



Minutes of the Local Committee for Woking
General Agenda
Meeting held at 4.15 pm on 12 June 2003
at
the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Woking.

Members present:

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

Part One – In Public

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

33/03 Apologies for absence [Item 1]

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Sheila Gruselle.

34/03 Election of Chairman of Committee – 2003/04 [Item 2]

RESOLVED

That Mr David Rousell be elected as Chairman for the year 2003/04.

35/03 Election of Vice-Chairman of Committee – 2003/04 [Item 3]

RESOLVED

That Mr Geoff Marlow be elected as Vice-Chairman for the year 2003/04.

36/03 **Minutes of last meeting held on 19 March 2003** [Item 4]

Confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

37/03 **Matter of Urgency**

Mr Marlow raised the impending closure of the surgery at Dickson House Byfleet scheduled for 6 July as a matter of urgency. The Chairman agreed to take this item as the closure was due to take place before the meeting on 23 July.

It was noted that a notice appeared in the window of the Health Centre two months ago saying that with the opening of the new surgery in West Byfleet Dickson House was to close. This will mean that there will be no GPs in Byfleet itself, and the journey to the new health centre in West Byfleet is not easy, especially for people who are elderly, disabled or feeling ill. The local County Councillor and the Chairman of the Local Committee have communicated local concerns to the Primary Care Trust Chief Executive. The PCT are holding a consultation on the evening of 18 June at Woking Community Hospital for local stakeholders to address the issue of the potential difficulty for some patients making the journey to West Byfleet.

RESOLVED

Members of the Committee agreed to support the need for a GP Surgery in Byfleet. Mr Marlow, in conjunction with the Community Support Team for Woking, will continue to raise the impact of the closure and the way it was carried out with the PCT, County Council, Minister etc., with the support of the Local Committee.

38/03 **Declarations of interests** [Item 5]

No declarations of interest in accordance with Standing Order 58 were made.

39/03 **Petitions** [Item 6]

No petitions in accordance with Standing Order 62 were received.

40/03 **Public Questions** [Item 7]

This question was received from Mr John Campbell (Chair of Knaphill Community Library Association):

Will the Committee ascertain the procedures adopted to arrive at the figures for catchment population in respect of each of Surrey's public libraries and make the procedure and the figures known?

Chris Norris, Head of Libraries responded:

We do not collect or publish the data as described. The 2002 Annual Library Plan publishes a list of the populations and numbers of the Surrey towns. The 2001 Annual Library Plan publishes a list of all Surrey libraries as they are organised into Bands, and describes the characteristics of each Band. On an ad hoc basis, the population resident within a specified distance of a library e.g. 2 miles is examined.

Mr Campbell was not happy with the response and it was agreed that the Community Support Team would supply a written reply to the following question: 'How can information published in the Library Plan be supported or verified?'

This question was received from Mrs Pauline Marshall

Land enclosed Classified C26 in Commons Register by Chobham Road (north) and Limecroft Road, Knaphill.

I requested that SCC inform me of the status of the above mentioned piece of land. I have been told that SCC's legal department is busy and this is a small matter and is at the bottom of the work pile.

Does the difficulty arise from SCC's failure to insist that their proposed registration of the land as Common Land was properly determined by the Commons Commissioners following Woking UDC's objection (No. 111), an objection which doesn't appear to have been supported by any evidence according to the Commons Commissioners' files? I understand that the land was Manorial Waste from the Earl of Onslow's estate.

Can you also please confirm that the land will NOT go out of the hands of a publicly accountable body without consulting the people who presented the petition and the Knaphill Residents Association.

Joanna Mortimer, Principal Solicitor responded:

This matter would have been dealt with by the Commons Registration Authority (CRA) which is part of Legal Services. The CRA is a front line service which administers the Register of common land under the Commons Registration Act, 1965.

Members of the public may complete application form CR 21 for which a fee of £6.00 is payable in order to search the Commons Register. The CRA cannot locate receipt of such an application from the Marshalls without further information. Furthermore, members of the public are able to visit the offices of the CRA which is located in Room G81 at County Hall.

The CRA have supplied the following information upon immediate request and are never too busy to deal with such enquiries:

This piece of land appears to be the land contained in objection 111 which was decided upon by the Commons Commissioner on 6 June 1981 and the Commissioner upheld the objection to remove the land from the Register. It is therefore not registered common land and cannot now be registered as the time for appeal has long passed.

As to the history of the land, these records are not held by the CRA but searches at the Surrey History Centre and/or the Records Office in Kew might assist.

Derek Lloyd, Head of Estates Strategy responded:

Regarding the second part of the question, the land was declared surplus to County Council requirements on 9 December 2002. This area of land was the subject of a petition to the County Council's Executive on 11 November 2002. The petition strongly objected to the sale of the land and sought reassurance that the land should be retained in public ownership. The Executive asked the Members' Asset Panel to consider this when considering the future of a number of areas of land. The Members' Asset Panel is currently asking for information on local issues and needs which might have a bearing on the decision to sell. The County Council's Community Support Team has written to local Members asking for local views, issues and comments to be included in a report by the Head of Estates Strategy to the Members' Asset Panel. Views are requested by 27 July. The report will be written and presented to the Members' Asset Panel in the autumn. The local County Councillor will be invited to attend the Panel when land within their division is being discussed. Final decisions are likely to be taken by the Executive in December, with disposals early in 2004. The Community Support Team for Woking will contact the petitioner and the Knaphill Residents Association directly for their views and pass them to the Local Committee for inclusion in their response.

Mrs Marshall was not happy with the response and it was agreed that the Community Support Team would provide a further written reply.

41/03 Members' Questions [Item 8]

No questions were received.

Executive Functions

42/03 Member Update on Lead Area [Item 9]

No updates were received.

43/03 Census Results for Woking [Item 10]

Christine Holloway introduced the report on the census results for Woking, and explained that it had been hoped that the data would be available at ward level and lower for this meeting, but it was now not expected until 30 June 2003.

RESOLVED

In response to recommendation (b) which asked Members to highlight information that they would like officers to report on in more detail when census findings at ward and/or enumeration district level are available, Members asked for:

1. an analysis of data at ward level and below to look at income in Maybury and Central ward;
2. whether more up to date data could be found on attendance allowance and disability benefit claimants;
3. details of what enumeration districts actually cover;
4. for the data for Woking to be compared with the rest of Surrey.

44/03 Organising for Success [Item 11]

Members received a report on 'Organising for Success', a discussion document prepared by the Executive Director for Children and Young People, proposing strengthening collaborative working between schools and services for children, young people and their families. It will be for the schools themselves to decide on collaborative working arrangements. If Members have views locally then they were encouraged to talk to schools directly.

In response to a question from Mrs Hill on the upper limit of numbers in clusters it was noted that there is no upper limit, as long as it is within reason. Each cluster has to welcome their own members. Mrs Hill also asked schools to consider natural clusters other than a secondary school with its primary school feeders. This recommendation will be communicated to the Local Education Officer.

The Local Committee noted that they would be concerned if some school groupings excluded schools with less to offer, and asked for this concern to be forwarded to the Local Education Officer.

45/03 Woking Local Strategic Partnership [Item 12]

Members received and discussed a report on how the Woking Local Strategic Partnership is developing its role.

Members noted the report and asked the LSP to consider whether meetings could be held in public, said that more outcomes were needed, and agreed to link up future consultations by the LSP and by the Local Committee where appropriate. Christine Holloway agreed to take these messages back to the next meeting of the LSP.

46/03 Neighbourhood Nursery Initiative [Item 13]

Members received a progress report on the Neighbourhood Nursery in Sheerwater and noted that things were moving forward in a positive way.

Members were informed that digging on the site was commencing on 16 June and that the Government is also funding Children's Centres in areas of deprivation, and one will probably be located on the same site.

In answer to a question from Mrs Tinney, Christine Holloway confirmed that agencies in the Early Years Partnership including Woking Borough Council would be involved in the Advisory Panel referred to in paragraph 9a.

47/03 Allocation of Local Committee Budget [Item 14]

Christine Holloway introduced the report which set out the bids for the £79,226 capital and £107,100 Member's allocations. It was noted that the capital needed to be allocated at this meeting, but the Member's Allocation decisions could be taken at this or future meetings.

Mrs Tinney withdrew her bid for Pyrford Cricket Club. This will be revised and resubmitted at the meeting on 23 July.

Mrs Compton explained that her name is not mentioned as sponsoring a bid because she is awaiting approval of plans for St John's Memorial Hall and will submit a bid later in the year.

Mr Child stated that the money identified for the installation of a pedestrian crossing in Brewery Road may be spent on a different area in Brewery Road.

RESOLVED

That:

- a. the use of the capital allocation set out in table 1 of the report be approved.
- b. The bids for Members' Allocation as set out in table 2 be approved, with the exception of the bid for Pyrford Cricket Club which had been withdrawn.

48/03 Surrey Structure Plan – implications and next steps [Item 15]

This report highlighted the need to ensure that the Structure Plan and other key strategies are integrated, because housing growth in Woking would have implications for transport, health services, education etc. It was agreed that the title of the report should be changed to 'Integrating the Structure Plan and other Strategies' to better reflect the contents of the report.

Les Andrews, Principal Planner from Sustainable Development, was welcomed to the meeting. He explained that County Hall at both a political and officer level would endorse the messages in the report. One of the messages contained within the report going to the Executive on 24 June 2003 is that the Government is forcing Surrey to make provision for extra housing, but they are not helping with the associated infrastructure.

Mrs Tinney explained that she is concerned that some areas classified as housing land will revert back to Green Belt, whilst some land that is classified as Green Belt will need to be re-classified as housing. Mrs Tinney has raised this at a Members' seminar, but Les Andrews agreed to clarify the situation.

Mrs Hill questioned paragraph 11 regarding effects on crime. Mr Andrews stated that one feature of the Structure Plan was to develop Comprehensive Urban Strategies which would bring together key stakeholders to address issues such as those highlighted in the report, including crime.

Mr Andrews agreed to take the message back to County Hall that the Local Committee want to ensure that this multifaceted problem has to be comprehensively grasped and solutions not pursued along parallel lines.

RESOLVED

That:

- a. The title of the report be changed to 'Integrating the Structure Plan and other strategies'
- b. the Local Committee draw the issues identified in this report to the attention of relevant decision-makers and planners across all relevant agencies in Woking and the Local Strategic Partnership
- c. the Surrey County Council Executive be asked to note this report in its discussion of future drafts of the Structure Plan
- d. the Surrey County Council Executive be asked to draw the issues identified in this report to the attention of relevant decision-makers and planners across all relevant agencies in Surrey and the Surrey-wide Strategic Partnership.

49/03 Combating Domestic Violence in Woking [Item 16]

Members received a report on domestic violence in Woking and the domestic violence outreach project, which is part funded by community safety funding through the Local Committee. The outreach project in North West Surrey covering Woking, Surrey Heath and Runnymede coincides with the boundary of the North West policing division. The project is now running and preliminary results are positive. Safer Woking is confident that the outreach approach is the right one for Woking.

In response to a statement from Mrs Compton regarding the fact that some cases of domestic violence are money related, Christine Holloway explained that she is currently working on developing a plan for countywide benefits take up and will include this issue in it.

Mrs Tinney asked whether statistics are kept on drugs and alcohol related incidents of domestic violence. Christine Holloway agreed to find out and report back.

50/03 Knaphill Library [Item 17]

Members received a progress report on Knaphill Library and noted that there are three options under consideration, including leasing a local shop. If this option is pursued then it was noted that a suitable shop has to come up first, and the location of this could not be controlled.

It was agreed that the final report setting out the options would need to be fully supported by figures, so the Committee could be assured

that the final option is the best solution for Knaphill, not just the most convenient.

Mrs Hill agreed to forward information on shops where the lease was changing directly to Chris Norris.

Mrs Compton would be keen to see the library move out of its current premises by this winter.

Mr Marlow stated that Members are sympathetic to the need for a good library service in Knaphill, but the main problem is money. The sooner a solution is found, the better.

51/03 Forward Programme [Item 18]

Members agreed the forward programme, noting that Stephen Child was being proactive in talking in Jerry Marsh regarding Emergency Planning, and the issue was not on hold until April 2004.

RESOLVED

That the forward programme of the Committee be approved.

52/03 Exclusion of Press and Public [Item 19]

There was no business that required the public to be excluded from the meeting under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972.

[The meeting ended at 5.25 pm]

Chairman