

MINUTES: of the meeting of the Tandridge Local Committee held at 10.15am on Friday 7th March 2008 at the Council Offices, Oxted

County Council Members

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

District Council Members

- * Cllr Richard Allen
- * Cllr Martin Fisher
- Cllr Alan Jones
- * Cllr Eric Morgan
- Cllr Brian Perkins
- * Cllr Jeremy Pursehouse

* = Present

01/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

Apologies were received from District Councillor Alan Jones, District Councillor Ken Harwood substituting, and District Councillor Brian Perkins, District Councillor Gordon Keymer substituting.

02/08 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2008 [Item 2]

Accepted.

03/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

There were none.

04/08 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS [Item 4]

There were none.

05/08 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS [Item 5]

There were none.

06/08 COUNTY COUNCILLORS LOCAL ALLOCATIONS FOR 2006/07 [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 17 new requests for funding from the Members' Allocations budget as at Annex A of the report and **AGREED** as follows:

East Surrey Museum	£4000
Thursday Lunch Club	£2000
Showtimers	£1000
Tatsfield in Bloom	£700
Buggy Walks	£800
Haywood Society	£1000
Tatsfield Scouts	£4,275
Tatsfield Women's Institute	£620
Soper Appeal	£1000
Whyteleafe Primary School	£1700
Bletchingley in Bloom	£950
Bletchingley Village Players	£900
Nutfield Memorial Hall	£1600
Nutfield Parish Council	£1250
Local Partnerships Team	£1260
Taxi Vouchers	£9837

Members made a general point that bids should not be accepted from parish councils which would more appropriately be met from the local precept and the bid from Dormansland Parish Council for a noticeboard was subsequently withdrawn.

A similar bid from Nutfield Parish Council was accepted because of its unique circumstances in that, earlier in the year, the Community Hall had been the subject of an arson attack and the subsequent drain on the Nutfield resources was both unexpected and significant but this was considered to be an exception.

The £1500 released by the rejection of the Dormansland Parish Council bid was added to the bid for Taxi Vouchers increasing the total from £8337 to £9837.

Mr Ken Rimington, who had sponsored the Dormansland bid, asked that it be recorded that he disagreed strongly with these decisions.

Mr Ken Harwood and Mr Ken Rimington asked for detailed information on how the Taxi Vouchers were distributed across the district and were directed to take up specific issues with officers outside of Committee. District Councillor Harwood then suggested it would be more equitable if applicants individually received fewer vouchers so that they could be spread across more people. The Chairman asked the Area Director to research this further and report back to Members at their next meeting. It was noted that the District Council also provides funding towards the Taxi Voucher Scheme, which is a partnership initiative.

Mr Nick Skellett requested that the Committee's Local Protocol be brought to the next meeting so that the issue of pooled resources could be reviewed.

He also asked for a review of how the money was allocated and for a report on self-reliance initiatives in Tandridge, including detail on pockets of high need and how they are mapped.

The whole of the budget for 2007/08, £101,000, was therefore fully committed and late bids held over for consideration at the next formal meeting in June 2008. Members once more commented on the wide range of beneficiaries and the value to the community of the allocations budget.

07/08 ANNUAL EDUCATION REPORT 2007/08 [Item 7]

This report was introduced by the Local Education Officer, who informed Members of the level of attainment, and the circumstances affecting this, in Tandridge schools. She promised to circulate a summary of good news stories provided by Heads of schools to Members following the Easter break.

She explained the concept of Contextual Added Value and what it means for local schools.

The report concluded that schools are providing a good education for pupils and parents. Attainment is generally good with many schools demonstrating outstanding practice, as reflected in their Ofsted reports.

Members were enthusiastic about the progress that had been made in de Stafford school under its new headteacher and the Chairman asked the Area Director to draft a letter of commendation to him on behalf of the Local Committee.

The Admissions team was also represented, offering helpful information on the implications of Tandridge's unique geographical position in relation to adjacent authorities and agreeing to research and respond outside of Committee to questions about the perceived lack of secondary provision in the south of the district and future plans to address it. The officer also agreed to research the journey to de Stafford for Godstone children which makes a stop en route resulting in an early start and to find out whether it would be possible to provide a separate bus for them.

Councillor Pursehouse asked for an update on progress towards the new Tatsfield Primary School and Mr David Hodge was able to assure him that the legal work had now been done on the land transfer and that it should proceed in a week to 10 days.

The Committee NOTED the content of the report.

08/08 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS [Item 8]

There was one formal and two informal questions from members of the general public. The formal question [attached at Annex B] commented on Harts Lane in South Godstone and the unsuitability for the heavy vehicles which use it and the Chairman requested that the Local Highways Manager bring a full report to the next Tandridge Local Committee meeting in June 2008. The local residents asking informal questions were asked to lodge them in writing with officers should they require a formal response from Highways although, as they were on the subject of the petition [Item 8b], they were addressed under that item.

09/08 PETITIONS [Item 8b]

At the Chairman's discretion, the Committee agreed, exceptionally, to accept a 425-signature petition on the morning of the Committee [text attached as Annex B] from Mrs Angela Muscio on the subject of the increased level of heavy vehicles accessing the Chalkpit Lane Quarry and the impact on the local community, particularly at peak times when young children are travelling to and from school. The petition called for a one-way system to be introduced. Due to the large turnout of concerned local residents, he further agreed to allow some discussion during the meeting on the understanding that no immediate response could be provided as officers had not had time to absorb the content or investigate in detail the issues raised.

District Councillor Martin Fisher spoke strongly in favour of the petition proposal and while he appreciated the inconvenience of a one-way system, he felt that the safety of local school children took priority.

District Councillor Gordon Keymer also spoke in support while reassuring those present that Peter Ainsworth, MP, was meeting with the Environment Agency and with the County and District Councils to ensure that every possible action has been taken.

Mr Nick Skellett acknowledged that the situation was unacceptable and reminded Members that he has been in close contact with concerned parties for some time. He noted with pleasure that the operator was taking an active interest in investing in a solution and lent his support to the proposed new haul route. He expressed some misgivings that a temporary one way system, if it relieved the immediate problem, would negate the necessity for the operator to invest in a more robust longer term solution which would allow the existing two way route to remain open, but was of the opinion that no option, including guard rails and crossings, that would relieve the current situation should be ruled out without being fully investigated.

District Councillor Jeremy Pursehouse supported the proposal but wanted to explore the implications for Warlingham, Chelsham and Farleigh which he felt would also be affected by any changes to the route in terms of increased numbers of lorries through the north of the district. He also felt that realistically, the haul route might be the best option for dealing with speed. He felt that closing the two way system would need proper consultation and questioned whether introducing a one-way system might relieve the operator of any obligation to build the haul road.

Mrs Marks acknowledged that road safety was the first priority but agreed that investment by the Quarry owner would provide the best solution in the longer term and was keen to avoid any short term solutions that might undermine progress.

Mr David Hodge proposed that a way forward would be for the committee to ask highways officers to undertake a technical appraisal of all issues including a one way system and produce a report for a special meeting of the Committee within 8 weeks which could be convened by the Chairman and that prior to that special meeting being held, a formal site visit be undertaken so that all Members were fully acquainted with the position on the ground before entering a debate to determine a way forward.

There were no objections and the Chairman agreed that the subject was sufficiently pressing to convene an extraordinary meeting and requested that the Local Highways Manager bring a full report to that meeting. He also recommended a delay of no more than 8 weeks in taking this forward.

[NOTE: Mrs Myland left at 12.30 pm]

10/08 **MEMBERS QUESTIONS** [Item 9]

There were 2 formal questions from Mrs Sally Marks on residents parking in Caterham and from District Councillor Martin Fisher on Chalkpit Lane in Oxted [attached as Annex C]. Mrs Marks also asked an informal question on Well Farm Heights which was addressed in the formal report [Item 11].

11/08 **VERBAL UPDATE BY THE EAST AREA TRANSPORTATION GROUP MANAGER** [Item 10]

This item was withdrawn.

12/08 **GODSTONE ROAD, WHYTELEAFE A22 PELICAN CROSSING TRAFFIC ORDERS**
[Item 11]

This report sought approval for the advertising and subsequent introduction of the Traffic Orders necessary to facilitate the provision of a new signal controlled pedestrian crossing in Godstone Road to improve the safety of all residents crossing Godstone Road and to improve accessibility to Whyteleafe South railway station.

Further to Mrs Marks question [Item 9] which concerned another potential right turn on the same stretch of road, there was some discussion about whether it would be cost-effective and sensible to include it in the proposed plans. It was therefore RESOLVED to add it as a further recommendation to this report [(iv)].

The Local Committee Tandridge AGREED to:

- (i) the advertising of the Traffic Order to relocate the start of the 30 mph speed limit as shown on Annex A;
- (ii) the advertising of the Traffic Order banning right turns from the Well Farm Heights access;
- (iii) the introduction of the above traffic orders subject to their being no substantive objections to their introduction.
- (iv) the advertising and introduction of a Traffic Order banning right turns from from the Bourne House office complex access subject to their being no substantive objections to its introduction .

13/08 **SPEED MANAGEMENT IN TANDRIDGE** [Item 12]

This report sought to update the Committee on past and present traffic speed management in Tandridge and to provide an opportunity to consider priorities for future speed management in the district.

The report recommended that the Local Committee agree with the prioritisation for review of speed limit requests and continue to support the current prioritisation of targeted routes so that the allocation of funding received through the LTP budget and Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) for the district could be utilised appropriately.

[NOTE: Mr Ken Rimington left at 1.10 pm.]

The Local Committee for Tandridge AGREED to:

- (i) note the contents of the report and commented on the priority of the various speed management initiatives in Tandridge.
- (ii) the prioritisations system proposed in Annex A for reviewing speed limits of roads in Tandridge
- (iii) continue to support the speed management initiative to target specific routes based on the prioritisation given in Annex B.
- (iv) Local County Councillors being consulted on any significant measures proposed for targeted routes in their division.

[Meeting Ended: 1.12 pm]

Chairman