



Minutes: of the meeting of the Local Committee for Woking held at 10.00 am on 15 October 2002 at Woking Borough Council Chamber.

Members Present

Mr David Rousell - Chairman
Mr Geoff Marlow – Vice-Chairman
Mrs Elizabeth Compton
Mrs Margaret Hill

Part One – In Public

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

70/02 Apologies for absence [Item 1]

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Sheila Gruselle and Mrs Val Tinney.

71/02 Minutes of last meeting: 11 September 2002 [Item 2]

Confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

72/02 Declarations of interests [Item 3]

In accordance with Standing Order 58, Mrs Elizabeth Compton declared a personal interest in Item 11 on the agenda (member of the Woking Citizens Advice Bureau) and Mr David Rousell declared a personal interest in Item 12 on the agenda (member of the Maybury Sheerwater Partnership Board).

73/02 Petitions [Item 4]

No petitions were received in accordance with Standing Order 62.

74/02 Public Questions [Item 5]

No public questions were received.

75/02 **Members' Questions** [Item 6]

A question was received from Margaret Hill (Councillor for Woking West). The question was not received within the notice period; the Chairman decided the matter could not wait until the next meeting of the Local Committee and the question was allowed. The question was:

“Residents of Knaphill are to present a petition to the SCC Executive next month requesting that the land on the North West corner of the "Garibaldi" crossroads between Limecroft Road and Chobham Road (north) remain in public ownership. This small parcel of land, together with the corner of Bisley Common on the opposite side of Limecroft Road, forms the green gateway to Knaphill and the Borough of Woking when approaching from Bisley and the A322.

The question to the Executive is: What is the future of this land?

The question to this committee is:

Would this Local Committee support the request to keep this parcel of land as green open space in the ownership of Surrey County Council?”

Margaret Hill
Councillor – Woking West

In response, Members agreed that in principle it was a good idea to maintain amenity land but that Members need to know what the strategic import of the land might be before making any recommendations to the Executive.

76/02 **Surrey's Schools Admissions Forum/Forums** [Item 7]

Members were invited to express their view on the proposed Forum and four Admission Advisory Groups so School Admissions officers can present a consolidated view to the Executive in December.

Replying to Member questions, John Ambrose said:

- The number of people on the Forum has yet to be determined however 27 had been proposed.
- The size of the Forum will ensure that local knowledge and expertise is represented.
- The Forum will take decisions on schools' admission places.
- Contentious admissions issues can arise across county boundaries when there is a shortage of places.
- That the number of neighbouring authority representatives on the Local Advisory Group would not outnumber Surrey representatives.

Members agreed with officers' proposal of one Admissions Forum and four Admission Advisory Groups and suggested that, if implemented, provision should be made to review the progress of the Admissions Forum and Advisory Groups.

77/02 Allocation of Local Committee Funding – Internet Access for Youth Centres [Item 8]

Members noted that the Woking Youth Centre had not been included in the funding proposal and that the costs for connecting this computer to the internet would increase the request for funding allocation from £3640 to £4050. It was noted that this allocation would benefit young people around the borough because the youth centres are accessible to all young people in Woking.

Members decided not to make a decision about funding for the Woking Youth Performing Arts Centre in Trinity Road because it was currently closed. Members asked the Local Director to find out by the next Local Committee meeting when the Woking Youth Performing Arts Centre will re-open.

Resolved

- (a) That £3230 funding would be allocated for the installation and twelve month rental of lines and internet access for Woking Youth Centre, Sheerwater Youth Centre and Lakers Youth Centre.
- (b) The possibility of allocating funds to the Woking Youth Performing Arts Centre in Trinity Road for the same purpose will be considered at the next Local Committee meeting for Woking.

78/02 Woking Youth Council [Item 9]

Members discussed Woking Borough Council's proposal for a Woking Youth Council in partnership with Surrey County Council. It was noted that, at their meeting on 3 October 2002, the Woking Borough Council Executive recommended the proposal to go before the full Woking Borough Council on 17 October 2002 for decision.

Following a question from Members, John Ambrose said that an increasing number of primary schools were adopting pupil councils where young people could have their say about non-curriculum matters at the school. This was also popular amongst infant schools and young people are being encouraged to be involved in issues that affect them.

Members asked the Local Director to inform Woking Borough Council that they supported the idea of a Youth Council.

Members also asked the Local Director to find out about:

- The feedback that le Plessis Robinson provided on setting up the Youth Council.
- The process that will be used to elect young people for the Youth Council.

79/02 **Publicity and Communications Plan** [Item 10]

Members received the Communications and Publicity plan for the Local Committee for Woking and noted that they were already implementing parts of it.

Members suggested that they might meet the Chamber of Trade and Commerce and the Youth Council. It was noted that some meetings might be held at local venues if they addressed local concerns.

Resolved to agree the Communications and Publicity Plan and requested that a detailed specific list of activities with dates, target audiences, communication objectives, evaluation measures and putative budget be presented at the next meeting of the Local Committee for Woking.

80/02 **Self-Reliance in Woking** [Item 11]

It was decided that recommendation 2 of the “Self-reliance in Woking” report would be discussed after item 12.

Members received a report on self-reliance in Woking and shared the view that Woking has local areas of disadvantage that are not recognised as being disadvantaged, if statistics are based only on ward level data.

Members noted that the Citizens Advice Bureau Welfare Rights Workers project had been successful. Welfare rights workers have helped eligible Woking residents to claim benefits that they were entitled to and the savings gained from the project far outweighed the costs of the project.

Resolved

- a) To support the recommendation from the Self-reliance Policy Group that Sheerwater and Central and Maybury wards are selected for the Surrey County Council self-reliance programme on the basis that this area is the most disadvantaged in Surrey and ask the Executive to note that there are other areas of disadvantage in Woking that are not detected when ward-level data is used to identify them.
- b) To recommend that if Surrey County Council decides to fund any welfare rights advice in the voluntary sector, the advice project currently funded by the Sheerwater Maybury Partnership and managed by the Citizens Advice Bureau should be included

(subject to best value) and that it should be extended to the whole of Woking.

- c) To commit itself to assess the extent to which a service (whether provided by the County Council or another partner) meets the needs of the ethnic minority communities of Woking when the Local Committee receives a performance review report.

81/02 **Sheerwater Maybury Partnership** [Item 12]

Recommendation number 2 of Item 11 (Self-reliance in Woking) was considered in conjunction with this item.

Michael Gordon from Woking Borough Council informed Members about current funding issues that were facing the Sheerwater Maybury Partnership and its projects when Single Regeneration Budget funding stops after March 2003. He informed the Committee that funding of about £50,000 was still required so that some vulnerable projects could continue beyond March 2003. However, most projects, which had been positively evaluated and had not come to an agreed end, would continue because partner institutions had agreed to fund them.

Following questions from Members, officers answered that:

- Homelink has been incorporated into Woking Borough Council Business Plan.
- The European Social Fund will fund an extended Home School Liaison Project, which will operate across the borough, until December 2003.
- The funding for Link Leisure was for a specific project that will have to end, not for their main activities.
- The Local Strategic Partnership members have each committed themselves to exploring options for projects that fall into their brief. The Local Director is addressing Home School Liaison (after European Social Fund ends in November 2003), Link Leisure, the Welfare Rights project and the Road Safety project.
- The Community Education project, known as R.I.S.E., provides additional English and Maths support to students in years 6, 7, 8 & 9. Currently the project runs from the Bishop David Brown school. Whilst the Cluster manager for the local SHINE Partnership will be looking for funds to support this project, it has not been identified as a priority for the work of the cluster.

It was noted that Woking Borough Council officers were preparing a detailed appraisal of how the continuing and future needs should be tackled for Sheerwater and Maybury. The Woking Borough Council Executive will receive this report on the 31 October.

Members shared the view that the Sheerwater Maybury Partnership had done some good work for the community and that it is hoped that the good practices would continue and extend across the borough.

Members thanked Michael Gordon and Margaret Morton for attending the meeting. On behalf of the Sheerwater Maybury Partnership, Michael Gordon thanked Members for funding and other support.

82/02 NHS Scrutiny in Surrey [Item 13]

Members noted that the Local Committee has Executive responsibilities and therefore cannot be a scrutiny committee.

Members asked the Local Director to come back with options for the Local Committee to contribute to NHS scrutiny in Woking, taking into account

- the plans for the Surrey-wide NHS Scrutiny Committee;
- the nature of a relationship with other agencies including Woking Borough Council; and
- the need to engage with Surrey Heath on Primary Care Trust issues.

83/02 Neighbourhood Nursery Update [Item 14]

Members received an update on the progress of the Neighbourhood Nursery in the Sheerwater Maybury area. It was noted that there was a typing error in the summary of the report and that £250,000 income had been identified.

Members noted that if the funds could not be found the project would not go ahead. The Neighbourhood Nursery Selection panel will be meeting on 22 October to select the Childcare provider and it would be known then how much money the bidder could contribute to the project.

84/02 Forward Programme [Item 15]

Members noted the details of the forward programme for the next Local Committee Meeting for Woking on 13 November 2002

85/02 Exclusion of the Press and Public [Item 16]

There were no items of business that involved the likely disclosure of exempt information.

[Meeting Ended 11.55 am]

Chairman