



Minutes of meeting

LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)

Date: FRIDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2008

Time: 2.00PM

Place: ST NICOLAS CHURCH ROOMS, CRANLEIGH

Members present:

Surrey County Council

Dr A Povey (Waverley Eastern Villages) (Chairman)
Mrs P Frost (Farnham Central) (Vice-Chairman)
Mr D Harmer (Waverley Western Villages)
Mr D Munro (Farnham South)
Mrs C Stevens (Haslemere)

Waverley Borough Council

Mr M W Byham (Bramley, Busbridge and Hascombe)
Mr S P Connolly (Godalming Farncombe and Catteshall)
Mr V Duckett (Farnham Upper Hale)
Mr B A Ellis (Cranleigh West)
Mr R D Frost (Farnham Firgrove)
Mr R A Gordon-Smith (Godalming Charterhouse)
Mr R A Knowles (Haslemere East and Grayswood)
Mr R J Steel (Farnham Moor Park)

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

33/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS (Item 1)

Apologies were received from Mr J Farmer, Mr P Martin, Mr C Slyfield, Mr A Lovell and Mr K Webster. Mr V Duckett and Mr R Frost were present as substitutes for Mr Lovell and Mr Webster respectively. Mr C Baily and Mr J A Ward were absent.

34/08 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: 6 June 2008 (Item 2)

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

35/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

Declarations of personal interest were received from Mr R Steel in relation to Item 7 (on the grounds of his membership of Farnham Town Council), from Dr A Povey in relation to Item 8 (on the grounds that the company of which he is a director holds contracts with the County Council to support people with learning disabilities) and from Mr S Connolly also in relation to Item 8 (on the grounds that he is trustee of a charitable trust which is being commissioned by the County Council to support people with learning difficulties in the current consultation). Mrs P Frost indicated that, as a member of Waverley Borough Council's Joint Planning Committee, she would declare a prejudicial interest and leave the meeting if any current planning applications became the subject of discussion.

36/08 PETITIONS (Item 4)

Two petitions were received:

- From students of King Edward's School, Witley requesting improved lighting along the footpath between the school and Witley railway station.
- From residents of Rake Lane, Witley and surrounding area requesting that, before a planning application for the redevelopment of the Witley Community Recycling Centre is submitted, Surrey County Council should give full consideration to upgrading the existing access as the sole access for the redeveloped site.

[Mr D Harmer left the meeting at this point.]

37/08 FORMAL PUBLIC QUESTIONS (Item 5)

Four public questions were received; these are set out with responses at **Annex 1**.

38/08 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (Item 6)

One member's question was received; the response is set out at **Annex 2**.

[Mr D Harmer rejoined the meeting.]

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS: NON-TRANSPORTATION MATTERS

39/08 WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL'S AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN (Item 7)

Addressing the meeting at the invitation of the Chairman, the Leader of Waverley Borough Council, Mr R Gates, stressed the value of partnership working in delivering the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) and reported that, by way of a catalyst, his Council had agreed to set up a fund of £20,000 to support the implementation of small-scale measures.

The discussion centred on the poor air quality recorded in central Farnham, related to traffic congestion in this area. It was suggested that the County Council should strengthen its pressure on the Regional Transport Board to fund major works which would relieve this congestion. Possible measures to divert Heavy Goods Vehicles away from the town centre were discussed, but the likely impact on peripheral residential areas was noted. However, officers agreed to look at the implications of developing a Freight Quality Partnership. The suggestion that a Park and Ride scheme might address the problems was noted.

An amendment to recommendation (i) was proposed by Mrs P Frost and seconded by Mr D Munro and its response to the proposal to adopt a range of small-scale measures (iii) was proposed from the chair.

Resolved to:

- (i) Endorse the continued joint working by officers of the County Council and Waverley Borough Council to develop proposals with all due urgency to deliver the necessary Action Plan improvements in Farnham and Godalming
- (ii) Invite Surrey County Council and Waverley Borough Council officers to prepare an annual progress report on delivering the Action Plan – in the form of a draft of the Air Quality Action Plan Progress Report in advance of its required submission to DEFRA in April each year.
- (iii) Request that officers draft a specific action plan to deliver the small-scale measures set out at 3.3 in the report (along with the additional suggestions made above) and present these at the next meeting of the Local Committee.

Reason for decision: The proposed measures will have an impact on quality of life in Waverley and relate to certain County Council services.

40/08 **CONSULTATION ON IMPROVEMENTS TO LEARNING DISABILITY DAY SERVICES (Item 8)**

[In reflection of the Chairman's declaration of personal interest in this topic, Mrs P Frost took the chair for this item.]

The Committee welcomed the proposed improvements and noted the extent of local activities being undertaken with clients in the community to enhance their independence, complementing the more specialist work offered at The Harbour. The extent of partnership working was noted, along with the opportunity to develop the County Council's role in commissioning services from a range of appropriate providers, e.g. the voluntary sector.

In response to concerns about the length of the consultation period, Members were informed that this had been extended to four months. It was hoped that users' views would continue to be heard. The consultation web-site was felt to be good.

Resolved to:

- (i) Ask that its comments on the information provided in the consultation document on improvements to day services for people with learning disabilities across Surrey be noted.
- (ii) Strongly support proposals for the Harbour day service in Milford Waverley to become a 'Centre of Excellence' for people with complex needs.
- (iii) Strongly support proposals for a greater range of services for people in Waverley in their local communities.

Reason for decision:

To support efforts to give people with learning disabilities greater choice in how they spend their time and a better level of care for those with complex and multiple support needs.

41/08 **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGIES IN SURREY AND WAVERLEY (Item 9)**

The Committee welcomed the renewed focus on action. The new Waverley Strategic Partnership was encouraged to look more holistically at its action plan and contribution to the delivery of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) in the borough, e.g. in relation to education, social care and active citizenship. Members were keen to see a strengthened focus on the achievement of genuine outcomes.

[Mr D Munro left the meeting during this item.]

An amended recommendations were proposed from the Chair and agreed nem. con.

Resolved to:

- (i) Note the contents of the Interim Sustainable Community Strategy for Surrey and the LAA.
- (ii) Urge officers to develop a delivery plan for the implementation of the Waverley Strategic Partnership's priorities.
- (iii) Note the draft Terms of Reference and action plan for the proposed Waverley Strategic Partnership.
- (iv) Request that an additional County Councillor be included in the membership of the Waverley Strategic Partnership Board to represent the Local Committee in relation to community safety matters and that this should be Mrs P Frost.

Reason for decision:

The Committee has specific responsibilities in relation to community safety and in partnership working more widely and current proposals have significant implications for all aspects of its work.

[Mr D Harmer left the meeting at this point.]

NON-EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS: NON-TRANSPORTATION MATTERS

42/08 LOCAL COMMITTEE BUDGETS 2008-2009 (Item 10)

A correction to the published report was noted: the unspent total remaining in Dr A Povey's revenue allocation should have been given as £10750

Resolved to:

- (i) Approve the applications for expenditure annexed to the report.
- (ii) Note the actions carried out under delegated authority since the last meeting.
- (iii) Agree the adjustments to budgets set out at paragraph 3.2 of the report.

Reason for decision:

The Committee is required to ensure the timely and appropriate deployment of its budgets.

43/08 LOCAL COMMITTEE FORWARD PROGRAMME 2008-2009 (Item 11)

Resolved to:

- (i) Note the proposed contents of the Forward Programme.

- (ii) Suggest any additional matters for consideration.

Reason for decision:

The report was provided for information.

[Messrs D Harmer and D Munro rejoined the meeting during this item.]

NON-EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS: TRANSPORTATION MATTERS

[Messrs M Byham and R Steel left the meeting prior to this item.]

44/08 ALLEGED PUBLIC FOOTPATH BETWEEN VICARAGE LANE AND LION LANE, SHOTTERMILL, HASLEMERE (Item 12)

Resolved that:

- (i) Public footpath rights are recognised over route A-E on drawing 3/1/20/H43 and that this application for a MMO under sections 53 and 57 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to modify the Definitive Map and Statement by the addition of a footpath is approved. The route will be known as Public Footpath no. 599 (Haslemere).
- (ii) A legal order should be made and advertised to implement these changes. If objections are maintained to such an order, it will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for confirmation.

Reason for decision:

The evidence shows that a public footpath is reasonably alleged to subsist over the route A-E on plan 3/1/20/H43.

45/08 ALLEGED PUBLIC FOOTPATH BETWEEN HASLEMERE ROAD AND FOOTPATH 130 (WITLEY) NORTH OF PARSONAGE FARM, WITLEY (Item 13)

On the basis of the evidence presented in the report the Committee supported the recommendations by a majority vote.

Resolved that:

- (i) Public footpath rights are recognised over route A-D on drawing 3/1/16/H23 and that this application for a MMO under sections 53 and 57 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to modify the Definitive Map and Statement by the addition of a footpath is approved. The route will be known as Public Footpath no. 598 (Witley).
- (ii) A legal order should be made and advertised to implement these changes. If objections are maintained to such an order, it will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for confirmation.

Reason for decision:

The evidence shows that a public footpath is reasonably alleged to subsist over the route A-D on plan 3/1/16/H23.

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS: TRANSPORTATION MATTERS

46/08 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN: TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL BUDGET 2008-2009, ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION AND BUDGET MONITORING (Item 14)

The Committee welcomed the funding allocated by the Executive and the opportunity provided by this to progress additional schemes in Waverley.

Resolved to:

- (i) Note that the Executive has allocated additional capital and revenue funding to Waverley highways.
- (ii) Authorise the Local Highways Manager to progress those additional transportation schemes now included in the programme (Hascombe Village and Summers Road, Godalming) in consultation with local elected members and associated Task Groups

Reason for decision:

To agree a response to the additional funding made available and to monitor progress.

47/08 D127 HALE HOUSE LANE, CHURT (Item 15)

Resolved to refer a potential safety scheme in Hale House Lane to the Haslemere and Western Villages Transportation Task Group for consideration as a funding bid in 2009/2010.

Reason for decision:

To respond to a petition presented by residents.

48/08 TRAFFIC ORDER FOR THE SIGNED SPEED LIMIT ON THE A287 HINDHEAD ROAD, HINDHEAD (Item 16)

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 50mph speed limit on the section of the A287 Hindhead Road, Haslemere described in paragraph 1.3 (below) be advertised 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 association with the Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman of the Local Committee and relevant local councillors.

Reason for decision:

To formalise the signed 50mph speed limit.

49/08 CO-ORDINATING THE WORK OF THE ACCIDENT WORKING GROUP AND THE LOCAL COMMITTEE (Item 17)

Resolved to endorse the proposal contained in Annex 1 of the report.

Reason for decision:

It is believed that the proposal will achieve the improved co-ordination required by members.

[Mr D Harmer and Mr R Knowles left the meeting at this point.]

50/08 A31 ALTON ROAD: COXBRIDGE TO COUNTY BOUNDARY, FARNHAM (Item 18)

While recognizing that safety considerations are paramount, members felt that some residents would be uncomfortable with any closure of the gaps and reduction to a single lane of what is an important primary route. It was proposed from the Chair and agreed nem. con. to delete the original recommendation (ii) contained in the report and to request a further report setting out options for improving safety in both directions on the section of road under consideration.

Resolved to:

- (i) Agree that traffic orders be prepared, advertised, and if agreed by the Chairman, local Members and Local Highway Manager, made, for the closure of the A31 Alton Road central reservation gaps at Chamber Lane and Farnham House Hotel.
- (ii) Agree that the Local Highways Manager should bring a report to the next meeting of this Committee on the options for improving road safety in both directions on the A31 between Coxbridge Roundabout and the county boundary, as well as potential improvements to the central reservation gaps described at (i) which may obviate the need for their closure.

Reason for decision:

To respond to concerns about road safety and to current opportunities.

The meeting closed at 4.35pm

..... (Chairman)

Contact:

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ANNEX 1

Item 5: Public Questions and Responses

1. Mrs Celia Sandars (Farnham)

Has the Committee been given detailed information on the costs of implementing the measures proposed for Farnham town centre within Waverley Borough Council's Air Quality Action Plan ? Has the Committee detailed or other information on the proposed source(s) of funding to implement these measures and how and when this/these fund(s) will become available ?

Response

Costs have not yet been estimated beyond an initial judgement in the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) that "individual measures may incur low to medium costs while the final package as a whole may have a high cost". (AQAP page 15). Thresholds for high/medium/low are set given in guidance by DEFRA and quoted on page 12 of the AQAP.

Funding is discussed in the report to be considered a Item 7 on the agenda for this meeting of the Local Committee.

2. Ms Cherry Allan (Godalming Cycle Campaign)

Does the Committee agree that it is important to encourage people of all ages to travel by foot or by bike, and that one way to do this is to make their local road environment safer and more pleasant by tackling anti-social driving ?

If so, would the Committee also agree that addressing excessive and inappropriate speed is vital and that measures should be taken to create a culture where drivers expect low speeds along the streets where people live and children want to play ?

The Department for Transport says that a pedestrian has about a 2.5% chance of dying if hit at 20mph, 20% of dying at 30mph and 90% at 40mph, so will the council consider 20mph speed limits as the best option for most residential streets in Waverley ? Would they be willing to follow the example of Portsmouth, where an area-wide 20mph scheme in residential streets has already been introduced with the overwhelming support of the local community ?

Response

Surrey County Council actively promotes cycling and walking as alternatives to using the car, to the benefit of individual health, as well as reducing vehicle emissions. The County Council also pursues a speed management policy to regulate driver speeds, and lower speeds make cycling a safer and more pleasant experience.

Annex 1 of Item 14 demonstrates the Local Committee's ongoing commitment to meeting these objectives. In the current financial year reduced speed limits have already been introduced in Frensham, Millbridge and Shortfield

Common. Lower limits will also be introduced in Cranleigh and Alfold. Funding has been allocated to develop and introduce cycle routes in both Farnham and Cranleigh. Earlier in the year, thirteen new Vehicle Activated Signs were installed across Waverley to encourage drivers to watch their speed, and officers work with the Police to promote the Community Speedwatch initiative.

While the idea of introducing 20mph speed limits in most residential roads in Waverley may sound attractive, it would require fundamental changes to the County Councils Speed Limit policy. At present 20mph limits are only considered if they are accompanied by traffic calming measures which ensure that speeds are reduced to this level, or where speeds are already close to 20mph. The cost of introducing traffic calming to reduce speeds to 20mph in a given residential area would be prohibitive, so a policy change would be required to make the change to a lower limit without traffic calming.

In view of the above, the question has been referred to the County Council's policy unit for consideration.

3. Two linked questions from the South Farnham Residents Association

At the last Local Committee meeting, a member of the South Farnham Residents Association (SOFRA) asked an informal question about when the, long promised, wooden posts would be installed in Waverley Lane and in Tilford Road to protect the grass verges. The answer given was that, although Surrey Highways felt that, in the case of grass verges, planting of trees was a better solution, these particular posts would be installed, before the start of the Autumn school term.

Tilford Road (from Mr Andrew MacLeod)

The residents of Tilford Road have long complained about the inconsiderate and dangerous parking of the some of the school parents on the grass verge at school run times. This grass verge is an attractive feature and was being constantly damaged by this parking. The parking was dangerous, as the verge is quite high off the road, it runs right up to the traffic lights where many children cross the road and it is opposite to the site of the Coley House redevelopment into a block of flats.

The posts recently installed in Tilford Road are not wooden posts, but 15 very ugly black and white striped plastic posts, completely spoiling the look of the road at that point. The installation of the posts is open to question. They have been installed about 11 feet apart, far closer together than is necessary to prevent parking. This aggravates the problem of their ugliness. The Council's own wooden posts in Waverley Lane near to Lynch Road do exactly the same job of preventing parking on a grass verge and they are 18 to 20 feet apart.

The run of posts finishes over 30 yards from the traffic lights. This is an area where parking previously took place. We will have to wait and see if the new posts deter parking in this area.

We would like to understand the Council's thinking on this issue:

- Why were wooden posts not installed, as they would have looked in keeping with the area ?
- If cost is the issue what is the cost of a wooden post and what is the cost of a plastic post ?
- If the Highways Service thinks that trees are a better solution, why was this not adopted in this case ? SOFRA knows what trees cost, as with Council permission, we installed two recently in Waverley Lane at a cost of around £25 each.
- The Coley House Developer has now installed some wooden posts on his own side of the road to protect a grass verge near to the site entrance. Was the developer asked to fund part or all of a wooden post solution as SOFRA suggested to Surrey Highways and Councillors ?

Waverley Lane (from Ms Zofia Lovell)

To our considerable disappointment nothing has happened in Waverley Lane. The Waverley Lane posts were first requested by the SOFRA chairman to the then Local Highways Manager (LHM) in 2007 and an agreement was reached to install them, along with a number of wooden posts in Menin Way at the traffic light end of the road, to counter the increased driving on the pavement at school run times.

Six wooden posts were installed in Menin Way shortly afterwards. We are very happy to give Surrey Highways credit for doing this fairly promptly and efficiently and these posts have significantly improved the driving discipline, safety and the protection of the pavement and underlying services at that end of the road in Menin Way at school run time. However, despite a reminder, nothing happened about the Waverley Lane posts. We decided to try to speed things up in February 2008 by producing a map of exactly where we wished to see the posts installed. This map was e-mailed to the LHM on 21st February 2008 and it showed:

- 2 posts, matching the existing wooden posts at the school entrance, to be placed outside St Polycarp's school at the southern end of the zigzag yellow lines between the tree and the lamppost, where the grass verge is being heavily damaged by heavy vehicles mounting the verge.
- 3 posts to be placed at the southern side of the junction of Lynch Road and Waverley Lane, opposite and matching the existing wooden posts on the north side. Again at this point the grass verges are being heavily damaged by vehicles mounting the verges.

On the same day, 21st February 2008, the LHM copied SOFRA in to an instruction to one of his staff to arrange for the installation of the posts. Nothing actually happened. Informal reminders have not worked, including our informal question at the last Local Committee meeting, so we are now raising this issue as a formal question to the Local Committee: we would like to ask when the Highways Service will carry out a commitment first made over a year ago.

Response

A review of on-street parking restrictions in Farnham is currently under way, and the South Farnham Residents Association has been very helpful in moving this forward by suggesting alterations to yellow lines in roads to the south of the level crossing. A report on the results of the review will be considered at the December meeting of this committee.

In the past, various undertakings have been made to provide bollards to deter vehicles mounting verges in the area around Waverley Lane and Tilford Road, and some bollards have been installed. However, since parking restrictions in these roads may change as a result of the review, it would make sense to wait until any changes are determined before deciding whether the provision of more bollards, or alternatively licensed planting, is considered desirable.

The black and white bollards recently installed in Tilford Road are the result of one such earlier undertaking. They are temporary in that they were put in to see how they affect driver behaviour (to see whether the problem moves elsewhere) and they will be replaced by timber units (currently on order) in the near future. The comments on spacing are noted, and when the permanent bollards are installed they will be set further apart.

It is also intended to install a number of timber bollards in Waverley Lane at St Polycarp's school in the near future to complement the recently marked school bus stopping spaces.

ANNEX 2

Item 6: Member's Question and Response

Mr Roger Steel (Farnham Moor Park):

I should like to request that a weight limit be placed on Camp Hill, Farnham.

Camp Hill is a country lane, 250 yards in length, connecting Crooksbury Road and Waverley Lane at the Abbey in Farnham. It is just wide enough for two cars to pass but has neither pavements nor lighting and is classified as a 'C' road. The sides of the road comprise steep banks which are heavily wooded and the trees overhang so as to form an arch. It is within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There are just four dwellings – two at the corner of Crooksbury Road and two at the Abbey end – the latter two are listed buildings and were built in the mid 18th century. Swift wrote Gulliver's Travels in one of them.

Cars use the road as a 'rat run from the Hogs Back and whilst a considerable nuisance cause no material harm. However, large lorries from the gravel and sand pits use Camp Hill as a short cut. Heavily laden they cause the two listed cottages to vibrate on their foundations and are causing long-term damage. Repeated requests on this matter from the Compton Residents Association have met with no response. I believe the matter is such that it requires urgent action.

May I ask this Committee to place a weight limit on Camp Hill with all urgency before further damage is done and before there is a serious accident due to the size of the heavy vehicles ?

Response

Camp Hill is typical of a sunken lane in rural Waverley, as can be gathered from the description provided in the question.

While it is undoubtedly the case that the seemingly increasing use of such roads by larger vehicles in recent years can result in damaged road edges, verges and banks, and nuisance for residents, the introduction of a traffic order to restrict use is only usually considered in specific circumstances (in the absence of weak bridges or sub-standard headroom).

If large vehicles are consistently getting stuck, usually because they cannot negotiate very tight bends, dips or crests, or where very steep gradients may lead to loss of control, an order will be considered to prevent the road being repeatedly blocked, or to avoid the potential for accidents. The alternative to such an order and signed restriction is to provide blue background 'Unsuitable for HGVs' signs.

The Local Highway Manager will investigate this request, and bring it forward to the autumn meeting of the Farnham Traffic Task Group, for further consideration.

ANNEX 3

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

1. Mr A MacLeod

There is a concern that the designated parking spaces for the Pegasus buses serving South Farnham and St Polycarp's Schools are insufficient for the number of buses in operation and that overspill into restricted areas is taking place.

The response was that some marking remains outstanding and is being chased. The arrangements were agreed with the schools and providers and the situation will be reviewed when the marking is complete and the pattern of use has become established.

2. Mr R Holmes

Mr Holmes asked what might be a realistic timetable for the envisaged minor works to improve the situation at the Elmbridge Road bridge, Cranleigh. It was confirmed that this work should take place in the current financial year.

A further question concerned the obscured right of way signage at the bridge and the implications for this of the proposed improvements at this location. Officers undertook to obtain a response from the Countryside Access Officer.

3. Mr C Cook

The question related to the same location as in 2 (above) and concerned the timescale for installing illuminated signage. It is hoped that this will be in place before the winter.

4. Mr J Hyman

Mr Hyman asked, in connection with the impact on air quality in Farnham, how robust the process had been for modelling traffic volumes following the proposed changes to the Royal Deer junction. No answer was available and the Chairman declined to allow any further discussion on the matter since it related to the planning application for the regeneration of East Street shortly to be determined by Waverley Borough Council. Mr Hyman was advised to contact Mr Dominic Forbes at County Hall with any questions on the advice provided to the Planning Authority by the County Council's Transportation Development Control team.