

DRAFT MINUTES to be agreed on 5 March 2010

MINUTES: of the meeting of the Tandridge Local Committee held at 10.15am on Friday 4th December 2009 at Tandridge District Council Offices, Oxted.

County Council Members

- * Mr N W Skellett - Chairman
- * Mrs Sally Ann B Marks - Vice-chairman
- * Mr Tony Elias
- * Mr David Hodge
- * Mr John Orrick
- Mr Michael Sydney

District Council Members

- * Cllr Lisa Bangs
- * Cllr Michael Cooper
- * Cllr Martin Fisher
- Cllr Eric Morgan
- * Cllr Marian Myland
- * Cllr Brian Perkins

* = Present

48/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

Apologies were received from Mr Michael Sydney.

49/09 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 OCTOBER 2009 [Item 2]

District Councillor Lisa Bangs challenged the minutes at Para 46.09 [Item 14 - NEW ROUNDABOUT IMPROVEMENT AT JUDGES CORNER, COPTHORNE, SCHEME UPDATE AND PROPOSED 40MPH SPEED LIMIT] on two points, one concerning an apparent anomaly in the reported budget for the scheme, and the other on the discussion around the request for a Traffic Regulation Order to vary the speed limit which she felt had been unfairly recorded. On the costings for the scheme, the Chairman ruled that it was premature to debate the costs at this stage and that it was not germane to the recommendations of that item. However, he instructed the Local Highways Manager to report back to Committee when the final costs were known. The Chairman further ruled that the minute pertaining to speed limits should be amended to read: After some discussion *and concern about enforceability* it was agreed that advisory signs would be beneficial. This was duly actioned.

50/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

There were none.

51/09 PETITIONS [Item 4]

There were none.

52/09 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS [Item 5]

There were none.

53/09 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS** [Item 6]

There were none.

54/09 **COUNTY COUNCILLORS ALLOCATIONS FOR 2008/09** [Item 7]

At its annual budget meeting in February 2009, £8,250 revenue funding was delegated to each Member for this financial year plus £35,000 capital funding per Local Committee to support community initiatives.

The Local Committee considered 8 applications for funding, 7 of which had been included with the papers and one of which was tabled. The Chairman accepted that the timing of the late bid from Bletchingley Parish Council for support with replacing three village Gateway Signs was key and it was duly put forward for consideration. While this was an unusual request, Members took into account the impact it would have on the local community, and in particular, local volunteers working on their In-Bloom entry who had endured recent setbacks due to vandalism. Members were sympathetic but felt that the Parish Council should also make a contribution to the total cost of £2,100 and therefore agreed a reduced figure of £1,500.

RESOLVED that the Tandridge Local Committee consider new requests for funding from the Members' Allocations budget as set out in Annex A of the report and approve the following:

Limpsfield in Bloom	£600.00
Woldingham Cricket Club	£5,000.00
Warlingham Park Bowls Club	£1,000.00
Tatsfield in Bloom	£800.00
Disability Challengers	£3,800.00
Limpsfeild Parish Council	£350.00
Smallfield Parish Council	£4,000.00
Bletchingley Parish Council	£1,500.00

Reason for Decisions

All projects under consideration had been sponsored by, and had the support of, the appropriate Local Member. Members then considered them as a group and decided to approve them.

55/09 **COMMUNITY SAFETY IN TANDRIDGE** [Item 8]

The Local Committee has a role in influencing and contributing to the community safety strategy for Tandridge. The Local Committee also has a devolved power for the community safety funding allocated to the crime and disorder partnership, spent in accordance with the community safety plan. This report sought to update the Local Committee on the community safety plan and to provide a summary of the partnership work within the district over the past year.

Mr David Hodge requested clarity on recommendation (ii) and the Area Director explained that the Local Committee had in the past supported the work of some Community Safety initiatives through its Members' Allocations, for example, the Youth Engagement Scheme and Safe Drive Stay Alive and that, on hearing the submissions from attending officers, Members might identify other opportunities to lend practical support.

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There followed presentations from Surrey Fire & Rescue, led by Malcolm Styles, East Area Manager, who gave an overview of the priorities for the service, which deals much less with fires than with road traffic incidents and is also geared up to deal with the potential dangers of chemicals, involving the deployment of new hi-tech equipment. He was supported by Ian Pompey, Mark Taylor and Alex Greaves, who showed a short video and went on to give some detailed information on the Youth Engagement Scheme (YES), which works primarily with young people whose behaviour is giving serious cause for concern. Catherine Jones, an Education Welfare Officer from Surrey County Council also contributed, in her role as a referring agent, by commending the YES scheme and explaining the beneficial impact it has had on young people in motivating them and improving their self-esteem. It has proved to significantly reduce the incidence of re-offending by young people graduating from the scheme.

[NOTE: District Councillor Mrs Marian Myland arrived at 11.00 am]

The Chairman strongly recommended to all Members that they attend the Safe Drive Stay Alive events, held annually in Dorking, which, while aimed at young people working towards, or having just taken, their driving test, is extremely hard-hitting. The attending officer was asked to circulate the details of the next event, possibly in April 2010, to Members. Videos have also been prepared for use with various other high-risk groups, including the armed forces. Officers were asked to consider using the videos with a younger age group through schools but felt that this might lessen the impact.

The Tandridge Youth Development Manager, Jane Wilson, followed this up with information relating to other schemes aimed at young people including IMPACT and she also updated Members on progress with the new youth facility in Caterham. It will not be fully operational until April 2010 but the building work is due to be completed within the next few weeks.

The Community Safety Manager for Tandridge District Council, Hilary New, stressed the importance of working in partnership through the Crime and Reduction Partnership (CDRP), the Community Incident Action Group (CIAG) and the Joint Action Group (JAG) in identifying, through the Community Safety Plan and Strategic Assessment currently under review, those issues that most concern local residents and in coming up with creative and effective solutions, resulting in very low numbers of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) and Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs).

District Inspector Elaine Burtenshaw described the range of interaction that the Police have with the general public through their panels and surgeries, and meetings with local volunteers who are involved in a variety of community safety schemes such as Neighbourhood Watch, Pub Watch and Country Watch. Specific recent initiatives included Operation Swellands resulting in a reduction in rural crime and Operation Quake, which targeted seasonal crime associated with Fireworks and Halloween. Operation Golden is currently targeted at distraction burglary and runs through to January 2010.

Mrs Sally Marks praised the community schemes and made a plea for volunteers to support them. District Councillor Mrs Marian Myland noted her concern about the lack of youth provision in S Tandridge. The Youth Development Manager confirmed that they are only concerned with targeted work and are not sufficiently resourced to provide leisure activities such as youth clubs and that that would depend on local volunteering. Mr David Hodge asked if figures were available that showed what percentage of the overall road casualty figures were Surrey residents and the Surrey Fire & Rescue Officer replied that this level of detail was not currently available to SF&RS. Mr Hodge then asked if this could be researched. The Chairman requested a Member visit to Godstone Fire Station to see the new hi-tech equipment and asked for this to be followed up by officers.

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The Chairman drew this item to a close by noting his appreciation of the work of all the attending officers, particularly those working routinely outside office hours, who deliver such a broad range of activity within Tandridge. He commended the success of the preventive programmes and the low numbers of ABCs and ASBOs, as well as the overall reduction in crime in Tandridge.

RESOLVED that the Local Committee (Tandridge) **AGREED** to:

- (i) Note the work of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership;
- (ii) Consider community safety projects when allocating funding from its devolved budgets.

Reason for Decision

Under Part 3, Section 1 of the County Council's constitution, the Local Committee is responsible for monitoring services provided locally and contributing to the district based community safety strategy. The Local Committee's service monitoring role and devolved budgets provide an excellent opportunity for supporting the work of the CDRP.

56/09 **DRIVE SMART (UPDATE ON ANTI SOCIAL DRIVING INITIATIVE)** [Item 9]

DRIVE SMART is a countywide campaign initiated by the Leader of Surrey County Council, Dr Andrew Povey and the Chief Constable of Surrey Police, Mark Rowley, to tackle anti-social driving issues. To help address this, Surrey County Council has pledged £1million for a year-long campaign working alongside Surrey Police to carry out activity focusing on changing driver behaviour. This report sought to ensure Members were aware of project progress and campaign objectives.

District Inspector Burtenshaw pointed out that Tandridge has a comparatively low incidence of road traffic accidents, which may explain why the Roadside Education and Enforcement Days planned across the county will not take place in Tandridge until next November. However, there are now 13 Community Speed Watch sites in Tandridge and a lunch for volunteers is scheduled for Tuesday 8th December. Dormansland has accumulated 100 hours of site visits and has therefore earned a certificate. There are 4 new groups due to start in Smallfield, Tandridge Village, Caterham on the Hill and at St Piers in Lingfield. There are only very few schools who meet the criteria for school speed watch campaigns in Tandridge but this is also under consideration. Over 3000 fixed penalty notices (FPNs) have been issued since September. Drive Smart is also being included in the Junior Citizen programme next March to raise awareness among young people. Tandridge vehicle crime is being targeted through automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) in recovering stolen vehicles, and a number of non-compliant vehicles (ie with no insurance, etc) are now off the road. Although much of the Police activity is what they would be doing anyway, the Drive Smart initiative has allowed officers to focus on specifics that are producing results.

Mr David Hodge queried para 3.3 of the report, which refers to a key audience of potential offenders/causers of road collision casualties and deaths, and asked for clarity. Inspector Burtenshaw explained that the Police do have knowledge of dangerous drivers and areas where they can concentrate activity, particularly on the 60% who are Surrey residents. She also briefly explained the process. Mr Hodge then asked if there were plans for an updated report listing the basic data and showing the impact of this intervention. District Inspector Burtenshaw explained that, since the work was mainly routine, albeit better resourced and more focussed, that this should be covered by existing data recording. District Councillor Brian Perkins noted that, following a recent incident, he had found the Police response times to be very fast and congratulated Inspector Burtenshaw.

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RESOLVED that the Local Committee (Tandridge) **AGREED** to note the content of this report.

Reason for Decision

This report was for information only.

[NOTE: Adjourned for coffee at 11.40 am and reconvened at 11.55 am

Mrs Sally Marks and District Councillor Miss Lisa Bangs left during the break.]

57/09 **PETITIONS** [Item 10]

There were none.

58/09 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS** [Item 11]

There were none.

59/09 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS** [Item 12]

There were none.

60/09 **HIGHWAY SCHEMES IN TANDRIDGE PROGRESS REPORT** [Item 13]

This report sought to update Members on the progress of existing Highways schemes Tandridge and gave them an opportunity to ask about specific projects in each of their divisions. The Highways Manager (LHM) took away several actions as follows:

With reference to a footpath and parking outside the local school in Chaldon, the feasibility study has been completed and the LHM agreed to meet with Mr John Orrick shortly to discuss timescales for completion of the work.

District Councillor Martin Fisher reported that a local resident had had problems with flood water draining onto her property in relation to a nearby drain which had already been cleared on two or three occasions. He asked how county officers could be contacted out of office hours. The LHM said he would research and circulate appropriate numbers to Members.

The LHM highlighted some typographical errors [P46 Caterham Hill study] Item 2 should read St Frances and Audley Schools not St Josephs and Caterham S2S should read £45,000 and not £45. District Councillor Michael Cooper was reassured that the timescales for the S2S work remained unchanged.

Mr David Hodge queried why the acquisition of land in Tatsfield [P46] was holding up completion of the scheme and asked for an update by Monday 7th December. The LHM agreed to take this up outside of the meeting.

A25 High Street, Bletchingley, Mr Tony Elias asked to be sent copies of submissions from Bletchingley Parish Council, which he doesn't have access to. The LHM agreed to forward information to him.

Burntwood Lane/Whyteleafe Road traffic signs. Mr John Orrick asked when and where footpath lighting would be installed. The LHM said that work was due to proceed in January/February 2010 but that there was likely to be a delay before they were powered up by EdF. LHM agreed to provide further information.

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District Councillor Martin Fisher said that visitor and permit parking was a local issue for residents and asked what progress had been made. The LHM agreed to follow this up with the Parking Team. District Councillor Fisher then sought, and was given, assurance that he could safely advise residents that a report would be brought to Committee next year.

District Councillor Brain Perkins asked about streetlighting in St Piers Lane and was told that the columns were due to be installed in December, the lanterns in January and the electricity supply a month later.

The Chairman asked on behalf of Mrs Sally Marks about the delayed installation of the Pedestrian crossing on A22. The LHM gave a list of reasons for the delay and said that it should be completed in January 2010 and that he would inform Mrs Marks of progress.

Mr John Orrick asked about additional work by community gangs and when it would be done. The LHM said the work had been started, programmed and estimated and that he would email an update to Members for this financial year.

District Councillor Michael Cooper brought the item to a close by congratulating Highways on the draining improvements to the Caterham Bypass on the A22. Having been stuck at the same time last year due to standing water, he noted that in similar weather conditions this year the road had remained passable. This was duly noted.

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

Reason for Decision

This report was for information only.

61/09 **SPEED MANAGEMENT IN TANDRIDGE** [Item 14]

In December 2007 and March 2008 the Local Committee approved reports detailing a prioritisation system for speed management schemes and a list of the highest priority schemes. This report summarised progress with these schemes and included recommendations for speed limit changes to some of the sites that were prioritised for review.

The Local Highways Manager highlighted an amendment to Annex 1 in that the words 'light green' and 'dark green' had been transposed.

Mr Tony Elias and District Councillor Mrs Marian Myland would have preferred the limit in Nutfield Marsh Road to be set at 30 mph but, under the terms of the County Council's existing policy, understood that their only options were to reject the proposal or to accept the officer's recommendation with a view to reviewing it at a later date.

For clarity, it was noted that while recommendation (i) only references Little Common Lane in the text, this in fact also covers that part of Big Common Lane as shown in Annex 3. Mr Elias thanked the LHM for his work and for including that section of road in the proposal.

The Chairman was pleased that the 40 mph had been extended to Ballards Road but he also wished to formally record his disappointment that the speed limit on the continuing stretch of the A25 could not be reduced to 50 mph in line with the rest of the A25, where the maximum speed is 50 mph. While he understood the need to work within policy guidelines he regretted that the stretch of road under discussion had not been included in the South Tandridge Safety Zone as there had been two fatalities since then and, as Kent had subsequently removed the speed restrictions on that side of the border, there was no incentive for drivers to reduce their speed.

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RESOLVED that the Local Committee AGREE:

- (i) that the statutory process to implement speed limit alterations as detailed in Annexes 1, 2 and 3 (A25 at Limpsfield, Nutfield Marsh Road, Nutfield and Little Common Lane, Bletchingley) be carried out, subject to additional consultation with Surrey Police where necessary.
- (ii) That, if no objections are maintained to these proposals, then the speed limits are implemented as soon as possible.

Reason for Decision

Speed limits are assessed using national guidance and County policy in order to achieve consistency. The recommendations of this report have been derived using this approach.

[Meeting Ended: 12.40 pm]

Chairman