

MINUTES: of the meeting of the Tandridge Local Committee held at 10.15am on Friday 23rd March 2007 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

NOTE: The Chairman opened the meeting with an announcement that the tender for the bus routes 409 and 411 had now been approved and the new supplier would be Metrobus. [See Minutes of Meeting 26 January 2007 para 09/07]. Despite concerns raised in the local press, these routes were never under threat and the Passenger Transport Team had made every effort to ensure that, while routine, the re-tendering process had been transparent and well publicised.

PART ONE IN PUBLIC

14/07 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** [Item 1]

There were none but the Chairman announced that Mr Skellett would be late as he was coming from another meeting.

15/07 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 JANUARY 2007** [Item 2]

Accepted.

16/07 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** [Item 3]

District Councillor Jeremy Pursehouse declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 14 County Councillors' Allocations [Para 3.2]

17/07 **PETITIONS** [Item 4]

One petition was received from a member of the public to which the Local Transportation Manager responded [Attached as Annex A] but, as the petitioner did not attend, it was accepted without comment.

18/07 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS [Item 4]

No formal questions were received prior to the meeting and four members of the public asked informal questions. In respect of a question regarding lighting on the pedestrian crossing in Godstone, the East Area Transportation Group Manager announced that the work would be carried out on 1st April.

19/07 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS [Item 5]

There were no formal questions but District Councillor Robin Harling asked whether he could raise a point on the Highways Carillion Contract as it did not technically fit the remit of the Local Committee. The Chairman asked him to defer this pending the arrival of Mr Skellett who would be able to respond on behalf of Surrey County Council's Executive Committee.

20/07 VERBAL UPDATE FROM THE EAST AREA TRANSPORTATION GROUP MANAGER [Item 7]

The EAST AREA TRANSPORTATION GROUP MANAGER [EATGM] tabled a briefing note for Members [Attached as Annex B] along with a report to the Executive entitled Surrey Highways, which explained in detail the future of the Service including structural changes and budgets.

[NOTE: This report is available on the Surrey County Council website: [www.surrey.gov.uk/committee papers/executive meeting/26 March 07/surrey highways service.](http://www.surrey.gov.uk/committee%20papers/executive%20meeting/26%20March%2007/surrey%20highways%20service.)]

He opened by reporting on the outcome of the task group meeting, which was set up to look again at the rights of way issues concerning Paynesfield Road in Tatsfield. [26 January 2007 Item 8 Petitions]. There were no new findings that would permit a barrier to be legally installed and the response to petitioners was appended to his briefing note [Annex B].

He was able to confirm that the Passenger Transport contract for bus routes 409 and 411 had been agreed with Metrobus starting on 2 June 2007 at an increase in cost to Surrey County Council of £25,000 per annum. Southdown PSV, which holds the current contract, will continue to supply an uninterrupted service until 1 June 2007.

He then updated Members on the progress of the proposed Judges Corner roundabout recommended to the Executive Committee (due to meet on Monday 26 March at 1.30 pm). Mr Ken Rimington said he would be delighted if it was finally agreed and Mrs Sally Marks, who is a Member of the Executive, offered to advise him of the outcome. If agreed, the scheme will attract £500,000 in this financial year and a further £500,000 in the next financial year from the central Local Transport Plan budget with a view to completing the scheme within two years.

He picked out some points from the report to the Executive, including comparative figures for per capita funding from Government, which demonstrate how disadvantaged Surrey is in national terms and how this has contributed to a backlog of necessary repairs. He also outlined how Surrey Highways plans to address the backlog, for example, by increasing customer care staff and community gangs to improve communication and deal with complaints.

21/07 SCC SAFE & SMARTER TRAVEL TEAM [Item 8]

This report sought to provide an update on the roles and responsibilities of the newly formed Surrey County Council Safe and Smarter Travel Team.

The team has responsibility for Safe Routes to School and school travel plans as well as influencing the behaviour of commuters with a view to reducing congestion on the roads, for example, by encouraging local people to car share.

There was some confusion as to whether the restricted parking outside schools was enforceable by the Police as the legislation seemed to suggest that it was not. However, the East Area Transportation Group Manager said that, technically, anyone parking in the zigzagged restricted area outside schools was creating an obstruction and that any obstruction did, in fact, constitute an enforceable offence. He stressed the importance of reporting contraventions wherever possible to bring this to the attention the Police. As Members and officers meet regularly with the Police in a number of different forums: Police Authority meetings, the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership, Community Incident Action Group and the Accident Working Group, it was resolved that every opportunity should be taken to raise this as an issue.

The Chairman asked whether the targets for signing schools up to travel plans was sufficiently challenging at 6 per year and was told that the targets had been set by the Government and the attending officer agreed to take these comments back to the team with a view to reviewing the numbers of schools they work with locally.

Mrs Sally Marks was also concerned about the under-use of school buses and queried whether any work had been done to encourage schools to include these in their travel plan options.

[NOTE: Mr N Skellett arrives at 11.07 am]

After some discussion, Members reviewed the recommendations and asked for a further two to be added as follows.

The Committee AGREED:

- (i) to note the roles and responsibilities of the newly formed Safe and Smarter Travel Team,
- (ii) to work more closely with the Police to ensure enforcement of restricted parking outside schools, and
- (iii) that wider use of school buses should be included in travel plans.

[NOTE: Following Mr Skellett's arrival, District Councillor Robin Harling was given the opportunity to ask his question out of sequence [Para 19/07 Item 5] on the shortcomings of the Carillion contract. Mr Skellett explained that, under the terms of the contract, Carillion had met its commitments. The contract allowed for an adjustment if work was not carried out to standard and SCC had received a reduction of £1m to cover this. Lessons had been learned from the process and the working arrangements between SCC and Carillion had been improved as a result. Carillion nationally has a good reputation and, while the larger schemes have been working well, the problems arose from the detail of an extremely complex contract. Mr Skellett pointed out that the shortcomings had come to light because of SCC's scrutiny; that all issues arising had been fully discussed with the contractor and that a mutually acceptable way forward had been agreed. Mr Harling asked whether this could be put in writing in the public domain so that this was clear to everyone. Mr Skellett replied that this information was already in the public domain but that he would discuss with the SCC Communications team how Mr Harling's suggestion could best be implemented.]

22/07 A22 GODSTONE ROAD, CATERHAM CROSSING AT BOAT 115 [Item 9]

This report sought to promote a legal Order to extinguish any legal right for pedestrians to cross the A22 opposite BOAT (Byway Open to All Traffic) 115.

Members concluded that it was unsafe for pedestrians to cross the A22 and in response to a public question, the East Area Transportation Group Manager said that other crossing points could be reviewed and considered for closure.

In response to a query on disabled access, the Committee was assured that the footbridge over the A22 was wheelchair accessible.

The Committee AGREED that:

- (i) a traffic regulation order be advertised and made to extinguish any legal right that pedestrians may have to cross the A22 opposite BOAT 115,
- (ii) the Local Transportation Manger be authorised to resolve or determine any objections to the proposed Order in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Local Committee.

23/07 **A22 CATERHAM BY-PASS SPEED MANAGEMENT** [Item 10]

This report sought to give an update on speed management options along the A22 Caterham By-pass (southbound).

There was some debate as to why this section of the A22 was so prone to accidents when it was comparatively wide, straight and clear and Members came to the conclusion that contributing factors included the camber of the road and the fact that this was the first open stretch for traffic coming out of London and therefore, psychologically, invited an increase in speed.

Given the continued level of accidents, questions were asked about the efficiency of the crash barrier and the resulting need to consider further options. Members were satisfied that, while accidents still occurred, the danger of cars crossing the carriageway following a collision had now been removed which was of enormous benefit but that continuing accidents had to be addressed.

In considering the options, the East Area Transportation Group Manager, said that the cost incurred by a fatality was in the region of £1m and made the point that, if one life had been saved, the improvements would have paid for themselves, quite apart from the cost in human terms.

There followed a debate as to whether speed was in fact the main contributing factor and, if so, whether the options set out were the most effective solutions.

However, the Committee AGREED to:

- (i) the installation of Vehicle Activated Signs on A22 Caterham By-pass.
- (ii) support the Average Speed Camera System proposal in principle.

[NOTE: District Councillor Jeremy Pursehouse registered his vote against recommendation (ii).]

24/07 **PROVISION OF HIGHWAY SIGNS** [Item 11]

Having failed to agree the recommendations in the previous report to the last Committee meeting on 26 January 2007 [Agenda Item 12 - Village Gateway signs on Public Highways in Tandridge], Members asked for a further report to be brought. This report sought to give an update on the provision of all highway signs.

The Local Transportation Manager agreed to meet with a representative from Caterham Hill Parish Council to discuss any further issues in relation to gateways outside of the meeting.

The Committee **AGREED** to support the current policy for the provision of all highway signs in Tandridge.

[NOTE: The committee adjourned at 11:45 am and reconvened at 12.00 noon
District Councillors Richard Allen and Eric Morgan left during the break.]

25/07 PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS [Item 12]

There were none.

26/07 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS [Item 13]

There were none.

27/07 COUNTY COUNCILLORS LOCAL ALLOCATIONS FOR 2006/07 [Item 14]

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.

[NOTE: District Councillor Jeremy Pursehouse, who had declared an interest in the Warlingham Village Hall bid as Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, left the meeting until that item had been discussed. On his return he further declared that his son was a member of the Warlingham Sports Club, which had also applied for funding, and therefore elected not to take part in the discussion of this item.]

Members considered 11 new requests for funding from the Members' Allocations budget as at Annex A of the report and one which had been deferred from the meeting on 26 January and **AGREED** as follows:

- East Surrey Museum £1860 (brought forward from the meeting on 26 January.)

[NOTE: The informal bid from East Surrey Museum for £4,000 in support of the Heritage Lottery Fund agreed in principle at the meeting on 26 January [Item 6] was ratified, as the formal bid had now been received, and the Chairman agreed to put this in writing to accompany the application.]

• Warlingham Sports Club	£6,000
• Dormansland Parish Council	£2,000
• Crowhurst Village Hall MC	£585
• Lingfield Wildlife Area	£1,570
• Burstow PC	£2,000
• Bletchingley	£800
• Blindley Heath YC	£1,350
• East Surrey Museum	£1,860
• Caterham Lunch Club	£2,000
• Surrey Air Ambulance	£6,150

An application from Warlingham Village Hall Management Committee for £3,000 was withdrawn and Nutfield Village Hall £6,833 was deferred to a future committee meeting. This resolved the potential over-commitment and left £9,253 in budget which Members agreed to

donate to the local Taxi Voucher scheme, giving one third to the Youth Service and two thirds to vulnerable adults.

This bid was then sponsored by Mr David Hodge, supported by Mrs Myland and Mr Rimington who confirmed the need to provide a service to young people in the rural south of Tandridge, and it was unanimously approved.

The newly approved applications represented a figure of £29,708 and fully committed the Members' delegated allocation for 2006/07.

28/07 **LIBRARY SERVICE IN TANDRIDGE** [Item 15]

This report commented on recent progress and improvement in Surrey County Council libraries in Tandridge as well as current issues and future developments for the Library Service and their impact.

The Area Manager (Libraries) East asked Members to note that Para. 2.2.1.1 was no longer accurate. While it stated that Caterham-on-the-Hill Parish Council would be holding its meetings in the local library, this was not the case. Some Health & Safety issues had arisen which prevented this from going ahead and the Parish Council had moved its meetings to Hillcroft School. However, there was now an agreed process governing the use of libraries by community groups.

The relative numbers of visitors between Caterham Hill Library and Oxted was also called into question and she explained that, while Caterham Hill Library was extremely popular, the automatic people counter had been over-recording. This was now being addressed.

Warlingham Library was described as being 'somewhat apart from the village centre' and this was challenged. The Area Manager explained that what she had meant to imply was that it was not highly visible as it looked like a residential property and the sign was hidden behind a hedge. As the property belonged to Tandridge District Council, District members offered to help with getting the hedge cut back.

She also confirmed that the improvements to Oxted Library would be advertised at least 6 weeks prior to the intended temporary closure.

Mrs Myland asked whether leaflets were, or could be, routinely carried on the mobile library and the Area Manager said she thought it was a good idea, if space allowed, and would be happy to discuss this outside of Committee to see what might be done.

After some discussion, the Committee asked the Area Manager (Libraries) East Surrey to reflect back to library staff their appreciation for the good work that they do on behalf of the County Council.

The Committee AGREED to:

- (i) note the current state of provision of static and mobile libraries in Tandridge and the range of services provided in them
- (ii) note the opportunities for the service to develop in Tandridge to meet the needs of its residents in future, and continue to promote the interests of libraries in plans for joint development of local services.

29/07 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC [Item 16]

Under Section 110A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public were 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.

[NOTE: District Councillor Martin Fisher left at 1.10 pm]

PART TWO IN PRIVATE**30/07 FUTURE STRATEGY FOR ADULT AND COMMUNITY LEARNING [Item 17]**

This report provided confidential information on the future delivery of adult and community learning in South East Surrey from 1 August 2007.

The Committee **AGREED** to note this additional information and to advise officers of any local issues or concerns that the Learning and Skills Council should take into account in planning adult and community learning in Tandridge.

[Meeting Ended: 1.25 pm]

Chairman