



Minutes of meeting

LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)

Date: FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER 2008

Time: 2.00PM

Place: FARNHAM MEMORIAL 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 P Martin (Godalming South, Milford and Witley)
Mr D Munro (Farnham South)
Mr C Slyfield (Godalming North)
Mrs C Stevens (Haslemere)

Waverley Borough Council

Mr M W Byham (Bramley, Busbridge and Hascombe)
Mr S P Connolly (Godalming Farncombe and Catteshall)
Mr B A Ellis (Cranleigh West)
Mr B J Morgan (Elstead and Thursley)
Mr R A Knowles (Haslemere East and Grayswood)
Mr R J Steel (Farnham Moor Park)
Mr J A Ward (Farnham Shortheath and Boundstone)

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

51/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS (Item 1)

Apologies were received from Mr D Harmer, Mr R Gordon-Smith and Mr K Webster. Mr B Morgan was present as substitute for Mr Webster. Mr A Lovell was absent.

52/08 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: 12 September 2008 (Item 2)

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

53/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

Declarations of personal interest were received: in relation to Item 12 from Mr R Knowles on the grounds that he is portfolio holder at Waverley Borough Council with responsibility for on-street parking enforcement and from Mr R Steel on the grounds of residence and that he was previously chairman of the South Farnham Residents' Association; and in relation to Item 13 from Mr P Martin on the grounds that he is Chairman of Governors of St Catherine's School, Station Road, Bramley and from Mr M Byham on the grounds of family connection with King's Road, Haslemere.

Mrs P Frost indicated that, as Chairman of the County Council's Planning and Regulatory Committee, she declared a prejudicial interest in Items 19 and 23 and would leave the meeting for these items.

54/08 PETITIONS (Item 4)

Two petitions were received:

- From residents of Lower Bourne, Farnham, expressing concern at the speed of traffic on the section of the A287 from the Lower Bourne crossroads to Bourne Firs and highlighting the need to protect vulnerable pedestrians on the narrow pavement. Noting the fact that discussions with Surrey Police had taken place to review the use of enforcement and advisory measures in this location, it was, however, felt that the recently improved road surface would contribute to increased speeds. The petitioners requested that the Committee should undertake a thorough review of the situation and ensure that the necessary changes are implemented urgently.
- From residents of the Cranleigh area requesting Surrey County Council to make a Traffic Regulation Order prohibiting motorised traffic from using Lion's Lane, Cranleigh (BOAT 395) at any time of the year, with an exception for necessary access and agricultural use. The petitioners were concerned at damage caused to the surface of the lane by four-wheel-drive vehicles and felt that this made access difficult for pedestrians, cyclists and horse-riders. It was also requested that the County Council should repair the surface to make the lane suitable for all forms of non-motorised traffic.

55/08 **FORMAL PUBLIC QUESTIONS (Item 5)**

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

56/08 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (Item 6)**

There were no members' questions.

57/08 **ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Mr J Farmer reported on his approach to Surrey Police Authority and subsequent discussions with Surrey Police, following concern expressed at the 6 June 2008 meeting about access to the Police contact centre. Members were requested to encourage residents to use the correct telephone number when reporting incidents.

NON-EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS: TRANSPORTATION MATTERS

58/08 **ALLEGED PUBLIC FOOTPATHS BETWEEN MORLEY ROAD AND ALFRED ROAD, FARNHAM (Item 8)**

While noting that there is a history of use of the paths in question, members acknowledged that there is currently insufficient evidence to support the application. The intention to undertake further investigation into certain sections was welcomed.

Resolved to agree that:

- (i) No public footpath rights are recognised over B-C-D on plan 3/1/18/H73 or over any of the routes shown on drawing 3/1/18/H74 and that this part of the 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 not approved.
- (ii) In the event of the County Council being directed to make a MMO by the Secretary of State following an appeal by the claimant, the County Council as surveying authority will adopt a neutral stance at any public inquiry, making all evidence available to help the inspector to determine the case.
- (iii) Public footpath rights may have been acquired over sections A-B and B-C-D-E on plan 3/1/18/H75 but it is considered that further consultations and research are required and that a report be put before committee at a future date.

Reason for decision: The evidence shows that no public footpath(s) can be reasonably alleged to subsist over the route A-D on plan 3/1/20/H73, nor over any of the routes on the supplementary plans of H74 and H75.

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS: TRANSPORTATION MATTERS

**58/08 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN: TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL BUDGET
2008/09 MONITORING REPORT (Item 9)**

The Committee considered the status of the programme and were provided with detailed information on the timing of individual schemes.

Resolved to note progress on the schemes contained in the programme and the forecast outturns.

Reason for decision: To maintain an overview of progress.

**59/08 REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMUNITY HIGHWAY
OFFICERS IN IMPROVING SERVICE PERFORMANCE
(Item 10)**

The Committee acknowledged the success of the initiative in improving communication with local members and organisations and in providing a channel for identifying solutions to problems. It was noted that the original specification for the scheme suggested that officers would be encouraged to take a pride in their area and equipped to undertake minor repairs appropriate to their role and it was requested that these elements should be restated.

Additional recommendations (ii) and (iii) were proposed from the chair, seconded by Mrs P Frost and agreed unanimously, with a request that the comments be forwarded to the Transport Select Committee.

Resolved to:

- (i) Note the contents of the review.
- (ii) Welcome the flexibility offered by the increased use of technology and recommend its extension countywide.
- (iii) Request that responsiveness and added value be further improved by permitting Community Highway Officers to undertake minor repairs and adjustments to street furniture and other elements of the highway infrastructure.

Reason for decision: The report was presented for information; the Committee wished to see good practice and flexibility further embedded in the operation of the project.

**60/08 A31 ALTON ROAD: COXBRIDGE TO COUNTY BOUNDARY, FARNHAM
(Item 11)**

The Committee noted that closure of the gaps through the central reservation would impact adversely on adjacent businesses and require some local traffic to take a detour via Bentley; the commitment to undertake further consultation on this was welcomed. Members felt that the opportunity presented to extend singling of the eastbound carriageway into Surrey should be taken.

Recommendation (i) was corrected by the substitution of the word "east" for "west".

Resolved to:

- (i) Agree that, if Hampshire County Council reduces the eastbound carriageway of the A31 to a single lane on the approach to the Surrey boundary, this treatment be extended through the junctions with Chamber Lane and the Farnham House Hotel, before reverting to two lanes at a point just to the east of the hotel, subject to the availability of funding.
- (ii) Agree that the Local Highways Manager should bring a further report to this committee on options for improving safety on the A31 west of Coxbridge Roundabout.

Reason for decision: To respond to concerns about road safety.

61/08 **REVIEW OF ON-STREET PARKING IN FARNHAM FOLLOWING TRANSFER OF ENFORCEMENT TO WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL (Item 12)**

The Committee welcomed the report and the extent to which officers had worked with residents to agree proposals. It was pointed out that, while parking associated with the railway station exerted significant pressure on the adjacent areas, some on-street parking in this area was by users of Farnham town centre. The likelihood of displacement from this zone was acknowledged, although there was concern about the wider impact of restrictions in the more peripheral areas of south Farnham.

Officers proposed an amendment to the arrangements for resolving objections, as now set out in resolution (iii). Members were keen that any matters which could not be resolved or any significant amendments to the current proposals should be referred to the Committee for determination. The Local Highways Manager indicated that he would investigate further the timing of certain restrictions prior to advertisement.

Resolved :

- (i) That the proposed amendments to on-street parking restrictions in Farnham as shown on the drawings listed in this report are agreed.
- (ii) That the intention of Surrey County Council to make an Order under the relevant parts of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 be advertised to give effect to the proposals in the above recommendation and that, if no objections are maintained, the Order be made.
- (iii) Subject to approval of recommendations (i) and (ii), to authorise the Local Highways Manager, in consultation with the Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman of the Local Committee and relevant local councillors, to consider and determine any maintained objections submitted following the statutory advertisement, and agree any reductions on the proposed restrictions, following which the Order, as so amended, be made.

- (iv) To thank residents for their contributions to the review process, and particularly thank the South Farnham Residents Association, who put a great deal of work into helping with the review.
- (v) To note the intention of the County Council to carry out an annual review of on-street parking in Waverley from 2009/10 onwards.

Reason for decision: To ensure that parking restrictions in Farnham are fit for purpose and reflect current needs.

62/08 **PARKING RESTRICTIONS IN KING'S ROAD, HASLEMERE AND STATION ROAD, BRAMLEY (Item 13)**

Haslemere members expressed support for the proposals for King's Road and felt that, despite concerns expressed to the Committee, consultation with residents had been inclusive and effective.

The resolutions were carried by thirteen votes to one.

Resolved:

- (i) That the proposed amendments to on-street parking restrictions in King's Road, Haslemere and Station Road, Bramley as shown on the drawings listed in this report, are agreed.
- (ii) That the intention of Surrey County Council to make an order under the relevant parts of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 be advertised to give effect to the proposals in the above recommendation and that, if no objections are maintained, the Order be made.
- (iii) Subject to approval of recommendations (i) and (ii), to authorise the Local Highways Manager, in consultation with the Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman of the Local Committee and relevant local councillors, to consider and determine any maintained objections submitted following the statutory advertisement, and agree any reductions on the proposed restrictions, following which the Order, as so amended, be made.

Reason for decision: To ensure that parking restrictions in these locations are fit for purpose and reflect current needs.

63/08 **RESPONSE TO PETITION: PUBLIC FOOTPATH 137, WITLEY (Item 14)**

The Committee noted the report, but wished to explore further what opportunities might exist to improve lighting in this location as a means of reassuring pedestrians.

Additional recommendations (ii) and (iii) were proposed from the chair, seconded by Mrs P Frost and agreed unanimously.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the contents of the report and the concerns raised, but note that there is no duty to provide lighting nor currently available resource to extend lighting to the rural rights of way network.
- (ii) To request that officers explore with King Edward's School and Witley Parish Council what alternative options might exist for improving lighting.
- (iii) To refer the matter to the Godalming, Milford and Witley Transportation Task Group for consideration as a possible future funding bid.

Reason for decision: To respond to a petition presented at a previous meeting of the Committee.

64/08 **REDUCED SPEED LIMITS ON THE A286 AT BROOK VILLAGE AND TILFORD ROAD, BEACON HILL (Item 15)**

Resolved to:

- (i) Approve the introduction of a 30mph speed limit on a section of the A286 Haslemere Road through Brook village, subject to the formal agreement of Surrey Police.
- (ii) Approve the introduction of a 30mph speed limit on a section of the C28 Tilford Road at Beacon Hill, subject to the formal agreement of Surrey Police.

Reason for decision: To improve road safety at these locations.

65/08 **BLACKHEATH VILLAGE: TRAFFIC CALMING AT VILLAGE BOUNDARIES (Item 16)**

A correction to the published report was noted at 1.3: "Littleworth Lane" should read "Littleford Lane"; approval was also sought for installation of a choke in Sample Oak Lane. Funding would be provided by the Village Society and others (1.4).

Resolved to authorise the implementation of traffic calming measures in Blackheath, funded by the Village Society, subject to the approval of the Local Highways Manager.

Reason for decision: To improve road safety in this community.

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS: NON-TRANSPORTATION MATTERS

66/08 **SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT (Item 17)**

Discussion focused principally on the review of the "Ride Pegasus" school transport initiative. Members acknowledged the quality of the service provided in those areas where the vehicles operated and wished to see this maximised, but were concerned at the high unit costs. The Committee

expressed a wish to understand the full costs, including depreciation of vehicles, along with the wider benefits, e.g. reduced car-use and congestion. It was recognised that the use of the vehicles during the “down-time” period was important as a means of maximising income, but a challenge in that use is constrained by the needs of the school service and the size of the vehicles. Greater flexibility and better alignment with community transport needs might be achieved by the use of smaller vehicles and on-line technology.

In terms of accessibility more widely there was some discussion about the particular balance to be struck in rural areas between taking people to services and taking services to people. It was also pointed out that there are deficiencies in broadband access in some parts of Waverley. Officers were requested to bring a draft action plan back to the Committee in due course.

Resolved to:

- (i) Note the progress of the Accessibility Project.
- (ii) Request that the Committee’s comments on the review of “Ride Pegasus” be noted as its response to the review.

Reason for decision: To provide a Waverley perspective on the matters under consideration.

67/08 WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL’S AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN (Item 18)

The Committee noted progress in developing signage to encourage drivers to turn off the engines of their vehicles when stationary. It was felt, however, that –in relation to Farnham, which remains the priority for Waverley – the overall levels of traffic in the town centre are the principal cause of poor air quality. One remedy would be to divert goods vehicles on through journeys well away for the town and its immediate road network. Officers agreed to respond separately to a question about the extent to which the pattern of use of the long-stay car-parks in Farnham is understood.

Resolved to support the proposals and endorse the proposed programme of expenditure and invite officers from Waverley Borough and Surrey County Councils to present the Committee with a further update of progress in March 2009. This update will take the form of a draft progress report on the Action Plan, which must be submitted annually to DEFRA at the end of April.

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

68/08 RESPONSE TO PETITION: PROPOSALS TO REDEVELOP THE WITLEY COMMUNITY RECYCLING CENTRE (Item 19)

[Mrs P Frost left the meeting for the duration of this item: see 53/08 above.]

Resolved to agree that the potential to widen the existing access has been considered by Surrey County Council Waste Officers and Surrey Waste Management and that there will an opportunity for local residents and

interested parties to make further representations as part of the planning application determination process.

Reason for decision: To respond to a petition presented at a previous meeting of the Committee.

69/08 **HOUSEHOLD WASTE MANAGEMENT IN WAVERLEY: PROGRESS REPORT (Item 20)**

The Committee welcomed the increased level of co-operation described in the report between the County and District Councils in Surrey. Much of the discussion centred on the feasibility of providing for the road-side collection and treatment of food waste, although some members did not see this as a priority. An additional recommendation (ii) to encourage such developments was proposed from the chair, seconded by Mrs P Frost and accepted by seven votes to one.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the progress of household waste management in Waverley and the close working relationship between Surrey County Council and Waverley Borough Council and its peer districts in Surrey.
- (ii) To encourage the collection and appropriate disposal of food waste as the next step.

Reason for decision: The Committee had requested an update and wishes to promote the extension of recycling in Waverley.

NON-EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS: NON-TRANSPORTATION MATTERS

70/08 **LOCAL COMMITTEE BUDGETS 2008-2009 (Item 21)**

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.

Reason for decision: The Committee is required to ensure the timely and appropriate deployment of its budgets.

71/08 **LOCAL COMMITTEE FORWARD PLAN 2008-2009 (Item 22)**

Resolved to:

- (i) Note the proposed contents of the Forward Programme.
- (ii) Request that a report reviewing the progress of parking enforcement since its decriminalisation should be brought to a future meeting, in the light of the current work to develop a countywide parking strategy.

Reason for decision: The report was provided for information.

72/08 **PLANNING APPLICATION FOR A NEW SETTLEMENT AT DUNSFOLD PARK: APPEAL (Item 23)**

[The Item was considered between Items 16 and 17. Members of Waverley Borough Council's Joint Planning Committee were advised that they should not take part in this discussion and the following left the meeting for the duration of this item: Mrs P Frost, Mr P Martin, Mr R Knowles, Mr R Steel, Mr S Connolly.]

Attention was drawn to public concerns about the impact which large goods vehicles associated with any future development might have on rural roads in the vicinity. Reference was also made to objections made previously by the County Council to the Traffic Commissioner in response to proposals to increase the use by large goods vehicles of the existing site. The work of the Lorries Off Rural Detours (LORD) initiative is valued and it was felt that the volume of heavy goods traffic generated by the proposed settlement would not be appropriate for the local road network. It is also considered that the implications for the B2130 route towards Godalming and the C34 linking Dunsfold with Chiddingfold should be taken into account in assessing the impact on transportation. The latter route would provide a link to the A3 and is also used by Dunsfold residents in accessing the surgery at Chiddingfold.

Resolved that the observations set out above should be conveyed to the Borough Council in support of the transportation objections raised by the County Council at the application stage.

Reason for decision: The Local Committee had an opportunity to comment on the transportation matters previously raised by the County Council to the Borough Council prior to the appeal being heard.

The meeting closed at 4.50pm

..... (Chairman)

Contact:

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ANNEX 1

Item 5: Public Questions and Responses

From Ms Kate Horne:

As a new resident to the area, I was pleased to see that Waverley have a Borough Cycling Plan, with a range of key schemes planned to encourage cycling in the borough. The information on the website suggests that the plan was adopted in 2004/5. There are clear actions with timescales for completion, ranging from annual review to completion in 2005. However, I am unable to find further details on progress towards these actions. Please could you advise on progress towards each of these targets and where this information is available.

Response

The Waverley Borough Cycle Plan was developed by Waverley Borough Council, and forms part of its planning strategy. As such, the Borough Council should be able to answer questions on progress towards targets, and any anticipated revisions of the plan. The Local Committee considered a report on the plan at its meeting of 7 March 2008, and agreed that it should be considered as a guide for developing cycle initiatives and schemes that are promoted in accordance with Surrey County Council's own policy to promote cycling.

ANNEX 2

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

1. Mr David Jones (Farnham)

Mr Jones referred to parking in the Farnham Station area, pointing out that some of the vehicles belong to people working in the town rather than being exclusively associated with commuting from the station. Mr Jones asked for an update on discussions with Network Rail and South West Trains about the possibility of extending parking facilities at the station.

Mr D Munro replied that a meeting had taken place this week. There are plans to apply in due course for a double-deck car-park, but the priority locally is Haslemere. It was felt that the rail companies are receptive and it is recommended that community pressure should be maintained.

2. Ms Celia Sandars (Farnham)

Ms Sandars referred to Item 18 (Air Quality Action Plan) on the agenda, specifically the plan to direct drivers to existing long-stay car parks (St James and Riverside) to encourage appropriate town centre users to access these facilities rather than driving through the Air Quality Management Area. Ms Sandars asked what had been done to assess the amount of regular spare week-day capacity in these two car parks and to identify where existing users come from and why these are their car parks of choice; she asked whether it is clear that there is no risk that numbers of these existing users will be squeezed out of the St James and Riverside parking and forced instead to resort to town centre car parks.

The matter was referred to Waverly Borough Council officers for a response.

3. Mrs Betty Ames (Alfold)

Mrs Ames asked if the Local Committee would note, in considering what comments to make in relation to Item 23 (Dunsfold Park), the possible impact on the B2130 (Brighton Road), the work of the Lorries Off Rural Detours (LORD) initiative and current concerns about the licensing of large goods vehicles associated with the existing use of the site.

The Chairman replied that the comments would be taken into consideration.

4. Mr Tim Forrest (Chiddingfold)

Mr Forrest's question also related to Item 23. He asked whether the Committee would note the possible impact of the proposed development on the C34 between Dunsfold and Chiddingfold, which would be the main access route for large good vehicles travelling between Dunsfold Park and the A3 and for drivers travelling to Witley Station. The Committee was also reminded that currently many Dunsfold residents use the surgery in Chiddingfold.

The Chairman replied that the comments would be taken into consideration.

5. Mr D Knight (Farnham)

Mr Knight asked if the Committee was aware of the likely severe impact on local businesses needing access to the A31 if the closure of central gaps referred to in Item 11 (A31 Alton Road) were to be implemented. Alternative access would be via Bentley and some dangerous sections of road. Businesses are in favour of the proposed eastbound reduction to a single lane and it is also suggested that monthly grass-cutting would improve safety.

The Local Highways Manager confirmed his view that the gaps present the risk of very severe accidents. There is currently no recommendation before the Committee to close the gaps and the exploration of options and consultation with stakeholders will continue in the new year.