of volunteers but more are needed. They had recently advertised for a part time co-ordinator to support the chairman as the project has grown considerably. They have identified some additional funding but may come back to the Committee at a future date for further help. A youth event was planned for Local Democracy Week in the Tandridge District Council Chamber where school children will role-play as Councillors and Town Planners to discuss local issues.

Members acknowledged the benefits of the health check exercise as it has the potential to re-energise the area with some really positive outcomes and looked forward to seeing what priorities were identified by the community. Mrs Sally Marks was keen to point out that this did not imply that the community was not thriving and said that, in her role as County Councillor for Caterham Valley, she was very supportive of the business community and was working hard to ensure that the site about to be vacated by Morrisons would be taken over as quickly as possible.

The Committee considered the recommendations and agreed that they could be encapsulated in a brief statement.

It was therefore RESOLVED that the Committee thank Chris Windridge for his comprehensive report, duly noted, and agree to support ongoing work.

52/06 **YOUTH SERVICE INITIATIVES IN TANDRIDGE** [Item 8]

The Youth Development Officer for Tandridge briefed the Committee on youth initiatives undertaken in Tandridge and progress against the targets set in the service business plan. In 2005, the Local Committee contributed £5,000 towards fitting out a Youth Information Bus for Tandridge. The new bus was brought along to the meeting so that the Local Committee and members of the public could see it during the break and gain an idea of its capabilities and usefulness.

Due to pressure of time, the Tandridge Youth Development Officer, Jane Wison, was asked to summarise the main challenges and successes since she last reported to Local Committee and she listed the refurbishment of Harry's Youth Club to make it DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliant; the youth forum and youth parliament and their residential training weekend as highlights, while staff sickness and vacancies were having a detrimental effect on morale.

The chairman asked if Members were being sufficiently supportive and she replied that she was grateful for their ongoing support and understanding particularly at a strategic level. He then asked if she needed practical support, for example, more taxi vouchers for young people and she said that all 46 had been used this year so, with the improvements to Harry's, vouchers for disabled young people would be welcome and she would consider submitting a bid to a future committee.

District Councillor Alan Jones asked how they could be kept informed of initiatives in their wards or divisions and the YDO agreed to look at re-introducing the District Plan for circulation quarterly.

The chairman thanked her and asked that the Committee's appreciation of her work be noted.

[NOTE: The committee adjourned for coffee at 11:55 am and reconvened at 12.10 pm]

54/06 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS** [Item 11]

There was a written question from Limpsfield Parish Council on the responsiveness of the Transportation Service to local complaints and the Local Transportation Manager responded, [appended at ANNEX 2.].

District Councillor Martin Fisher suggested that the system for reporting minor problems be made more user-friendly. The current system is aimed at individuals but perhaps parish clerks could be issued with a special log-in that would allow them to enter data in batches. The Chairman agreed that this was worth pursuing but, in accordance with Surrey County Council's policy, complex issues should be routed through a Committee member.

District Councillor Jeremy Pursehouse asked whether this was a result of over-cutting the staffing budget and Mr Nick Skellett pointed out that the transportation budget had not been cut and had in fact increased by 50% over 5 years.

55/06 **MEMBERS QUESTIONS** [Item 12]

There was one formal written question from Mr Peter Langham on speed management on the A22, carried forward from the last meeting on 23rd June 2006, to which the Local Transportation Manager responded, [appended at ANNEX 3]

Roger Archer-Reeves, the East Area Transportation Group Manager (EATGM), was confident that the road surface anti-skid value was a principal factor in accidents on the A22 but said that the effects of the changes that had been made would not be seen for 9 –12 months and offered to bring a report to Committee at that time. However, the chairman referred to a recent fatality and requested that a report on speed management be brought back to committee in six months time, regardless of the findings.

Mrs Marian Myland then asked why school signs could not be put up as this was causing problems for a local school in her division. The Local Transportation Manager explained the rationale behind the policy but agreed to revisit this request and respond to her in writing.

Mr Nick Skellett was concerned that parish clerks and members of the public could be directly reporting defects that had already been brought to the attention of members of the Committee thus duplicating effort and taking up officer time. He, therefore, asked that officers share information on defects reported by parish and district councillors with members of the committee so that they were aware and could prevent this from happening.

District Councillor Robin Harling **MOVED A MOTION:**
that the next meeting of the Local Committee should discuss Carillion's performance.

This was **SECONDED** by District Councillor Jeremy Pursehouse but was defeated in a vote by 2 to 4.

Mr Nick Skellett said that although it was not the role of this Committee to scrutinise the contract, he would report back at the next opportunity on the findings of the select committee.

Robin Harling then asked whether the Cycle Forum could be resurrected as a general principle and the Chairman asked the Local Transportation Service to report back to the next committee.

56/06 VERBAL UPDATE BY THE EAST AREA TRANSPORTATION GROUP MANAGER
[Item 13]

Roger Archer-Reeves, EATGM, gave a brief statement. He started by saying that Committee members should have received an email with contact details. He then described the new configuration of the East team in Leatherhead and matrix working. Derek Poole will continue to be the Tandridge Local Transportation Manager (LTM) but there will be a real team and a virtual team servicing Tandridge. The LTMs will have other responsibilities and will put their energies where there is most need. He also asked that staff be contacted by the generic email address to minimise points of contact. The website is live and contains updates on road works. There are now 20 gangs pothole filling, providing a better service than previously. There is some slippage on Integrated Transport Schemes and Local Transportation Plan. There will be a programming meeting with the chairman to look at the East Area Plan. He then listed the projects in the area that are currently under way. Decriminalised Parking Enforcement is now in place.

District Councillor Eric Morgan had not received the contact details and was also concerned that the report was too quick and that Members had no time to take it all in and he asked for future reports in writing. The Chairman explained the purpose of verbal reports but asked the EATGM to follow up his comments in writing for circulation to the Committee.

Marian Myland raised a concern about traffic diverted off at Hooley from the A23/M23 going through villages and putting pressure on the A25 which the EATMG duly noted.

[NOTE: Nick Skellett left at 1.00pm]

57/06 REVISION OF SPEED LIMITS IN WOLDINGHAM [Item 18]

[NOTE: This item was brought forward to accommodate Mrs Sally Marks who had to leave to attend another meeting.]

The Local Committee was asked to consider proposals for revised speed limits on roads within Woldingham, which had been assessed in accordance with the County Policy on Speed Limits.

The Committee:

- (i) AGREED the proposed revisions to speed limits in Woldingham as out in Annex 1;
- (ii) APPROVED advertisement of the proposed revisions and, if not objections are maintained, the Order be made
- (iii) AGREED that the consideration and resolving of objections is delegated to the Local Transportation manager in consultation with the Chairman of the Local Committee and the local County Councillor.

[NOTE: Mrs Sally Marks left at 1.05 pm]

58/06 HIGHWAY PROPOSALS ASSOCIATED WITH A PLANNING APPLICATION FOR A NEW SCHOOL IN TATSFIELD [Item 16]

[NOTE: This item was also brought forward to allow the attending officer to leave.]

Approval was sought by this report to progress the necessary processes to secure modifications to the highway occasioned by the proposed new school in Tatsfield.

The Committee AGREED that the necessary process, including Traffic Regulation Orders, be progressed to secure the modifications to the highway and reduction of the speed limit in the vicinity of the site set out in the planning application for the new school in Tatsfield.

59/06 SURREY SAFETY CAMERA PARTNERSHIP UPDATE AND PROGRESS [Item 14]

This report provided an update on the progress and future of the Surrey Safety Camera Partnership. This included an explanation of the role of the partners, the governance of the Partnership, and the principles and effectiveness of the use of safety camera enforcement in Surrey.

The Committee was not convinced of the benefits of installing GATSOs. Mobile cameras were accepted as being a more efficient way of monitoring speed. The report however did not give detail on mobile sites in Tandridge. The attending officer explained that the Partnership is not responsible for enforcement on sites which don't meet their criteria and this would fall under the remit of the Casualty Reduction Officer. The Chairman requested that the Local Transportation Manager write to the Casualty Reduction Officer on behalf of the Local Committee with regard to Annex C.

The Committee also noted that only a small proportion of accidents, around 5%, were attributable to speed and that the majority of accidents are due to other factors, such as road conditions, inattention of the driver, etc. and that speed cameras would have no effect on these.

The attending officer accepted this and said that speed cameras are only one tool and not the solution to the whole problem. However national studies have produced findings which demonstrate that cameras do reduce casualties and this was duly noted.

However, after some discussion, the Committee felt unable to agree that safety cameras continue to be highly effective at reducing speeding, collisions and casualties and asked for this recommendation to be deleted. This was largely because of insufficient evidence. Members cited instances of modern vehicles with advanced braking systems slowing down just before speed cameras and speeding away afterwards. There were also concerns about siting cameras as, in some of the worst accident spots, it is not safe for fixed cameras to be installed and serviced.

The Committee NOTED

- (i) the benefits of the creation of the Surrey Safety Camera Partnership
- (ii) that following 2006/7, local authorities will be provided with an enhanced grant for road safety as part of the LTP process, replacing the current system of "netting off". The County Council's Executive have approved that this be invested to ensure the continued operation and success of the Surrey Safety Camera Partnership.

[NOTE: District Councillors Eric Morgan and Martin Fisher left at 1.27 pm]

60/06 EAST GRINSTEAD STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT AREA ACTION PLAN CONSULTATION [Item 15]

This report sought to inform the Local Committee on the latest position on the proposed strategic development at East Grinstead and to ascertain Members' views.

District Councillor Alan Jones thanked the attending officer for his report and commented on the impact, particularly on Judges Corner and Westpark Road. The junction A2028/A264 needed to be moved south. However, the maps provided were inadequate in showing the detail. The officer agreed to check the maps against the traffic flow model with a view to filling any gaps.

District Councillor Alan Jones also requested that public transport bus services be safeguarded with funding from the developers while the development is being built and for a suitable period after it has been completed.

Marian Myland was concerned about lack of input by local Members and asked if it was possible to be invited to at least one or two meetings to make their points and to be kept informed. This was noted and the Chairman agreed to follow this up with the attending officer.

The Committee AGREED to:

- a) note the concerns raised
- b) ask the Area Transportation Director to respond to Mid Sussex District Council on behalf of the Local Committee as follows:
 - (i) expressing the concerns identified and the reasons for these concerns;
 - (ii) stating that, until further evidence is given on the impact of the proposed development in Surrey, including how such impacts will be addressed, and the need for the Relief Road, the Committee opposes the proposals as they currently stand.

[NOTE: Marian Myland left at 1.40 pm]

61/06 **TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ACT 2004 – STREET WORKS AND ROAD WORKS**
[Item 17]

This report sought to inform the Local Committee of the powers conferred by legislation on Surrey County Council to manage Street Works and Road Works and was for information only. An officer attended to respond to any questions from the Local Committee.

The Committee noted that a report was due to go to transport select committee in October.

[Meeting Ended: 1.51 pm]

Chairman