



Minutes of meeting

LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)

Date: FRIDAY 18 MARCH 2011

Time: 2.00PM

Place: CHIDDINGFOLD VILLAGE HALL

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 P Martin (Godalming South, Milford and Witley)
Mr D Munro (Farnham South)
Dr A Povey (Waverley Eastern Villages)

Waverley Borough Council

Mr M Byham (Bramley, Busbridge and Hascombe)
Mrs E Cable (Witley and Hambledon)
Mr B Ellis (Cranleigh West)
Mr T Gordon-Smith (Godalming Charterhouse)
Ms James (Ewhurst)
Mr R Knowles (Haslemere East and Grayswood)
Mr B Morgan (Elstead and Thursley)
Mr K Webster (Milford)

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

01/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS (Item 1)

Mr J Lord has tendered his resignation from the County Council and is therefore no longer a member of the Committee. Apologies were received from Mr S Hill and Mr A Lovell (for whom Mr B Morgan and Ms D James respectively were present as substitutes) and from Mr J Ward.

02/11 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: 17 December 2010 (Item 2)

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

03/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

There were no formal declarations of interest, although Mr D Munro noted his role as County Council Trustee of the 40 Degreez Youth Centre in Farnham (Item 9) and as Waverley Borough Council Executive Member for Communities (Item 11).

04/11 PETITIONS (Item 4)

No petitions were received.

05/11 FORMAL PUBLIC QUESTIONS (Item 5)

Four public questions were received: the Committee's responses and a record of the supplementary questions are set out in **Annex 1**.

06/11 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (Item 6)

There were no members' questions.

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

07/11 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME BUDGET 2011-12 (Item 7)

The Area Team Manager explained that, in addition to the programme set out at 2.2 in the report, he proposed the retention of a small "Aids to Movement" budget to enable him to respond to minor local requests throughout the year. This was agreed and reflected in resolution (i) below.

Members were reassured that implementation of the annual programme for 2011-12 would begin as soon as possible. It was confirmed that the requirement for a contingency fund for dropped kerbs in Godalming had been noted. The Committee welcomed the range of schemes proposed to enhance road safety in Eastern Villages and the offer of some Parish Councils throughout the borough to contribute towards schemes within their boundaries.

Resolved to:

- (i) Agree that the transportation schemes described in this report, along with the provision of a small "Aids to Movement" budget, will form the Waverley Local Transport Plan programme for 2011-12.
- (ii) Authorise the Area Team Manager (ATM) to progress the schemes included in the programme in consultation with local elected members and associated task groups.
- (iii) Authorise the ATM to consider and determine any objections submitted following the statutory advertisement of the traffic orders and notices associated with the programme of schemes, in consultation with the Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman of the Local Committee and relevant local councillors.

Reason for decision:

The Committee was asked to agree a programme of schemes, which will allow work to progress.

08/11 DEVELOPMENT RELATED WORKS AT WATER LANE (B3208), MONKTON LANE (B3367), WEYBOURNE ROAD (B3007): STAX LEISURE CENTRE, MONKTON LANE, FARNHAM (Item 8)

Members requested that the amount of signage associated with this scheme should be no more than is necessary to ensure that sufficient information is provided to both pedestrians and cyclists to ensure their safety. The ATM agreed to a request that a representative of the Waverley Cycle Forum be invited to a site meeting to check all details of the proposed scheme and that residents also be involved in advising on appropriate signage.

Resolved to:

- (i) Exercise the powers of the County Council under Section 65 of the Highways Act 1980 to convert the existing footways as described in paragraphs 1-5 above to shared use cycleways/footways.
- (ii) Approve the erection and use of regulatory signs to diagram numbers 956, 965, 967, and 1057 in accordance with Traffic Signs and General Directions 2002.

Reason for decision:

To encourage walking and cycling to the proposed development by creating a safer environment.

09/11 YOUTH SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN FOR WAVERLEY 2011-2012 (Item 9)

Officers informed the Committee that a detailed plan setting out specific local actions is available on request. Attention was drawn in particular to the provision of accredited training to young people, to the extent of partnership working and to the challenges associated with isolation in rural communities.

It was agreed that, in developing the Local Committee's future role in relation to youth provision, closer liaison between members and the service and with the Borough Council and voluntary sector would be desirable. Members welcomed the direction of travel contained in the plan and the enhanced focus on the most vulnerable young people. Recognising that the service continues to offer some support to voluntary groups in the villages, attention was nevertheless drawn to the continuing needs of rural areas and the concerns of local Police officers in this regard: officers referred in response to the development of appropriate interventions through the Safer Waverley Partnership, but noted the need to keep rural members informed. Officers also undertook to look at practice elsewhere in relation to transporting isolated young people to activities.

Some concern was expressed at the extent of the youth offer in Godalming, the continued absence of appropriate premises and a perceived need for the service to show more leadership. There was a suggestion that the provision of youth facilities in Bramley could perhaps be revisited in the context of the community partnering arrangements being developed for the library (Item 11).

Clarification was sought on the extent of possible in-year reductions in the service's budget and officers reported that, in the light of some very recent developments, they were hopeful that front-line operational budgets could be preserved as much as possible in the year ahead. Members also reflected on the longer term Transformation Project for youth services and the possible impact of some recently communicated changes in approach.

Resolved to agree the targets and priorities for youth service delivery in Waverley in 2011-12 as outlined in section 2 of the report.

Reason for decision:

The targets set out in this plan and the resulting outcomes will benefit those young people in the borough most in need as well as providing a range of activities and opportunities for all young people who choose to access them.

[Mr B Ellis left the meeting during this item.]

10/11 **SURREY FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY: DRAFT PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2011-20 (Item 10)**

[Mr Richard Walsh was present for this item, representing Ms Kay Hammond (County Council Cabinet Member for Community Safety).]

Officers set out the background and rationale for the proposals contained in the draft plan, as set out in the attached Annex 3.

Some members expressed their concern that the balance of full-time fire stations significantly disadvantaged the south of the county and that it would in consequence be difficult to meet the service's target response times in this area. There was particular unease about the coverage of the Cranleigh area and villages across southern Waverley (and also pockets elsewhere which fall some distance from fire stations), reinforced in the view of some members by a recent severe incident in Ewhurst. A concern was also voiced at the extent to which reliance is placed on out-county services to provide a second

appliance when required and the vulnerability of these in the event of neighbouring fire authorities undertaking a similar restructuring of provision.

Officers sought to reassure members that the service would continue to select the appliance which is predicted to provide the fastest response to an incident, regardless of its county of origin. However, the data on which the response targets were modelled relies, in Waverley, exclusively on capacity within Surrey. Under the plan it is envisaged that day-time cover will be enhanced in eastern Waverley by an additional appliance and night-time cover will continue to be enhanced through the retained provision. Nevertheless, officers undertook to note the concerns expressed and to provide a response to all members of the Committee.

There was a discussion about the challenges posed by the A3 Tunnel when open for use and the extent to which a response to major heathland fires might be provided. In response officers acknowledged their reliance on co-operation between fire authorities on these occasions and cited a national protocol governing coverage of major incidents. Officers noted a question about the provision of a “first response” capability across emergency services and undertook to continue their consideration of this.

Resolved to note the Surrey Fire and Rescue Authority draft Public Safety Plan and request that its comments be included in the current consultation.

Reason for decision:

To ensure (i) that the consultation process has provided an opportunity for the public to hear from officers and the member(s) responsible for the plan within a public forum and (ii) that this opportunity has been provided in each borough and district.

[Ms D James left the meeting at this point.]

11/11 PUBLIC VALUE REVIEW OF THE LIBRARY SERVICE (Item 11)

The Library Operations Manager summarised the outcome of the review and its implications and explained the intention to develop new ways of enabling users to access services following the withdrawal of the mobile library service.

Invited by the Chairman to address the Committee, Ms S O’Connell (Chairman of Bramley Parish Council and supported by Mr Richard Gates as a Parish Councillor) outlined actions taken to date to respond to the County Council’s invitation to develop a community partnering approach to the future operation of Bramley Library. While remaining sceptical about the methodology of the Review, the Parish Council recognised the need to make progress and had initiated consultation and engagement. The Bramley Library Steering Committee has met for the first time and looks forward to the County Council’s promised publication of a prospectus to enable detailed plans to be formulated. The priority is to maintain the existing service but it is hoped that there will be opportunities for expansion in the future. It is proposed that the Parish Council will be the sponsor and governing body, via a formally constituted Committee with co-opted members. It was noted that a Friends organisation is already in place and that Womersley Parish Council has expressed an interest in becoming involved.

While several members of the Local Committee had concerns about the Review and its approach to consultation, the positive response of the Parish Council was welcomed. Members were nevertheless keen to ensure that, subject to appropriate communication with staff, more timely consultation should take place if the County Council had any plans in the future to extend the partnering approach to any further libraries.

There was interest in the service's intention to develop the offer to residential homes and sheltered housing developments and to deliver more appropriate services to older residents. The opportunity for collaboration with the Borough Council in this respect – and in relation to the provision of transport via the HOPPA service – was noted.

The Chairman offered the Local Committee's support to Bramley Parish Council. The Parish Council felt that this would only be necessary if a dispute arose with the County Council in the future.

Resolved to:

- (i) Identify, and assist the Library Service in consulting with and engaging with, local community groups and organisations on the viability of establishing a community partnership at Bramley library.
- (ii) Note that the service will maintain published opening hours and avoid closures by recruiting up to the level of the budget allocated.

Reason for decision:

To move the Public Value Review of Surrey Library Service into the consultation and implementation phase.

[Ms D Le Gal and Mr R Knowles left the meeting during this item.]

12/11 LOCAL COMMITTEE BUDGETS 2010-2011 (Item 12)

A corrected version of Annex 1 was tabled.

Mr S Cosser proposed that, in order to respond to applications for grants received prior to the next meeting of the Committee, it should be agreed at this stage that the revenue budget for 2011-12 should be divided equally amongst the County Councillors and that applications valued at up to £1000 should be passed for approval under officers' existing delegated authority. The proposal was supported by the Chairman and agreed by the Committee (resolution (iii) below).

Resolved to:

- (i) Approve the thirteen applications for expenditure annexed to the report.
- (ii) Note the actions carried out under delegated authority since the last meeting.

- (iii) Divide its revenue budget for 2011-12 equally amongst the County Council members of the Committee and to request that applications for grants valued at £1000 or less should continue to be approved under officers' delegated authority.

Reason for decision:

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

13/11 LOCAL COMMITTEE FORWARD PROGRAMME (Item 13)

Members were invited to notify any additional agenda items to the Local Committee and Partnership Officer.

Resolved to note the proposed programme.

Reason for decision:

To enable the Committee to plan its programme of reports.

The Committee noted with sadness the recent death of former County Councillor Cyril Baily.

On the occasion of their final Local Committee meeting, the Chairman thanked Dave Johnson (Area Director) and Angela Dawson (Local Support Assistant) for their work and support to the Committee and wished them well for the future.

The meeting closed at 4.40 pm

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

Contact:

Dave Johnson (Area Director)
01483 517301 dave.johnson@surreycc.gov.uk

David North (Local Committee and Partnership Officer)
01483 517530 d.north@surreycc.gov.uk

ANNEX 1: PUBLIC QUESTIONS

1. From Ms Lesley Sandiford (Bramley)

I am very concerned about the B2128 road – linking Bramley to Wonersh. I regularly take my baby from Eastwood Road in Bramley to the Wonersh Surgery for the baby clinics. I travel by foot and push a normal sized pushchair. The road is fairly safe until you reach the bend up to Wonersh, where upon you have to cross the road to stay on the pavement. The pavement then becomes very narrow and the road bendy.

The width of the pavement should not really be a problem if vehicles were driving with care and at a suitable speed. However, I recently walked this route on a Monday afternoon at about 1515 and vowed never to go at this time again ! I was very concerned that one of the cars or buses would hit us, as I know has happened in the past in Chilworth. It seems at this time there are lots of cars on the school run, with drivers all in a rush, together with school buses and public buses, all going too fast and happy to mount the kerb so that they can shave off a few seconds.

Would the Committee be able to work with the Police and consider a slower speed limit or traffic calming measures ?

Committee response

At Item 7 on the agenda for this meeting the Committee will consider the forward programme of improvement schemes for 2011/12. This includes a proposed scheme for speed regulation measures in Station Road towards Wonersh (from Bramley). If the programme is approved, officers will discuss possible options with Surrey Police and the Parish Councils for Wonersh and Bramley.

2. From Mr P J Doyle (Badshot Lea)

My question relates to the ever-increasing levels and speed of traffic in Low Lane, Badshot Lea which is in effect a country lane, almost single track.

In order to clarify the issues, I will detail them as follows:

1. Sheer volume of traffic, especially during rush hour times. One resident has counted the number of vehicles between 8am and 8.45am on a weekday morning: total 225.
2. Speed of traffic (some reach 50 – 60 miles per hour)
3. The design of the junction at which Low Lane joins Badshot Lea Road is one of the worst junctions I have ever encountered and many accidents have occurred in the years I have lived in the road.
4. No pavement for pedestrians: parents walk their children down Low Lane at great risk.
5. Only one street light on Low Lane.
6. Noise of traffic and levels of exhaust fumes.
7. Litter thrown from cars and building up in the gully/ditch that runs along Low Lane. (This gully is very rarely cleared and is now attracting rats that are running in our gardens).

8. Damage to our vehicles and loss of pets run down by motorists.
9. Verbal abuse received from other motorists when trying to park our vehicles. This happens all the time, along with road rage and gestures when using the Low Lane and Badshot Lea junction.
10. There have been numerous accidents at the junction of Low Lane and Badshot Lea Road.

It has been suggested that calming islands would slow traffic down, but I do not believe that it will impact on the volume of traffic or address the appalling junction from Low Lane into Badshot Lea Road. The junction, I believe, is the key to the whole issue: Low Lane is used as a cut-through/rat-run for traffic avoiding the Badshot Lea traffic lights and the Shepherd and Flock roundabout. They use the road in both directions and we the residents have had enough.

Will the Local Committee lend its support to residents' requests to address the inappropriate use of Low Lane by through traffic by changing the flow of traffic in both directions ? This, I believe, would be the most cost-effective and successful way of dealing with the inordinate amount of traffic using the Lane: the erection of signs to prevent left turns off Badshot Lea Road and right turns from St Georges Road would eliminate this long-running problem.

Committee response

At Item 7 on the agenda for this meeting the Committee will consider the forward programme of improvement schemes for 2011/12. This includes measures to deter rat-running in Low Lane. Officers have recently met residents to discuss how this could be best achieved.

Supplementary question

Mr Doyle asked how long, if approved, the scheme would take to install. In response, the Chairman referred to Item 7 and the fact that the Farnham Task Group had placed this scheme towards the top of its list of priorities. The Area Team Manager, noting the need to design the scheme and undertake consultation, a safety audit and advertise relevant traffic orders, confirmed the intention to complete the schemes listed in Item 7 within the financial year 2011-12.

3. From Dr Jenny Masding (Alfold Parish Council)

Over the last five to ten years there has been a dramatic increase in both the number and size of HGVs using this minor road which passes through Alfold and Loxwood to join the 'A' roads around Billingshurst in West Sussex. Freight transporters, local, national and international, are using the B2133 as a 'rat run' between Alfold Crossways and Adversane to and from the south coast – a practice no doubt encouraged by satellite navigation equipment, financial considerations of the transport owners and for speed to avoid the congestion round the M25, M23, A23 and other major roads in the south. This 'B' road is totally unsuitable for the weights of these vehicles or their size. In the centre of the village the road is basically one way only and narrow, causing these vehicles to mount the pavements and elsewhere the HGVs cannot pass each other when travelling in opposite directions. Alfold residents are becoming increasingly concerned. Recently Loxwood Parish

Council has been making representations to West Sussex County Council and this council has indicated that it would like to discuss this with Surrey County Council. I gave copies of their communications to our County Councillor, Dr Andrew Povey, last November. Alfold Parish Council has a copy of a petition signed by 109 residents. Their fundamental request is for a weight restriction to be imposed on this road. This may or may not be the best or possible solution. Would the County Council consider this issue very seriously and enter into discussion with West Sussex Highways as to whether there are any viable remedial actions that can be taken by either Council ?

Committee response

Bearing in mind that the B2133 is classified as a 'B' road, ranking second only to 'A' roads in the national hierarchy, officers are willing to discuss how HGVs might be encouraged to remain on the 'A' road network between Alfold Crossways and Billinghamurst with their West Sussex Highways counterparts. Alfold Parish Council and the divisional member will be advised of any conclusions.

Supplementary question

Dr Masding understood that West Sussex Highways had included measures to encourage HGVs to use an alternative route on a list of potential local actions. She asked whether the LORD (Lorries Off Rural Detours) initiative was still in existence and working with Surrey County Council. The Area Team Manager confirmed that this continues, along with the associated web-page and reporting arrangements:

http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/sccwebsite/sccwspages.nsf/LookupWebPagesByTITLE_RTF/Report+a+lorry+incident?opendocument

It was noted that adjustments to satellite navigation software may take some time to implement.

4. From Mr John Dodd (Heath End)

There has long been a problem with traffic speeding along Farnborough Road, Heath End and, given the proximity of the three local schools (Heath End, William Cobbett Junior School and Weybourne Infants School) I feel more needs to be done to prevent more accidents. There is a shortage of educational signs (warning of crossing pedestrians) when compared to similar roads surrounding other schools in Surrey and the ones we do have are not maintained.

It is a fact that parents with small children together with secondary school children need to cross this busy road. When considering this fact, in conjunction with the Surrey County Council Road Casualty Reduction Report for 2009, I would suggest that tackling the road safety issue would be a high priority, particularly in light of the report stating priority areas include children (0-15) and young people (15-24)

My question to the Committee is as follows:

What actions can we expect to improve the road signage (short term) and if possible get a crossing or road island near to the shops to assist all ages to cross what is a fast road in a residential location ?

We are setting up a local community speed watch and improved signage would help us educate motorists in the area and hopefully lead to a reduction in speed over a sustained period. I accept that no single measure has the answer but maybe by working together we can make a change.

Committee response

At Item 7 on the agenda for this meeting the Committee will consider the forward programme of improvement schemes for 2011/12. This includes a new pedestrian crossing on the A325 Farnborough Road at Brooklands Road, opposite the small parade of shops. The Committee is pleased to note that the local community is taking up community speedwatch with Surrey Police, which has proved effective elsewhere in Waverley.

Supplementary question

Mr Dodd asked how long, if approved, the scheme would take to install. In response, the Chairman referred to Item 7 and the fact that the Farnham Task Group had placed this scheme towards the top of its list of priorities. The Area Team Manager, noting the need to design the scheme and undertake consultation, a safety audit and advertise relevant traffic orders, confirmed the intention to complete the schemes listed in Item 7 within the financial year 2011-12.

ANNEX 2

INFORMAL PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The meeting was preceded by an informal public question time. The matters raised are summarised below. This summary does not form part of the formal minutes of the meeting.

In relation to the County Council's proposed implementation of on-street parking charges, a questioner noted that this appeared to be in areas with existing time-limited parking and asked whether this was the start of a wider process. The Chairman replied that it was planned to implement the charges on selected roads throughout the county, but that the proposals would be subject to full public consultation.