The work of the Tandridge Local Committee and Community Support Team from April to October 2002

The Tandridge Community Support Team was set up in April 2002. It was fully staffed from July. This is a report on its work and on the work of the Local Committee for this period.

Local Committees

Meetings

Since April the Tandridge Local Committee has met seven times, including four general meetings and three highways meetings, attended by a total of 134 members of the public. This includes an extraordinary meeting in September, to discuss how to improve safety on a dangerous road. In the course of the whole year there are thirteen meetings planned.

Six district councillors come to the transportation meetings, and their lead Member comes to the agenda planning meetings to ensure good partnership working.

Members’ allocations

The six County Council Members have currently committed around £100,000 of their total allocations of £105,000. Their priorities for spending this money are to help children and young people, help vulnerable people, including older people, improve the local environment and improve Surrey County Council’s communication with local people. These projects include funding, or working in partnership to help fund;

- Skateboarding ramps for young people (with the district and parish councils)
- Respite care for disabled children provided through Tandridge Crossroads
- Refurbishment of a young people’s bus which goes round the district
- A falls awareness project for older people
- A conference for people with learning disabilities to help them into employment
- Drugs awareness training in Tandridge schools

Engaging different parts of the community

Local Committee meetings take place in different venues around the district so it is easier for local people to come. General meetings start with an open session for the public to comment and ask questions. Action has been taken
as a result of these questions, for example upgrading a path in Lingfield to make it easier for children to go to school on foot or bicycle, and for their mothers to push pushchairs.

Tandridge is unusual in that it is fully parished, so it is important that the Parishes, District and County Council work together for local people. The Parish Councils are very close to their local people and can access a range of money to carry out projects in their area. The County Council is keen to help with this, to lever in money for Tandridge.

We held a recent seminar with the three tiers of local government. This was well attended and very successful. One outcome is that the parishes want to meet together in their local parish liaison group to provide a more coherent approach to working in Tandridge. The Local Director has been asked to attend the meeting, and the Local Committee has offered to facilitate work on behalf of the parishes.

Publicity and communication

The Local Committee has received much positive publicity and many front page articles, including the launch of the committee in May, and discussion of the A22 bypass issues. Examples of good publicity include:

Local Democracy week; Members and local officers went out to shopping centres and on high streets and talked to local people about the work of the Local Committee and the County Council. They handed out leaflets on ‘Surrey Matters’, and on the Local Committee.

Road safety on the A22 bypass; A special meeting was held to discuss road safety improvements on this road, where there have been deaths and serious injuries. This meeting was well attended by around 40/50 people and a number of people gave their views. As a result of this consultation a range of road safety improvements were agreed. These were very speedily put into place, and have so far had a very positive effect.

Integrating services

Use of Abandoned Cars for Fire Training; at present, the District Council pays to get rid of abandoned cars and the fire service pays to get hold of cars to use for training purposes. As a result of a joint project facilitated by the Local Director, the District will now be passing on many of their cars to the Fire Service at Wray Park. This will result in a saving to both organisations, and quicker removal of cars locally.

Rapid Response Team; the Local Committee has agreed to fund a rapid response team consisting of two men and a van plus equipment, who will repair minor problems on the roads, such as overhanging branches, or
knocked over bollards. This links with a similar project in Tandridge District Council, to remove litter and graffiti. The aim is to connect these projects, to provide a joint response to problems that cause much local concern.

**Crime and disorder**

Projects with particular County Council involvement include;

- An underage sales project where young people went to shops to try to buy alcohol, fireworks and cigarettes. This took place over two days in half term. There has also been local publicity to raise the profile of this activity.
- Funding a mobile speed camera for use by neighbourhood police to help improve road safety in Tandridge
- Funding the domestic violence outreach project for the area
- Funding the fire service to provide smoke detectors for vulnerable people, nursery boxes for schools to help with fire awareness, and Firewise trainers to help young people who might otherwise become arsonists.

**Community Planning**

The Local Committee chairman and director are both members of the Tandridge Local Strategic Partnership. The Local Director is leading on the transportation part of the strategy. The LSP has now produced a draft action plan with measurable objectives, and the Local Director took this draft to the seminar with the parishes, to get their views. A final document is proposed for April 2003.

**Self –reliance**

The Members have given £5000 of their allocation to Hillcroft school, in the Westway area, Tandridge’s area of highest deprivation, to help pay for a story sacks and an IT project at the school. Both of these will benefit parents and local people in developing their communication, written and IT skills. The Local Director also arranged for the school to obtain a global grant of £8000 for these projects.

Further work is now taking place to develop wrap around care and early excellence programmes for this school and others in deprived neighbourhoods.

**Countywide work in support of local issues**

The Local Director has worked with the county’s head of libraries, to help with their input into the local Committees, and to make sure that the local Committees can input meaningfully into the annual library plan, and have an impact on what happens locally.