



Minutes: of the meeting of the Local Committee for Woking held at 5:00pm on 22 January 2003 at Woking Borough Council Chamber, Woking.

Members Present

Mr David Rousell - Chairman
Mr Geoff Marlow – Vice-Chairman
Mrs Elizabeth Compton
Mrs Sheila Gruselle
Mrs Margaret Hill
Mrs Val Tinney

Part One – In Public

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

01/03 Apologies for absence [Item 1]

None received.

02/03 Minutes of last meeting: 13 November 2003 [Item 2]

Confirmed and signed by the Chairman

03/03 Declarations of interests [Item 3]

In accordance with Standing Order 58, Mrs Val Tinney declared a personal interest in Item 12 on the agenda, Allocating Local Committee funding.

04/03 Petitions [Item 4]

No petitions in accordance with Standing Order 62 were received.

05/03 Public Questions [Item 5]

A question was received from Mr Chris Dines. He asked:

“Given Surrey County Council's intention to reduce its core-funding to Home-Start Woking in 2003/4 - and the possibility that the charity may have to cease

operating as a result, is the committee aware of any contingency plans for the County or Borough Council to assume the work currently carried out by the Home-Start Woking in that event?"

Head of Children's Services, Ashley Ayre, responded:

"The County Council is aware of the work undertaken by Home-Start schemes and should one element of funding from the County Council cease, Officers of the County Council would be in touch with Home-Start colleagues to consider what steps should be taken to provide services to those families who may require this".

06/03 Members' Questions [Item 6]

No Member questions were received.

07/03 Community Safety Strategy for Woking 2002 to 2005 [Item 7]

Members noted the three year Community Safety Strategy for Woking and asked the Crime and Disorder Partnership to consider in the action plan for 2003/04:

- the removal of abandoned vehicles;
- examining the value of abandoned vehicle schemes in other areas, especially Elmbridge;
- extending CCTV to other areas of Woking; and
- ensuring utilities and statutory undertakers clear the highways after completing works.

Replying to questions from Members, the Local Transportation Manager said that the Local Transportation Plan includes measures to reduce the number of accidents on unsafe roads and that the County's capital programme is committed to accident prevention.

08/03 Annual Report from Surrey Trading Standards [Item 9]

Because of illness David Waine, Youth Service Manager, was unable to attend the meeting and it was agreed that item 9 would be heard before item 8 so Graham Combe, Head of Youth Development, could attend to discuss item 8 in his place.

Members congratulated Surrey Trading Standards on the work that they had done in Woking and thanked the young volunteers for assisting Trading Standards to identify traders who were selling age-restricted goods to under aged people.

Responding to Members' questions Richard Nowacki said that:

- It is difficult to know the level of trading problems in Woking unless consumers inform Trading Standards of any problems they are having with traders.
- Videos are produced to help educate people about their rights as consumers and also businesses on what they should do.
- The videos are currently produced in English. No other languages have been considered but it could be possible to dub the videos in a foreign language.

Members commented that it was important for Trading Standards to reach a wide range of people in the community so they were aware of their rights as consumers and potential problems presented by rogue traders.

Members thanked Richard Nowacki for attending the meeting.

Resolved

- (a) to ask the Executive to ensure Trading Standards are adequately funded to effectively protect consumers and legitimate businesses
- (b) to support Trading Standards work in targeting the sale of age restricted products in particular alcohol to teenagers below the age of eighteen; and
- (c) that when Members identify any opportunities or platforms that can be used to educate and inform consumers they will notify Trading Standards.

09/03 Youth Development Service – Woking Profile [Item 8]

Members noted that an Annual Plan is being developed for the Youth Development Service that will incorporate local plans for each of the 11 boroughs/districts. The key priorities of the local plans are to link with work being done by Connexions and voluntary groups in the community to meet young people's needs. The service will consult Members about issues that need to be addressed in Woking.

Graham Combe explained that officers would need to know local service budgets for the next financial year before they could prioritise activities in support of local plans. He said that, since budgets will be based on demographic profiles, Woking may receive more funding next year and would be able to develop stronger programmes.

Woking Youth Council held its first meeting on 21 January 2003 and 15 young people attended. Graham Combe invited the Local Committee to appoint a representative who could act as a link between Surrey County Council and the Youth Council.

Responding to questions from Members, Graham Combe said that:

- the Youth Development Service is working closely with Connexions, Woking Borough Council and voluntary sectors in Woking to identify the best places for youth centres, including a drop in centre in the middle of town.
- The service has identified that it must work closely with the Asian community to meet their needs and encourage young people to join in.
- (referring to the table on page 9 of the report)The cost per attendance is higher in Woking than Spelthorne because more young people attend youth centres in Spelthorne (they have more youth workers), but may also be because the building costs are high in Woking.
- The service needs to develop a strategy to recruit and retain youth workers. This includes recruiting people who have an interest in youth work and helping them to become professionally qualified youth workers.
- The service works closely with voluntary youth groups and, as part of the Youth Accord, £300,000 of funding is allocated amongst various youth groups, often to assist small groups.

Members asked the Youth Development Service to meet them on 19 February 2003 with proposals for the local plan for Woking and an early draft version of the Annual Plan.

Members thanked Graham Combe for attending the meeting.

10/03 **Adult & Community Learning in Woking** [Item 10]

Members noted that there had been some significant changes in Adult and Community Learning since the Learning and Skills Council took over the responsibility for post 16 years learning in April 2001. Whilst supporting the conventional course programme, the LSC is targeting resources to particular communities in which Adult & Community Learning is now working for which it is providing extra resources

Responding to Members' questions, Ian Milton said that:

- Most courses are heavily led by what members of the public want, many being arts, craft and hobby courses.
- The EU Social Fund is funding a project in Farnham to encourage young people who have had negative experiences in education into employment
- The Learning and Skills Council is providing £276,000 in 2003/4 for improvements in access for disabled people in Surrey. This is likely to include a student lift (£100000) at Highlands Adult Learning Centre in Woking.
- Adult & Community Learning have a number of mobile hearing loops that are available to people who need them during courses.

- Adult & Community Learning is receiving £175,000 from the Learning & Skills Council for regeneration projects. Some of this is likely to be available for use in Woking.
- Childcare facilities are provided at a number of community learning projects countywide, but not as part of the conventional programme.

Members asked Adult and Community Learning officers to work in partnership with Woking Borough Council leisure service to deliver more leisure programmes, and with ethnic minorities in Woking to deliver learning programmes that meet their needs.

Members thanked Ian Milton for attending the meeting.

11/03 **Deposit Draft Surrey Structure Plan 2002** [Item 11]

Members noted that the draft Surrey Structure Plan 2002 had been made available for public consultation from 10 January 2003 to 21 February 2003.

Hilary Herbert explained that Woking would be allocated 2,250 dwellings and a strategic allocation of 1000 higher density dwellings. As a transport hub, it may also be allocated some of the 7500 additional dwellings which are to be distributed county wide after joint studies have been done to determine the infrastructure and services needed to support this housing.

Responding to Members' questions, Hilary Herbert said that:

- The borough and county are working together to understand the implications and constraints of the housing on the infrastructure and services in the community.
- The borough and county will work together to identify ways in which development contributions can be used to help improve local infrastructure.
- Consideration will be given to place additional housing near train services to encourage reduced car use.
- The residential car parking standard is an average of 1.5 spaces per dwelling across a district, which allows for more restraint in accessible areas and less elsewhere.
- Surrey County Council supports the Airtrack proposal which links Guildford and Woking to Heathrow.

Members thanked officers for attending the meeting and emphasised the importance of ensuring that infrastructure (highways, public transport, car parking and services) is improved and expanded to support additional housing.

12/03 **Allocating Local Committee funding** [Item 12]

Mrs Tinney declared a personal interest in this item because she is the Woking Borough Council representative to the Woking Community Relations Forum.

Members noted that there was at least £3000, possibly more, available for immediate allocation of the remainder of Local Committee funding.

Mrs Compton advised Members that John Thurgood of Social Services had approached her after the deadline to request £1,000 for a care group in Hook Heath, St Johns and Hermitage. Margaret Hill said that a similar care group in Goldsworth Park was good.

Mr Marlow also recommended a late proposal of £300 to be allocated to the junior football club in Byfleet.

Resolved to allocate the remaining Local Committee for Woking Members funds to:

- £1,000 for Care Group for Hook Heath, St Johns and Hermitage (subject to Local Director confirming that it meets the Committee's criteria);
- £300 for the Coldharbour Lunch Club;
- £300 for the junior football club in Byfleet (subject to Local Director confirming that it meets the Committee's criteria); and
- the balance up to £3,000 for Link Leisure.

13/03 **The Local Committee for Woking review of 2002 and proposals for 2003/04** [Item 13]

Members noted the review of 2002, however, there was insufficient time to discuss the report in full.

Resolved to

- (a) agree the review
- (b) discuss the proposals for managing the Committee's business in future and the forward programme on 19 February 2003.

14/03 **Exclusion of Press and Public** [Item 14]

Resolved that under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information under paragraph 8 and paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Part Two – In Private

15/03 Office Project [Item 15]

Members noted the proposed Surrey County Council plans for its offices in Woking.

16/03 Publicity for Part Two items [Item 16]

The Committee considered whether any items under Part Two of the agenda should be made available to the press and public

Resolved that no items should be made available to the press and public.

[Meeting Ended 7.25 pm]

Chairman