

MINUTES: of the meeting of the Tandridge Local Committee held at 10.15am on Friday 5th December at Tandridge District Council Offices, 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 Brian Perkins

* = Present

56/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

Apologies were received from Mr Ken Rimington and District Councillor Tony Elias. District Councillor Colin Walker substituted. District Councillor Martin Fisher gave notice of his delayed arrival.

57/08 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 OCTOBER 2008 [Item 2]

Accepted.

58/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

There were none.

59/08 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS [Item 4]

There were none.

60/08 PETITIONS [Item 5]

There were none.

61/08 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS [Item 6]

There were none.

62/08 **COUNTY COUNCILLORS ALLOCATIONS FOR 2008/09** [Item 7]

The Tandridge Local Committee considered new requests for funding from the Members' Allocations budget as set out in Annex A of the report and

RESOLVED to approve the following:

Lingfield Wildlife Area	£3,500.00
Disability Challengers Oxted Summer Playscheme	£5,000.00
Woldingham Garden Village Memorial Hall Heating	£5,000.00
Caterham Arts Festival	£1,000.00
Oxted Community Hall	£4,000.00
Thursday Lunch Club	£2,000.00
Outwood Cricket Club	£1,500.00

It was noted that Outwood Cricket Club bid addressed the Healthy Living agenda. A further bid for Marden Lodge Play Equipment for £2,500.00 was agreed in principle pending further information.

Reason for Decision

All projects under consideration have been sponsored by, and have the support of, the appropriate Local Member. As funding for Tandridge Local Committee is pooled, Members are requested to consider them as a group and to decide on whether or not to approve them.

63/08 **MEETING THE CARE NEEDS OF PEOPLE IN TANDRIDGE** [Item 8]

The report was introduced by the Director of Health and Social Care with contributions on partnership initiatives in the local area from the Primary Care Trust (PCT) and the District Council Housing department demonstrating a wide range of services provided to local people from Walking for Health to Celebrating Age – an annual event covering the East of Surrey. Mrs Sally Marks asked if the event, previously held in Reigate, could be held in Tandridge in the coming year and some venues were suggested.

[Note: District Councillor Martin Fisher arrived at 10.35 am.]

Items of particular note were the introduction of the self-assessment form which is detailed and complex. Members were reassured that there was ample support available to anyone wishing to self-refer in this way.

The Director also briefed Members on Self Directed Support which is a new government initiative in the process of being rolled out across Surrey which will allow clients to make their own decisions on how they would like their care to be delivered within budgetary limits. This differs from Direct Payments in that it is more flexible and the accounting process is less rigidly controlled. The disadvantage of the Direct Payment system was that it tied up unsustainable levels of social care staff time in administration. The new system will be more widely available and easier to access. It was recently launched in Reigate for commencement in January 2009 and is expected to become available to Tandridge clients in spring 2009. Members were directed to the 'In Control' website for further information.

The manager of the Dormers unit in Caterham and a senior Housing Officer from Tandridge District Council's Housing updated Members on the Dementia Unit; Telecare; the 'Smart House' and the Care and Repair service.

Extra Care Housing is a new development currently at the planning stage where finding a suitable location is creating delays. The Chairman requested that a summary of the location requirements be circulated to Members with a view to checking for possible locations in their divisions and wards.

He also suggested that a trip to Caterham Dene would put matters into perspective for Members and it was agreed that a future informal meeting would be held in Caterham incorporating a guided tour later in the year.

Members welcomed all the excellent work that was being undertaking to support independent living in the area but concern was expressed about the impending closure of the Marie Curie hospice. Some background information was supplied by an attending member of the local Press. The Chairman pointed out that the Local Committee has no authority over voluntary organisations but proposed to write on behalf of the Committee to the Chief Executive of the PCT and to Marie Curie expressing concern at the closure and requesting information about alternative provision.

RESOLVED that the Local Committee (Tandridge) agreed to:

- (i) note the content of the report and its annexes and offer continuing support to local services and their delivery.

Reason for Decision

To fulfil a service requirement to update Members on the recent changes in service delivery and to describe, for information, how partners are working together to meet local priorities.

[NOTE: The meeting adjourned for refreshments at 11.45 am and reconvened at 12.00. Mr Nick Skellett left during this time.]

64/08 **PETITIONS** [Item 9]

There were none.

65/08 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS** [Item 10]

There were none.

66/08 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS** [Item 11]

There were two formal questions from members of the Committee. One from Mr Peter Langham on Buxton Lane and one from District Councillor Martin Fisher on Chalkpit Lane to which the Local Highways Manager provided written responses attached at Annex A.

67/08 **CATERHAM VALLEY SPECIAL HIGHWAY DRAINAGE CLEANSING** [Item 12]

Highways recently undertook a new approach to drainage cleansing in Caterham, which is difficult to do it properly because of obstructions such as parked cars limiting access to drains.

With the support of the local Parish Council, residents were asked to co-operate by removing their vehicles for a limited period in order for cleansing and an investigation into the underlying problems to be carried out.

This report sought to update Members on the process and the outcomes.

The Local Highways Manager noted his thanks to the local Supermarket for opening its car park to local residents for the duration.

The local Members noted their delight that the scheme had gone ahead and, while recognising that it was costly and time-consuming, considered that it was also essential to the maintenance of local roads. The work had been carried out efficiently and well by the contractors.

The Chairman gave credit to Mrs Sally Marks, who had been pushing for this for some time, and regretted that, while this has proved successful as a pilot, there were insufficient resources to repeat it in other areas in the short term.

RESOLVED that the Local Committee for Tandridge agree that:

(i) similar highway drainage be considered in Tandridge in future years.

Reason for Decision

Although the cost of this maintenance initiative was high in comparison to the average cost of cleansing gullies on highways in Surrey, the works could not have been achieved without the commitment of resources and co-operation of the local people. Initiatives of this type could be useful in other locations where normal routine cleansing is compromised by access difficulties and parking issues.

68/08 **HIGHWAYS SCHEMES IN TANDRIDGE** [Item 13]

This item was for information only. However the following points were noted.

The Chairman commented that the Select Committee had recently carried out an exercise comparing Puffin crossings to Refuge Islands and had found the islands to be considerably cheaper and recommended that Highways should bear this in mind when recommending options. Members commented that safety issues had to be the prime consideration.

Para 36: Following divisional meetings with the Parking Strategy Implementation Team, signs and road markings were going ahead. Posts were in position and lining started that day [5 December 2008] with a view to completion by the end of the month, weather permitting.

With regard to new sites, the Local Highways Manager (LHM) intended to share the list with County Members for confirmation at local divisional meetings which he would attend, by end of February 2009.

Mrs Marian Myland asked that Nutfield Marsh be prioritised following two further incidents after dark in the past week.

Para 37: Mrs Sally Marks commented on the unacceptable delay to the Pelican Crossing at Well Farm Heights being caused by utility works. The LHM agreed to email colleagues to discover whether the works were now out of time and, if so, to implement the charging procedure within 7 days, copied to Mrs Marks for information.

Para 38: Timescales for patching schemes run from 15 December and continue into January 2009. The LHM assured the Chairman that he had asked for and received a commitment from the contractor to meet the deadlines.

Para 39: Mrs Myland reported the urgent need for paving and the LHM said he would aim to fit it into next year's programme.

Para 40: District Councillor Eric Morgan raised an issue around flooding at a property on Snatts Hill. His query was about response times and responsibility. The LHM clarified that flooding was a Highway Authority issue if it affected the highway but property was the concern of the District Authority. However, Highways would work in partnership with the District should such an instance recur in future and agreed to share telephone numbers between the District's Commercial Services Department and Highways staff.

Para 41: The LHM agreed to follow up a request from Mrs Myland about the use of a flail in Coopers Hill Road where debris left in the road in an unlit area was hazardous.

RESOLVED that the Local Committee (Tandridge) note the report for information.

[Meeting Ended: 12.40 pm]

Chairman