

MINUTES: of the meeting of the Tandridge Local Committee held at 10.15am on Friday 5th September 2008 at the Oxted Community Hall, Church Lane, Oxted

County Council Members

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

District Council Members

- * Cllr Lisa Bangs
- * Cllr Michael Cooper
- Cllr Tony Elias
- * Cllr Martin Fisher
- * Cllr Eric Morgan
- * Cllr Brain Perkins

* = Present

36/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

Apologies were received from District Councillor Tony Elias. District Councillor Gordon Keymer substituted.

37/08 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 JUNE 2008 [Item 2]

Accepted.

38/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

There were none.

39/08 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS [Item 4]

Although no formal questions were received by the deadline for this meeting, the Chairman accepted four informal questions from the floor before moving on to the next report, which he felt would cover most of the points raised. A local resident asked for verification that lorry drivers had been issued written instructions to use Barrow Green Road as they were still exiting by Church Lane. The Head of Downsway School was concerned about the safety of children on their way to school, and a resident of Chalkpit Lane wanted to know whether there was a requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment and whether it could be made available to the public. He also asked about revenue raised by the Government from the increased activity at the site. Limpsfield Parish Council wanted to know whether the quarry owner would meet the cost of improvements to Chalkpit Lane. Formal responses were requested and the full text of these questions was given to the Local Partnerships team to follow up after the meeting.

As the theme of the questions was solely concerned with the report under discussion at Item 7, the Chairman then moved on.

40/08 **PETITIONS** [Item 5]

There were none.

41/08 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS** [Item 6]

There were none.

42/08 **HIGHWAY CONSIDERATIONS FOR OXTED CHALK QUARRY TRAFFIC** [Item 7]

Following the last meeting of the Local Committee on 20 June 2008 when funding was agreed to commission an independent report on the movement of heavy goods vehicles in Tandridge [Item 13], with particular emphasis on the introduction of a one-way system in Chalkpit Lane, a 64-page report was presented to Committee as an annex [Annex 1] to a covering officers' report, which distilled the main points and presented recommendations for decision.

Introducing the report, the Chairman asked for two amendments to the recommendations to be considered. Firstly he said that funding should not be the only consideration and asked that the words 'and other priorities being considered' should be added to the preamble and that the final bullet point should remove the reference to 'Long term' and change the wording to 'Monitor the situation.' This amendment was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr Nick Skellett and approved by Committee.

District Councillor Gordon Keymer subsequently asked that a further proposal be put on the table but, as this constituted a new motion not previously communicated to the Committee clerk, rather than an amendment, it did not meet the requirements of Surrey County Council's constitution and was ruled out of order by the Chairman.

District Councillors Martin Fisher and Gordon Keymer both expressed concern that the commissioned report had not consulted with local residents, the Police or other agencies on safety issues when considering the various options and suggested that decisions be deferred until this could be undertaken. Mr Nick Skellett reminded the Committee that this was a technical report, not a consultation document, and that the one-way system had proved to be unacceptable.

The Chairman confirmed that there would be opportunities for consultation on the detail if and when the recommendations had been approved. District Councillor Martin Fisher then went on to list a number of concerns which he felt were not adequately addressed by the report including: the environmental impact, comparing the lengths of journeys by varying routes; the intermittent peak frequencies of journeys and how these statistics were presented; the inability of Surrey County Council to ensure that the voluntary arrangements currently in place would continue until improvements were implemented and the vulnerability of school children en route to school.

The Committee was mindful of the safety issues, the Police were monitoring the situation and prosecuting any infringements and the Chairman agreed to arrange for a meeting with the Head of Surrey Highways, the Police and the quarry owner to investigate whether the through-traffic in Oxted could be further restricted, particularly at peak school times.

Mr Nick Skellett reflected back to the committee that, while his sympathies were with the residents of Oxted most severely affected by the traffic, the options to alleviate the situation on Chalkpit Lane were likely to impact on the wider community and it was clear that the Committee had to consider the needs of the majority.

He went on to say that he had contacted the former Director of the Environment Agency, Baroness Young, to try to make a case for reducing the daily rate of extraction but had been refused on the grounds that this could not be varied until the waste contract was due for renewal. He has since arranged to meet the new Director to look at this again and to impress upon him the difficulties created by the Environment Agency approving applications without consulting with the local authorities and to raise awareness of the impact of their decisions at a local level. He said he would be recommending a review of the Framework for Planning Approvals to tighten this up and asked for the Committee's support to pursue interim private discussions to try to reduce unlimited access to the quarry on given dates. He concluded that the one-way system was not acceptable but that no other measures could be put in place until funding and other priorities could be taken into consideration.

The recommendations were then put to the vote with 9 in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention.

RESOLVED that the Local Committee for Tandridge agree that the following measures be progressed subject to funds being available and other priorities being considered in 2009/10 and future years:

- Widen existing quarry access point on Chalkpit Lane.
- Traffic calming on residential section of Chalkpit Lane between the quarry and Gordons Way
- Signal control on Chalkpit Lane at the railway bridge.
- Improve western section of Barrow Green Road to provide designated 2-way route for HGVs to A25
- Widen Chalkpit Lane south of the quarry.
- Monitor the situation and consider further measures.

Reasons for decisions: The decisions were made to resolve the debate on the relative value of introducing a one-way system on Chalkpit Lane and to permit specified options to be explored as and when funding becomes available. The amendments were introduced to broaden the scope of the recommendations.

43/08 **USE OF £103,000 FOR ROADS IN TANDRIDGE AND ALLOCATION OF ADDITIONAL £5 MILLION FOR HIGHWAYS** [Item 8]

[NOTE: The Chairman allowed time for the public gallery to clear before proceeding with this item. District Councillor Martin Fisher left the room at 11:15 and returned at 11:29]

This report requested that the Local Committee agree the use of £103,000 revenue monies identified in the 20 June 2008 Local Committee report on the East Area Highways Maintenance Delivery Plan. The report also gave details of the allocations for Tandridge from an additional £5 million for Surrey Highways.

After some debate on local concerns, such as hedge and grass-cutting, and the relatively high cost of advertising road traffic orders and possible solutions such as advertising on the internet rather in the local press, the Chairman agreed to follow up with officers the possibility of reinstating divisional reviews in small task groups to look at local priorities. Any such task groups would include District members. District Councillor Michael Cooper welcomed the additional funding and asked if drainage could be added to the list of priorities. The Chairman reported that a Countywide Flooding Task Group had consulted with local areas 692 schemes

had been approved. He asked for members of the Committee to e-mail him details of local areas of concern and agreed to respond to them with further information.

The recommendations were then put to the vote and it was unanimously

RESOLVED that the Local Committee agree to:

- (i) approve the use of the £103,000 highways revenue funding for carriageway patching in Tandridge.
- (ii) endorse the extra funding and the agreed allocations outlined in the report

The reason for these decisions was to ensure that additional funding for highways in Tandridge could be appropriately spent in the current financial year.

[Meeting Ended: 11:44 pm]

Chairman