



Minutes of meeting

LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)

Date: FRIDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2007

Time: 2.00PM

Place: CHIDDINGFOLD VILLAGE HALL

Members present:

Surrey County Council

Dr A Povey (Waverley Eastern Villages) (Chairman)
Mrs P Frost (Farnham Central) (Vice-Chairman)
Mr C Baily (Cranleigh and Ewhurst)
Mr J Farmer (Farnham North)
Mr D Harmer (Waverley Western Villages)
Mr P Martin (Godalming South, Milford and Witley)
Mr D Munro (Farnham South)
Mrs C Stevens (Haslemere)

Waverley Borough Council

Mr B A Ellis (Cranleigh West)
Mr R D Frost (Farnham Firgrove)
Mr A Lovell (Farnham Upper Hale)
Mr B J Morgan (Elstead and Thursley)
Mr S J O'Grady (Farnham Hale and Heath End)
Mr S N Reynolds (Godalming Charterhouse)
Mr R J Steel (Farnham Moor Park)
Mr K Webster (Milford)

All references to Items refer to the Agenda for the meeting.

42/07 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS (Item 1)

Apologies were received from Mr C Slyfield, Mr R Gates and Mr R Knowles; Mr B Ellis attended as substitute for Mr Gates. Mr P Martin was absent at the beginning of the meeting.

43/07 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: 8 June 2007 (Item 2)

The minutes were agreed to be a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

44/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

Mrs P Frost declared a personal interest in relation to Item 15 on the grounds that she is Chairman of Governors of a Church of England school.

45/07 PETITIONS (Item 4)

There were no petitions.

46/07 FORMAL PUBLIC QUESTION (Item 5)

One public question was received; this is set out with a response at Annex 1.

47/07 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (Item 6)

There were no Members' questions.

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS: TRANSPORTATION MATTERS

48/07 HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES PROGRESS REPORT (INCORPORATING ELSTEAD VILLAGE SPEED LIMIT) (Item 7)

The Local Highways Manager explained that the proposals with respect to Elstead had been insufficiently developed to include in the list of schemes brought to the previous meeting for approval.

Local members supported the need to adjust the terminal points of the 30 mph speed limits on the three roads approaching Elstead in order to increase their impact and effectiveness and the intention to reinforce the signage with gateways was noted. A variety of views were expressed as to the precise location of the terminal points and an amendment was agreed to the recommendations to allow further consideration of the options prior to advertisement (see (i) below).

A number of detailed questions in relation to the progress of schemes were raised and answered. Several members were interested in the operation and effectiveness of Variable Message Signs and were referred to the County Council's Speed Management Policy (available on-line at [http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/sccwebsite/sccwspages.nsf/LookupWebPagesByTITLE_RTF/Speed+Management+Policy+\(including+determining+and+applyi ng+speed+limits\)?opendocument](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/sccwebsite/sccwspages.nsf/LookupWebPagesByTITLE_RTF/Speed+Management+Policy+(including+determining+and+applyi ng+speed+limits)?opendocument)).

Resolved:

- (i) That the intention of the County Council to make an Order under Sections 84, 85 & 86 and Part III and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to impose a 40mph speed limit on the approaches to Elstead Village (B3001 Farnham Road, B3001 Milford Road and Thursley Road), be advertised (the exact locations to be determined) and that if no objections are maintained, the Order be made.
- (ii) That the consideration and resolution of any objections or representations received as a result of advertising and consultation for the proposed Traffic Regulation Order be delegated to the Local Highways Manager in consultation with the Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman of the Local Committee and relevant local councillors.
- (iii) That the proposed 30mph terminal points be incorporated into new village entry points of a design to be decided by Elstead Parish Council.

Reason for decision:

To support the work already undertaken by Elstead Parish Council to mitigate the effects of speeding traffic at the village boundaries.

[Mr P Martin joined the meeting during this item.]

49/07 LOCAL HIGHWAYS TEAM: SERVICE DELIVERY (Item 8)

The Local Highways Manager provided an update on the level of response to customer enquiries achieved within 20 days (see Section 2 of the report): this now stood at 28% in West Area. The extent to which activity within the team is impaired by the current level of vacancies was explained.

The Committee noted the variation in staff establishments among the six borough-based teams in West Surrey and agreed that the Chairman should write to the Highways Group Manager (West) to express its concern at the apparent low level of staffing in Waverley and to seek further information as to relative workloads, in particular the volume of customer enquiries.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the contents of this report.
- (ii) To request that the Chairman write to the Highways Group Manager (West) raising the Committee's concerns about the level of the staff establishment in the Local Highways Team for Waverley.

Reason for decision:

Report for information only. The Committee expressed some concern about the volume of work facing the team in relation to the number of staff available.

50/07 **SPEED LIMIT REVIEW: VARIOUS ROADS IN CRANLEIGH AND ALFOLD
(Item 9)**

The Head of Road Safety and Casualty Reduction for Surrey Police outlined the Police's role as consultee to the County Council in relation to highway improvements and speed limit reviews and as enforcement agency.

Discussion on the proposals for Alfold concerned the eastern extent of the proposed 50 mph limit on the A281 and the possibility of imposing a 30mph or 40 mph speed limit on the C35 Dunsfold Road to the west of the junction with the A281 and extending to the entrance to Dunsfold Airfield. In relation to the A281 officers explained that some flexibility remained as to the precise location of the terminal point of the 50mph limit and noted members' suggestion that this should be sited beyond the entrance to "White Lea".

Officers explained that they had received no authority to assess speeds on the C35 Dunsfold Road and the Committee agreed to give this, along with the authority to progress any action emerging from appropriate consultation on the matter (resolution (vi)).

With respect to the proposals for Cranleigh there was strong support amongst local members for the 30mph limit on the B2130 Elmbridge Road to be extended westwards to the entrance to Elmbridge Village or as far as Nanhurst. Officers pointed out that changes to speed limits should be visible and reflect a meaningful change of environment and reinforced the need to consult with Surrey Police and adhere to the Speed Management Policy. The Committee agreed to further assessment and consultation with the Cranleigh and Eastern Villages Transportation Task Group on the matter (resolution (iii)).

Officers confirmed the intention to extend the existing 30mph limit on the D182 Horseshoe Lane northwards towards the junction with Amlets Lane (resolution (iv)) and to start the 40mph limit on the D191 Smithwood Common Road to the north-west of the entrance to Alderbrook Farm.

In the light of discussion the Committee agreed amendments and additions to the recommendations contained in the report.

Resolved:

- (i) That the intention of the County Council to make an Order under Sections 84, 85 & 86 and Part III and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to impose a 40mph speed limit on sections of the following roads be advertised and that, if no objections are maintained, the Order be made (extents as described in the report):

D184 Knowle Lane
D191 Smithwood Common Road
D191 Amlets Lane
D192 Barhatch Lane
B2127 Bookhurst Road
A281 Horsham Road

- (ii) That the intention of the County Council to make an Order under Sections 84, 85 & 86 and Part III and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic

Regulation Act 1984 to impose either a 40mph or 50mph speed limit on sections of the following roads, subject to consultation with the Surrey Police, be advertised and that, if no objections are maintained, the Order be made (extents as described in this report):

D191 Smithwood Common Road
A281 Horsham Road.

- (iii) That the intention of the County Council to make an Order under Sections 84, 85 & 86 and Part III and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to impose a 30mph speed limit on sections of the B2130 Elmbridge Road, Cranleigh (the precise extent, following further assessment, to be agreed with the Cranleigh and Eastern Villages Transportation Task Group) be advertised and that, if no objections are maintained, the Order be made.
- (iv) That the intention of the County Council to make an Order under Sections 84, 85 & 86 and Part III and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to extend the existing 30mph speed limit on the D182 Horseshoe Lane, Cranleigh northwards towards the junction with Amlets Lane be advertised and that, if no objections are maintained, the Order be made.
- (v) That the consideration and resolution of any objections or representations received as a result of advertising and consultation for the proposed Traffic Regulation Orders be delegated to the Local Highways Manager in association with the Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman of the Local Committee and relevant local councillors.
- (vi) To authorise officers to carry out an assessment of speeds along the C35 Dunsfold Road, Alfold with a view to imposing a 30mph or 40mph speed limit between the junction with the A281 and the vicinity of the entrance to Dunsfold Airfield; subject to discussion with Alfold Parish Council and agreement with the Cranleigh and Eastern Villages Transportation Task Group to advertise any proposed limit and resolve objections as set out in resolutions (i) and (v) above.

Reason for decision:

To respond to the Committee's request to reassess appropriate speeds in the areas concerned and to concerns raised at the meeting.

51/07 **HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES: PROPOSED WEIGHT RESTRICTION AMENDMENTS (Item 10)**

Resolved:

- (i) That the intention of the County Council to make an Order under Sections 1, Part III of Schedule 9 and Part IV of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to change the existing weight restrictions Orders listed in **ANNEXE A** from 17 Tonnes to 18 Tonnes be advertised and that if no objections be maintained, the Order be made.

- (ii) That consideration and if possible resolution of any representations received as a result of advertising the proposed Traffic Regulation Orders be delegated to the Highways Group Manager (West).
- (iii) That in the event that any objections are maintained despite recommendation (ii), the Highways Group Manager (West) in liaison with the Local Committee Chairman and local members be authorised to over-rule these on the grounds that the proposed changes are a legislative requirement

Reason for decision:

The proposed changes are required by law and the County Council is therefore obliged to make these, and to deal with any objections which may arise against that background.

52/07 UPPER HALE ROAD: RESPONSE TO RESIDENTS' PETITION (Item 11)

Local members reinforced the petitioners' concerns about the severe impact on quality of life caused by Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV) in the vicinity of Upper Hale Road, Farnham. It was felt that the County Council should be requested to take a strategic view of the management of HGV routes in the county and to investigate whether negotiations with operators and retailers might result in a more flexible and sensitive use of the road network by HGVs.

The cross-border implications of long-distance HGV traffic -- and the need to work with Hampshire County Council in this instance -- were recognised. Mr J Farmer, as local County Councillor, requested that he should be informed of any HGV Operator License applications or amendments within a 10 mile radius of Upper Hale Road. It was agreed that the Chairman should write to the Leader of the County Council setting out the points raised by the Committee.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the contents of this report.
- (ii) To ask the Farnham Transportation Task Group (FTTG) to consider the requests made by the petitioners against other priorities in the area.
- (iii) Request that the Chairman write to the Leader of the County Council raising the Committee's concerns about the impact of Heavy Goods Vehicles on quality of life.
- (iv) Request that the County Councillor for Farnham North be informed of Heavy Goods Vehicle Operator License applications and amendments within a 10 mile radius of Upper Hale Road.

Reason for decision:

By presenting the petition for discussion to the FTTG, it may be possible for proposals to be brought forward that could go some way towards mitigating

the impact of Heavy Goods Vehicles s on Upper Hale Road. Further possible actions by the County Council were suggested by members.

53/07 PETITION FOR REDUCED SPEED LIMITS AND TRAFFIC CALMING IN COMBE LANE, CHIDDINGFOLD (Item 12)

References to the Godalming, Milford and Witley Transportation Task Group in the published report and recommendations were amended to the Cranleigh and Eastern Villages Transportation Task Group.

Resolved:

- (i) That the contents of the report should be approved.
- (ii) That the Cranleigh and Eastern Villages Transportation Task Group should consider the requests made by the petitioners against other priorities in the area.

Reason for decision:

The Committee is required to respond to the concerns presented by the petitioners. The Cranleigh and Eastern Villages Transportation Task Group considers which possible schemes in its area to recommend for future Local Transport Plan funding.

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS: NON-TRANSPORTATION MATTERS

54/07 SURREY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR WAVERLEY AND BOROUGH PLAN 2007-2008 (Item 13)

The Committee welcomed the report and commended the service's staff in Waverley for their increasing flexibility in achieving a balance between prevention and emergency responsiveness and their developing work with targeted individuals and partnerships.

Members noted the impact of the "Safe Drive Stay Alive" project on raising awareness of road safety with young drivers. There was concern that some schools and colleges in Waverley are not engaging with this initiative and the service would welcome the support of members in using their influence locally as appropriate.

Resolved:

- (i) To recognise the achievements of the borough teams within Waverley and support their commitment to embrace new technology and improve initiatives to reduce risk and make Waverley safer through the delivery of the borough plan.
- (ii) To support the achievements of the retained duty personnel at Godalming, Cranleigh, Dunsfold and Haslemere and acknowledge the availability offered by employers who release staff, and those who are self-employed.

- (iii) To note the targets and initiatives set within the Waverley borough plan for 2007/08 and support the Fire and Rescue Service in the delivery of this plan.

Reason for decision:

Report for update and information.

[Mr J Farmer left the meeting during this item.]

55/07 LIBRARY STAFFING REVIEW PROPOSALS TO INCREASE LIBRARY OPENING HOURS (Item 14)

The Committee welcomed the proposal to increase opening hours in the Waverley libraries and the extent to which the service is adopting new technology.

Resolved:

- (i) To support the approach of seeking improvements to opening hours and services through efficiency gains from new self-service technology.
- (ii) To support the proposed new group structure – three groups of libraries, A ('Town' Centre), B ('District' Centre), and C ('Local' Centre), with a geographical/strategic approach.
- (iii) To approve the resulting improvements in opening hours at the five libraries in Waverley: Bramley, Cranleigh, Farnham, Godalming and Haslemere.

Reason for decision:

The Review has demonstrated that genuine efficiency gains result from enhancing automation and the introduction of self-service technology for library users. The benefit for library users is a measurable improvement in hours of access in Surrey County Council libraries. This research exercise has enabled the service to plan opening hours that are consistent and easy to understand, and that meet the preference of current and potential users and encourage more people to visit a library.

56/07 ST MARK'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, GODALMING: "FRESH START" (Item 15)

The Committee was informed that the Executive's decision (taken at its meeting on 11 September 2007) was:

- (i) That the process of a 'Fresh Start' for St Mark's CE Primary School, Godalming, which is in Special Measures, be authorised.
This entails:
 - the closure of St Mark's CE Primary School Godalming on 31 August 2008

- the establishment of a new CE primary school and nursery class on the site of St Mark's CE Primary School on 1 September 2008
 - the transfer of junior children to alternative schools
 - a phased increase in the age range of the new CE primary school by one year each year
- (ii) The capital funding package of £250k to fund this 'Fresh Start' process be agreed.
- (iii) Permission not to hold a competition for the new school be applied for and Guildford Diocese be supported as the sponsor of the new CE primary school.

It was noted that Mr P Martin had requested that his vote against the resolution at Executive should be recorded. Mr Martin, as local County Councillor, reiterated the grounds for his opposition to the Executive's decision: his principal concerns were for the junior school children who would transfer to another local school under the agreed option, their parents in terms of access to a more distant school and for the sustainability of the new school if numbers continued to be vulnerable. However, accepting the decision taken by the Executive, he felt that all efforts should be devoted to making the agreed way forward successful.

It was confirmed that maintaining the school on the site remained dependent on an assessment by Ofsted that the recent progress at the existing school, and the prospects for continuing this under the proposed new arrangements, are sufficient and sustainable. If monitoring visits show unsatisfactory progress the Secretary of State could instruct the County Council to close the school permanently. Under the Executive's agreed option it is anticipated that a school on the site would be maintained. Consultation on the proposed way forward would take place shortly – initially with the governing body and staff, but then with all parents, carers and stakeholders – and the results would be reported to the Executive on 6 November 2007. It was agreed that the prospects of the children concerned should be the principal consideration.

It was not possible to confirm to which school the junior school children would be transferred, but officers reported that negotiations were under way and that the placement would be in a school with recent evidence of good performance from Ofsted.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the proposals.
- (ii) To support their implementation in order to meet the needs of children in the area.

Reason for decision:

The proposed provision of a new primary school in Godalming would provide the most effective long-term provision to meet the needs of local children, promoting high standards, ensuring fair access to educational opportunity, and promoting the fulfilment by every child of their educational potential.

57/07 LOCAL COMMITTEE BUDGETS (Item 16)

Members were reminded that all applications for funding above £1000 would have to be submitted for consideration at the 14 December 2007 meeting and that all funding would have to be committed by the end of February 2008.

Resolved:

- (i) That the applications annexed to the report should be approved.
- (ii) That the return of unspent funding specified in the report should be noted.
- (iii) That expenditure approved under delegated authority should be noted.

Reason for decision:

Applications have been assessed by the Area Director against the criteria contained in the financial framework for Local Committees and are recommended as appropriate use of the Committee's budgets.

The meeting closed at 4.50pm

..... **(Chairman)**

Contact:

Dave Johnson (Area Director)
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David North (Local Committee and Partnership Officer)
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ANNEX 1

Item 5: Public Question and Response

From Ms Julie Rand

As an accredited cycle instructor, I teach people to cycle safely in Godalming and the surrounding areas. As a mother, I cycle daily from Farncombe to Busbridge along the main roads, escorting my 10 year old daughter to school. However, my son, aged 13, prefers to ride on the pavement, along with many other cyclists, due to his fear of the traffic on Meadow, Bridge Road and Flambard Way. Can the Committee please explain why there has been no changes in the road infrastructure, such as, for example, traffic calming, to encourage people to cycle rather than use their cars for the short journey from Farncombe to Godalming over the past 11 years, despite repeated promises and assurances that such measures would be put in place ? And would not the benefits of such measures in terms of better health, reduced pollution and congestion, fewer problems with parking, noise reduction, greater social mobility and increased safety for cyclists and pedestrians outweigh the relatively small costs involved ?

Response

Surrey County Council, as highway authority, is committed to encouraging cycling. The Local Transport Plan target regarding cycling is to raise the proportion of cycling trips as a proportion of all trips in Surrey from 2% in 1999 to 4% in 2006 , 6% by 2011 and 8% by 2016.

A number of schemes which assist cyclists, by reducing traffic speeds or introducing cycle lanes, etc, have been constructed in the Godalming/Farncombe area in recent years. These include traffic calming in Green Lane, Summers Road, and Brighton Road (Busbridge), and a shared surface and on-carriageway cycle lane for the A3100 north of the Alms Houses. Later this year traffic calming will be introduced in the northern section of Brighton Road, and parking arrangements will be altered, which is also expected to benefit cyclists.

Improving the route for cyclists using Meadow, Bridge Street and Flambard Way is included in a prioritised list of Waverley cycling schemes adopted by this committee in July 2006 (see below), but has not been allocated funding in the current year, nor in previous years . Cycle schemes in Cranleigh and Farnham are being progressed this year.

Officers are aware that this route has been examined and discussed in the past, but are not aware of any specific commitment made on its implementation.

The Meadow/Flambard Way route has the joint highest score amongst cycle measures identified in Godalming on the prioritised list. The Godalming Transportation Task Group is responsible for bidding for funding for all types of highway improvement schemes in the Godalming area. That group will be aware of this high score when considering its funding bid for 2008/09.

Prioritised List of Waverley Cycle Schemes

Waverley Borough Council, as planning authority, has an important role in promoting and encouraging cycling in the Borough. Waverley BC adopted its first Cycle Plan in 1997, and established a Cycle Forum to bring together interested parties. The current version of the Waverley Borough Cycling Plan was adopted by the Borough as Supplementary Planning Document (SDP) in April 2005. The plan is intended to provide an up-to-date framework for future action that will assist in achieving increased cycle use. It includes a prioritised list of cycle schemes and measures covering the whole Borough.

This committee considered a report on Waverley's Cycling Plan in July 2006, and determined that the prioritised list of schemes it includes be approved for construction or implementation. Construction/implementation is, of course, dependant on available funding.

Both Surrey CC and Waverley BC officers are committed to maximise funding for cycle improvement schemes when considering planning applications and agreements throughout the Borough.

ANNEX 2

The meeting was preceded by an informal public question time. The following is a summary of the matters raised.

1. From Ms Pamela Pounall (South Farnham Residents' Association)

Ms Pounall explained that, on the advice of the Local Highways Team, Councillors and Surrey Police, the Association had been encouraged to consult with residents and other organisations in South Farnham with a view to developing plans to reduce parking congestion. Following discussions with neighbouring areas proposals were submitted to the Chairman of the Farnham Transportation Task Group (Mrs P Frost) for consideration at the Group's meeting on 10 September 2007. Ms Pounall sought (in writing) confirmation that the plans had been tabled and explained to the Group and requested details of how the plans will be taken forward.

Mrs Frost and the Local Highways Manager (LHM) thanked the Association for its work and the proposals presented. The Task Group had received these and had an initial discussion as to how these might be progressed. Consideration of changes to parking arrangements in South Farnham will be included in the review of the implications of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement, currently operating in Godalming as prioritised by the Local Committee. On the completion of the work in Godalming the intention is to attend to Farnham and the Task Group has decided to make a bid for £30,000 from the Committee's Local Transport Plan budget for 2008-2009 to resource this. The LHM undertook to write formally to Ms Pounall setting out the position and a proposed timetable.

In a subsequent question, **Ms Z Lovell** (also of the South Farnham Residents' Association) sought assurance that the matter would be considered at the next meeting of the Local Committee. The LHM replied that this would not be appropriate and that the Local Committee would consider the proposals when the legal processes had been completed.

2. From Mrs Betty Ames (Alfold Parish Council)

In relation to Item 9, Mrs Ames requested that the Committee should consider taking the opportunity to impose a speed limit on Dunsfold Road, Alfold as part of the proposed speed limit modifications in the village. She also proposed that the eastern limit of the proposed 50mph limit on the A281 Horsham Road should be sited beyond the "White Lea" entrance.

The Committee considered these suggestions as part of its formal discussion of Item 9.

3. From Mr Graham Harris (Cranleigh)

Mr Harris requested that, in relation to Item 9, the existing 30mph speed limit on Horseshoe Lane, Cranleigh should be extended to the junction with Amlets Lane.

The Committee considered this suggestion as part of its formal discussion of Item 9.