



Minutes: of the meeting of the Local Committee for Woking held at 6 pm on 1 July 2002 at H G Wells Conference Centre, Woking.

Members Present

Mr David Rousell - Chairman
Mr Geoff Marlow – Vice-Chairman
Cllr Gordon Brown
Cllr Bryan Cross
Mrs Margaret Hill
Cllr John Kingsbury
Cllr John Pattison
Mrs Elizabeth Compton
Mrs Sheila Gruselle
Cllr Neville Hinks
Cllr James Palmer
Mrs Val Tinney

Part One – In Public

[All references to Items refer to the Agenda for the meeting]

23/02 Apologies for absence [Item 1]

No apologies for absence were received.

24/02 Minutes of last meeting of 8 May 2002 [Item 2]

Confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

25/02 Declarations of interests [Item 3]

There were no declarations of interest.

26/02 Petitions [Item 4]

No petitions were received in accordance with Standing Order 62.

27/02 Public Questions [Item 5]

Woking Borough Councillor Anthony Branagan asked this question:

The major repairs at the Brookwood traffic lights should have started on 18 March 2002, as indicated on the highway signage. Please confirm

a) the date of actual start, and

- b) when the 30 weeks of the contract begins.
- c) When was the last time a Contractor was fined for late completion?

Officer response from Stephen Child, Local Transportation Manager.

- a) Contract start date was 18 March 2002, start date on site was 8 April 2002.
- b) The 30 weeks of contract began on 18 March 2002.
- c) A “fine” is not imposed. However the contract operates with liquidated damages such that overrun caused by the Contractor can result in payment of damages. Liquidated damages must reflect a genuine pre-estimate of the damages likely to be suffered in the event that the whole of the works shall not be completed within the prescribed time (as per clause 47 of ICE 5th Edition). In most instances the nature of construction specifications results in a Contractor being awarded an extension of time as additional work is often incurred.

Woking Borough Councillor Anthony Branagan asked this question:

Car parking outside 168, 170 and 172 Goldsworth Road: vehicles are parked on the grass verge daily and the verge now resembles a ploughed field. Parking on the verge is also taken for granted up to no. 180.

Please advise if remedial action is to be taken to return the verge to its proper state. It would appear taxis operate from 168 to 172 inclusive.

Officer response from Stephen Child, Local Transportation Manager.

No remedial action has been proposed to date; however, now this matter has been raised, a site visit can be made and future action determined.

The operation of a taxi business at this address should be referred to Woking Borough Council as the Planning Authority.

28/02 Members' Questions [Item 6]

Councillor Bryan Cross asked this question under Standing Order 45:

Will Surrey County Council please arrange for a safety review of the road works currently in progress in Victoria Way? The particular concern is for the traffic heading towards Guildford, after passing the turning to the Ambassadors Theatre, approaching the next two sets of

traffic lights. There is no indication to advise motorists which lane they should get into, the inadequate signs that are there are often blocked by contractors' vehicles, and the right-turn filter on the lights has not always been working correctly.

Officer response from Stephen Child, Local Transportation Manager:

The works in question are temporary works being undertaken by TRANSCO and are due for completion this week. Originally there was no intention of the coning extending beyond the lights; however, traffic using lane 2 prior to the Alders traffic lights to turn right at Toys-R-Us traffic lights was deemed a safety hazard. It was considered that the lane markings and advanced signs would be satisfactory. With hindsight, "A320" and "A324" could have been added to the advanced signs. In any case, the sign shows a straight-on arrow with right-turn to the right lane. This latter point has been corrected.

With regard to the right filter, the intermittent operation occurred when traffic used the centre lane to turn right and due to the position of the traffic light loops it required a number of cars to be queuing to operate the filter. This was corrected by opening up the section immediately before the stop line.

Councillor Bryan Cross asked this question under Standing Order 45:

Will Surrey County Council please carry out a survey/questionnaire amongst the residents of the Kingsway (and the road leading off the Kingsway) to ascertain their feelings about the speed tables and what might be done to alleviate residents concerns.

Officer response from Stephen Child, Local Transportation Manager:

This issue was discussed at a meeting of Borough Councillors and officers on 3 October 2001. Objectives of the scheme, traffic conditions before and after, together with cost, were discussed. Traffic volumes in the peak hours have reduced considerably and there has been a significant reduction in vehicle speeds.

At the meeting in October, it was agreed that the first set of speed cushions by Triggs Lane would be reviewed. This has been done. Secondly, it was agreed that all dimensions of the speed cushions would be measured and checked against the standard. This has been done and all now comply with latest requirements.

Notwithstanding actions to date, the Local Transportation Service will review the situation through consultation with local residents. Whatever the outcome of the consultation, the reasons for implementation of the

scheme and the need to reduce traffic speed and maintain road safety cannot be compromised.

Councillor John Kingsbury asked this question under Standing Order 45:

Please can officers confirm what actions are being taken in respect of the parking problems around Hook Heath Road and Hook Heath Avenue.

Officer response from Stephen Child, Local Transportation Manager:

The following actions are in hand:

- Signing is being reviewed
- Roadmarkings are being remarked
- Parking restrictions are being reviewed
- Local Transportation Manager is meeting with Renault dealer.

It is proposed that any immediate action that can be undertaken will be put in hand and a report on other matters will be brought to the next Committee (Transportation agenda).

Councillor John Kingsbury asked this question under Standing Order 45:

Can the Local Transportation Service assist with the parking problems occurring at Star Lane and access to Alice Rushton Place?

Officer response from Stephen Child, Local Transportation Manager:

Yes. A Surrey County Council officer recently met on site with representatives of Mount Green Housing Association (which manages Alice Rushton Place) and agreed in principle measures to alleviate the parking problem and improve access. Once a response has been received from Mount Green agreeing to pay for these measures, the work will be put in hand.

29/02 A322 improvements in Knaphill and Brookwood [Item 8]

It was agreed that item 8 should be considered before item 7.

Blair Conacher, Surrey County Council, Senior Engineer, distributed an amended version of the report (copy attached to the minutes) and explained the changes, which were minor.

Members asked for more details of the changes in the bus timetables. A copy of all the information, which it is possible to make available at present, is enclosed with the minutes.

Blair Conacher and Stephen Childs confirmed that the additional expenditure of £32,000 would come from central funds and not the Local Committee budget.

It is part of the contract that to avoid traffic jams while the Commonwealth Games are on the contractors must not use temporary traffic lights.

Bus operators say that it is better not to have bus stops in bus bays because bays cause delays when buses need to pull out again.

Resolved that:

- i. the improvement at the junction between the A322 and Chobham Road, as shown on Drawing. No. 2204/313, was approved;
- ii. the improvement on the A322 between its junctions with Broadway and Oak Tree Road, as shown on Drawing. No. 2204/310, was approved;
- iii. the improvement on the A322 adjacent to Iydene, as shown on Drawing. No. 2204/309, was approved;
- iv. approval was given for the acquisition of any necessary land and the promotion of any necessary planning applications and orders;
- v. the scheme at the junction of the A322 and Broadway approved by the Transportation Sub-Committee on 24 November 1999 and at the junction of the A322 and Chobham Road approved by the Executive on 7 January 2002 was abandoned.

30/02 Integrated transportation programme for Woking 2002-03 [Item 7]

Stephen Child told the Committee that he had received a lot of communications about speed in White Rose Lane, and had a copy of the petition on this subject which went to Woking Borough Council in November 2000. It will be included in the speed limit survey which is coming to the Local Committee on 11 September. The vegetation on White Rose Lane was being cut back on 1 July.

At the request of Mrs Tinney, it was agreed that Members, officers and residents should meet to talk through options for dealing with the problem.

Following a question from Councillor Palmer, Stephen Child confirmed that the issue of speeding in Sutton Green Village, which was raised in a petition to Woking Borough Council in January 2002, would be addressed in the safety survey.

The new Pegasus bus service cannot start unless it is linked to the safer routes to school initiative. Some items are in the contractor's

specification. Surrey County Council is responsible for making sure that it is safe for people who live within one mile of a school to walk to it.

Councillor Pattison suggested that schemes seemed concentrated in the west of the borough. Officers responded that works in one area affect travel across a wider area.

Following a question from Margaret Hill, Stephen Child will look into the question of responsibility for cutting back greenery around lighting on the canal towpath.

Following a question from Mrs Tinney, Stephen Child confirmed that Surrey County Council staff co-ordinate works as much as possible with statutory undertakers.

Following a question from Councillor Cross, Stephen Child explained that the money for new bus stops is needed to show "real time" information about buses.

Following a question from Councillor Hinks, Stephen Child confirmed that "restraint of travel" means "restraint of travel by car".

Following a question from Councillor Kingsbury, Stephen Child confirmed that there is no budget for solving the problems at Victoria Road Railway Bridge. This could be considered when next year's plans are discussed.

Resolved that the Committee approved the revised integrated Transportation programme for 2002/03 as recommended in the officers' report.

31/02 Highway maintenance budget and programme for Woking 2002-03
[Item 9]

Stephen Child will ensure that Surrey County Council is aware of the need for funding for street lighting in Woking, when considering a PFI (Public Finance Initiative) scheme for lighting.

Following a question by Councillor Pattison, Stephen Child agreed to find out why there are problems with cutting back vegetation overhanging highways around school grounds.

It was noted that the problem of getting a new electricity supply connected to new street lighting is not confined to Woking.

Mr Marlow pointed out that it is a problem that the budget doesn't cover clearing vegetation from footpaths. Alex Biddle explained that it takes staff time to identify the owners of property where footpaths need to be cleared.

Mr Marlow pointed out that there is a problem of street lighting around schools and in crime hotspots such as at the back of West Byfleet station. These can be considered when the Local Committee decides how to allocate the remaining £50,000 of its capital budget.

Following a question from Mrs Tinney about the state of concrete streetlights, Stephen Child said that there is no money to replace them all. However, he will consult colleagues in Surrey County Council Technical Services to assess the risk of them falling down, and about the possibility of securing PFI funding for them.

Councillor Hicks asked for street lights in Wood Lane to be added to the list for consideration.

Following a question from Councillor Cross, Stephen Child confirmed that they use slurry sealing rather than surface dressing on residential roads because it is much less problematic. When the new MAMOTH contract comes in it will be performance based.

Councillor Palmer pointed out that a badly pot-holed section of the B380 is not included. Officers agreed that the state of the surface would have justified including it, and they would see if it could be dealt with from underspend on the basis of need.

Resolved that:

- i. The split of block allocations of the maintenance revenue budget recommended by officers in Annexe B to the agenda item was approved.
- ii. The major maintenance programme recommended by officers in Annexe C to the agenda item was approved.
- iii. The proposed minor maintenance programme recommended by officers in Annexes F, G & H, to the agenda item was approved.

32/02 Future items for the Local Committee (Transportation agenda)
[Item 10]

Details

Resolved that future meetings of the Local Committee should include these items:

11 September 2002

1. Submit provisional programme for the Local Transport Plan 2003-04
2. Report on progress of Local Transport Plan capital programme and revenue programme for 2002-03
3. Report on recommendations from the A245/A320 Task Group
4. Presentation on public transport in Woking
5. The outcome of the local speed survey

6. Disabled bays

13 November 2002

1. Approve the bid for funding for the Local Transport Plan programme for 2003-04
2. Presentation on Surrey County Council Speed Management and Traffic Calming Policy

9 January 2003

1. Presentation on highway maintenance including introduction of the new contract

33/02 A245/A320 Transportation Study [Item 11]

The Local Committee noted the report and additional actions reported by the Vice-Chairman: that the Local Transport Manager will contact colleagues in Elmbridge about traffic lights at Pains Hill roundabout; the Local Transport Manager will contact colleagues in Runnymede about possibility of car parking at Byfleet and New Haw station; and the Vice-Chairman, who is Chairman of A245 Group, will write to Elmbridge Council (copy to Chairman of Local Committee in Elmbridge) about traffic problems created by Brooklands market.

[The formal meeting ended at 19.40]

Chairman