



Minutes of meeting

LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)

Date: FRIDAY 22 OCTOBER 2010
Time: 4.45PM
Place: GODALMING BAPTIST CHURCH

Members present:

Surrey County Council

Mrs P Frost (Farnham Central) (Chairman)
Mr S Renshaw (Haslemere) (Vice-Chairman)
Mr S Cosser (Godalming North)
Mr D Harmer (Waverley Western Villages)
Ms D Le Gal (Farnham North)
Mr J Lord (Cranleigh and Ewhurst)
Mr P Martin (Godalming South, Milford and Witley)
Mr D Munro (Farnham South)

Waverley Borough Council

Mr M Byham (Bramley, Busbridge and Hascombe)
Mrs C Cockburn (Farnham Bourne)
Mr S Connolly (Godalming Farncombe and Catteshall)
Mr B Ellis (Cranleigh West)
Mr T Gordon-Smith (Godalming Charterhouse)
Mr B Morgan (Elstead and Thursley)
Mr J Ward (Farnham Shortheath and Boundstone)

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

54/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS (Item 1)

Apologies were received from Dr A Povey, Mrs E Cable, Mr K Webster and Mr R Knowles (for whom Mr S Connolly, Mrs C Cockburn and Mr B Morgan attended as substitutes) and Mr S Hill; Mr A Lovell was absent. Mr J Lord and Mr S Connolly were absent at the beginning of the meeting.

55/10 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: 17 September 2010 (Item 2)

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

56/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

Mr B Morgan declared a personal interest in relation to Item 6 on the grounds that the location in question falls within the Borough Council ward which he represents.

57/10 PETITIONS (Item 4)

No petitions were received.

58/10 FORMAL PUBLIC QUESTIONS (Item 5)

One public question was received: the Committee's response is set out in **Annex 1**.

Mrs Sandars, by way of a supplementary question, expressed her disappointment that there is little likelihood of any improvement of bus services in South Farnham and asked if the Local Committee might consider applying pressure for a reconsideration of policy. The Chairman stressed the Committee's commitment to improving air quality in Farnham and referred to its agreement at the 17 September 2010 meeting to strengthened loading restrictions in central Farnham.

[Mr S Connolly joined the meeting at this point.]

59/10 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (Item 6)

One question was presented and the response is set out in **Annex 2**.

The Area Team Manager for Highways undertook to visit the collapsed section of Sailors' Lane, Thursley and discuss possible solutions with the Council's structural engineers. He will liaise with the County Councillor and relevant Borough Councillors.

Annex 2 also contains a response to the question received from Mr D Munro at the previous meeting to which a holding response was provided on that occasion.

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

60/10 LOCAL COMMITTEE BUDGETS 2010-2011 (Item 7)

Resolved to:

- (i) Approve the applications for expenditure annexed to and contained in paragraphs 3.1-3.2 of 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.

[Mr J Lord joined the meeting at this point.]

61/10 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN: TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL BUDGET 2010-2011 (Additional urgent item)

The Chairman had agreed to accept this item as a matter of urgency on the grounds that, in order to ensure that expenditure is complete by the end of the current financial year, a decision could not be delayed until the next meeting of the Committee.

The Committee welcomed the allocation of additional funding to Waverley. It was agreed to ring-fence the schemes approved for funding at the 17 September 2010 meeting (including the £15,000 contingency for small-scale works, e.g. signage, bollards). Task Group Chairmen were invited to consult with members and submit proposals for additional minor surfacing schemes for costing to the Area Team Manager for Highways by 31 October and determination as set out in (ii) below.

Resolved that:

- (i) The available budget of £130,000 be directed towards small surfacing schemes and the decisions on allocations made at the 17 September meeting confirmed.
- (ii) The allocation of the additional funding now made available be delegated to the Area Team Manager for Highways in consultation with the Chairman and following discussion with the Local Transport Plan Task Group.

Reason for decision:

A decision on principles and next steps was required to ensure that expenditure of the additional funding allocated to the Committee is complete by the end of the current financial year.

The meeting closed at 5.15 pm

..... (Chairman)

Contact:

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ANNEX 1: PUBLIC QUESTIONS

From Mrs Celia Sandars (Farnham)

Committee Members may recall that a meeting of Surrey, Farnham and Waverley Councillors and Officers and interested residents was held at The Maltings, Farnham on 26 February 2010 to discuss Farnham's longstanding problems with traffic congestion and sub-standard air quality.

Undertakings were given that the meeting would be followed up with further discussions to decide what action might be taken to mitigate those problems but, as one of the participants in that meeting, I have not been informed of any progress or outcomes resulting from any follow-up discussions.

I think that everyone would agree that less use of the car for journeys into the town centre would help and that greater use of public transport could be the way forward for the many residents who are not able to walk any great distance. Bus services from South Farnham and The Bourne appear to be far less frequent than those from the north of the town and this may well dissuade residents from making regular use of the buses. With buses timed at only one an hour during most of the day and the service ending in the late afternoon, people will obviously be reluctant to swap a short round trip by car for a bus journey that may involve impossibly long waiting times.

Please will the County Council engage with the local bus companies to make better provision for residents living on the south side of Farnham, as a measure to improve air quality and to reduce congestion ?

Committee Response

A report on the 'Farnham Air Quality Improvements Project' was presented to the 17 September 2010 meeting of the Local Committee as Item 9. The report and minutes of the meeting are available at www.surreycc.gov.uk/waverley .

The Committee resolved to agree the transport-based strategy comprising the proposed measures and implementation timetable. This strategy will help mitigate air pollution in the Farnham Air Quality Management Area and to respond to a number of transport problems in and around the town. The air quality workshop held on 26 January 2010 was part of this process, as described in section 1 of the report. As stated in paragraph 2.15, the bus review currently being undertaken by the County Council may have an impact on bus service provision in Waverley. Through this review, and as part of its regular work, the County Council continually works with local bus companies to improve services and facilities throughout Surrey. That said, the bus review is unlikely to provide additional services in and around Farnham. However, there is also an opportunity to promote the Community Buses offered by Waverley Community Transport, who provide demand-responsive services in and around Farnham. It should also be noted that bus waiting facilities and real time passenger information measures are included in the strategy, as part of the East Street Section 278 agreement. The implementation date for these improvements is dependent on the commencement of the East Street development.

ANNEX 2: MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

From Mr Bryn Morgan

Some concern has been expressed by the Parish Council, and local residents, about the condition of Sailors' Lane in the parish of Thursley. In part, the road appears to have collapsed and has become dangerous. Beyond closing that part of the road that is most severely affected, may I ask what measures are proposed to (a) ensure access and egress for the residents and businesses in the lane; (b) what temporary measures will be taken to ensure that no further deterioration in the condition of the lane will take place; and (c) what permanent steps can be taken, and when will they be applied, to remedy the situation and ensure the safety of the public highway ?

In view of the sand and spoil being washed down onto the Thursley Road at Pitch Place south of Sailors' Lane, from an unmade-up byway during heavy rainfall, and the dangerous conditions created at the blind bend in the Thursley Road at that point, will the highway authority indicate what steps will be taken to remedy the cause of these conditions and ensure the safety of vehicles, cyclists, horseriders and pedestrians on the public highway ?

Committee response

Sailors' Lane was formally closed to through traffic by emergency Traffic Order on Friday 24 September following the collapse of part of the carriageway just to the south of the junction with Thursley Lane, due to scour following heavy rain. The closure will remain in place while Surrey Highways assess the damage and arrange permanent repairs. Realistically, it will be several months before the road is re-opened to through traffic, given funding can be found to effect repairs.

In answer to the points raised:

- (a) The closure is to through traffic only, and vehicles may legally use the lane in either direction up to the point of collapse to access properties and premises. A diversion route is signed via Thursley Lane, Tilford Road and Hyde Lane.
- (b) Sailors' Lane is a sunken road, and the collapse was caused by surface water running down the road, discharging through the bank, and washing out the road foundation. To reduce the volume of water reaching the point where the road has collapsed, grips will be cut through the banks going uphill towards Hyde Lane. Since the collapse, Highways officers have met with residents and adjacent landowners in Sailors' Lane and Hyde Lane to discuss how drainage in the area can be improved by landowners clearing ditches for which they are responsible.
- (c) The specification for the permanent repair has not been finalised, but will obviously involve rebuilding the embankment and road, with provision to deal with the run-off that originally caused the damage, and so prevent a similar occurrence

Sand washing onto the road at this location is a long-standing phenomenon, due to the natural drainage paths and the local sandstone geology. This sand is not considered a hazard to motorists, since the 90 degree blind bend and single track nature of Sailors' Lane mean vehicle speeds are extremely low. Pedestrians, cyclists and riders are accustomed to using the adjacent sand bridleways and footways. However, Surrey County Council Rights of Way team intends to install railway

sleeper grips in the surface of Byway 103 just north of Hyde Lane to deflect water flowing towards the road into an adjacent hollow.

The following set of questions was presented by Mr David Munro at the 17 September 2010 meeting of the Local Committee; a holding response was provided at the time and full responses are now set out below (in bold):

- Has the provision of salt bins been reviewed and, if so, with what result ?

The provision of grit bins was reviewed as part of the work of the Winter Performance Task Group which was reported to Cabinet on 28 September 2010. The grit bin asset has now been substantially surveyed and plotted and details are available on-line.

- Have the many requests for additional bins been properly considered and, if not, when will this be done ?

The County Council provides grit bins at locations which meet its criteria and requests are assessed to ensure that those provided by Highways meet the approved criteria and service the highest priorities. Members and other stakeholders may purchase a grit bin and, through a commuted sum, its maintenance for a ten-year period.

- When will we know what additional bins have been approved ?

Within the winter service no budget provision has been made for new grit bins on the network. We are establishing a scheme where councillors, parish councils etc can buy a grit bin for £2500 one off payment. This will cover installation, repair and maintenance and 1 fill a year for 10 years.

- Has there been a thorough audit of existing bins to check that they are in the right places and are in good repair ? If not, when will this be done ?

The grit bin asset has been substantially surveyed; it is expected that a full inventory, together with a criteria check and condition assessment, will be completed for use next winter season with the new contractor.

Grit bins not meeting the criteria referred to in Annex E of the Cabinet report (20%) will be removed from the highway network at the end of the 2010/11 winter season for use at other locations, which do meet the criteria. An assessment of all Highway grit bins will be provide each Local Committee with a list of those that do not meet the location criteria prior to their removal by 31 March 2011.

- What member participation in the process has happened or is envisaged ?

Members have had the opportunity to contribute through the joint Scrutiny Committee meeting in March 2010 and two members' seminars in September. In addition members of the Local Committee (Waverley) had a briefing and discussion session on 17 September 2010. The Local

Committee (Waverley) will be consulted in the spring on those grit bins that have been identified for removal.

- Have orders for additional, and replacements for damaged, bins been submitted and, if so, when will they be installed ?

Where bins are damaged to the extent that water ingress and leaching of the contents may occur, they have been replaced.

- What arrangements have been made for all bins to be filled at the start of winter and then monitored and replenished at regular intervals ?

For the 2010/11 season, all existing bins that are not damaged have be filled in advance of the winter season. An audit of the operation is currently in progress. The management/budget for the grit bins includes for the preseason fill plus a single mid season restock.