



Minutes of the Local Committee for Woking
General Agenda
Meeting held at 4.15 pm on 23 July 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]

53/03 **Apologies for absence** [Item 1]

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Sheila Gruselle.

54/03 **Minutes of last meeting held on 12 June 2003** [Item 2]

Confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

55/03 **Declarations of interests** [Item 3]

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

56/03 **Petitions** [Item 4]

No petitions in accordance with Standing Order 62 were received.

57/03 **Public Questions** [Item 5]

This question was received from Cllr John Kingsbury

This question is about the land at Garibaldi crossroads which is to be discussed as agenda item 11. I am pleased to see that the report acknowledges the strength of local feeling, and would like to ask the Committee what could be done to keep the land cleared of brambles etc if it is kept available for community use

(a) as common land

(b) in some other way?

And what can be done to clear it immediately, before its future is settled?

Derek Lloyd, Head of Estates Strategy, responded:

The County Council's common land is intended to be retained in its natural state as complementary to the local landscape, and natural vegetation is not cut back unless there are exceptional circumstances. A member of staff will visit the area shortly to see if any emergency action is needed, but only minimal works will be carried out pending a decision on the future of the land.

Stephen Child, Local Transportation Manager, responded:

Anything that remains as highway will be covered by environmental maintenance and treated accordingly.

58/03 **Members' Questions** [Item 6]

No questions were received.

Executive Functions

59/03 **Member Update on Lead Area** [Item 7]

No updates were received.

60/03 **Fire and Rescue Service Annual Performance Report** [Item 9]

Pete Grady introduced the report which summarised the performance of Woking Fire Station in relation to the rest of Surrey. It was highlighted that there had been no deaths from fires in Woking this year, and the Service is trying to reduce injuries from accidental fires through education. The money allocated by the Local Committee during 2002/03 for 500 smoke detectors and the training of a Firewise Advisor is helping with this process.

In response to a question from Mrs Hill, Pete Grady agreed to check that the Fire Service notifies the Borough Council if they go to a vehicle fire which involves an abandoned vehicle.

Members noted the report, endorsed the initiatives being undertaken by the Fire Service as highlighted in the report and recognised that following the evaluation of some of the initiatives, further funding bids may be put forward to the Local Committee.

61/03 **Members' Allocation 2002/03 - Overview** [Item 8]

Members received a report which summarised the use of the £105,000 Members' allocation for 2002/03. It was noted that members had followed the criteria they had set themselves, and the projects included a mix of large and small projects. A third of the budget was spent on self-reliance projects because of the ending of the Single Regeneration Budget funding in Sheerwater and Maybury.

62/03 **Allocating Local Committee Funding: Members' Allocation** [Item 10]

The report set out the bids for the Members' allocation received since the last meeting of the Local Committee. It was noted that as further proposals would be forthcoming, the Committee might wish to save a larger proportion of the allocation for decision at the October meeting than the £53,000 previously planned.

All the bids fitted the criteria set by the Local Committee with the exception of St John's Memorial Hall rebuilding where the money being requested would not show benefits this financial year.

RESOLVED

That the following proposals be funded from the 2003/04 Members' allocation:

- a) Simplified map of buses serving Woking – £2,500 agreed on the understanding that the Local Director will secure additional contributions from elsewhere.
- b) Money for Woking Youth Council to allocate in Local Democracy Week – agreed £5,000 subject to money being spent within SCC powers; Local Director to ensure this happens in consultation with Chairman.
- c) Byfleet Care Transport to West Byfleet Surgery - £600 agreed, noting that this is an estimate for three months and that the Committee and Local Director hope that the PCT will fund after then.
- d) Replace Byfleet Boy Scouts storeroom roof - £1,780 agreed.
- e) Seating at Brookwood Playground - £1,000 agreed.
- f) St Johns Memorial Hall funding – not agreed at this time because does not fit Local Committee criterion that should show

benefit in current financial year. The Committee are willing to consider another bid when the project's future is more certain and the timetable is appropriate.

- g) Work on Basingstoke Canal towpath in Brookwood – £2,000 agreed, noting that if any Members' allocation is unallocated at the end of the year, the Committee would consider allocating an additional £1,000.
- h) Showers, WCs, wickets and mowers for Pyrford Recreation Ground and Pavillion Recreation - £6,000 agreed for WC and showers.
- i) 4 new disability scooters for Woking Shopmobility - £3,076 agreed, which is 50% of what was bid for, with the expectation that Shopmobility would match this themselves.

63/03 **Woking Area Primary Care Trust Local Delivery Plan** [Item 12]

Patrick Geraghty, Director of Planning and Performance from Woking Area Primary Care Trust (PCT), updated the Committee on the Local Delivery Plan. Guidance came out just before Christmas for the PCT to move from an annual cycle of planning to a 3 yearly cycle. Because of the short notice, the Local Delivery Plan produced for 2003/06, which was attached to the agenda papers, is aimed at professionals. The PCT's aim is to develop a Health and Social Care Local Delivery Plan for the population covered by the PCT with priorities to:

1. Improve access through better emergency care and reducing waiting time
2. Improve services and outcomes, concentrating on cancer, mental health and children amongst other issues
3. Improve patient awareness
4. Address health inequalities
5. Reduce drug misuse.
6. Engage key stakeholders in developing local services

Consultation workshops have been held in Woking and Surrey Heath. A Health and Social Care Planning Group has been established involving Surrey County Council officers and a robust engagement process is being developed. The needs of the local population will be central to the plan.

The process will ensure links with other related documents and plans emerging out of the Local Strategic Partnership, borough councils, patient forums, PCT, Surrey County Council and the voluntary sector.

In response to questions from Mrs Hill, Patrick Geraghty responded:

1. The PCT is building good links with Surrey County Council's Children's Services and the PCT has a director with specific responsibility for children services.
2. In relation to the need for joint working to provide services to people with on going health and social services needs, the Local

Delivery Plan process will build close links with the Physical Disabilities Board.

3. Users and carers will be fully engaged in the process both as a separate group and cross cutting across all services.

In response to a question from Mrs Compton, it was noted that there are many services which are important for elderly people, including telecare and nice neighbour schemes, to be brought in where appropriate.

Mr Rousell thanked Patrick Geraghty for the presentation and invited the Woking Area PCT to report to the Local Committee in summer 2004 on improvements to health care resulting from implementation of the PCT's Local Delivery Plan.

64/03 **Member Asset Panel consultation on land at Garibaldi Crossroads** [Item 11]

Christine Holloway introduced the report and the additional paper tabled at the meeting, which included all comments that had been received since the report was sent out with the agenda papers. Mr Rousell thanked all those who had contributed to the report and reminded the Local Committee that it has no role to play in the determination of what happens to the land, it can only respond to the Members' Asset Panel.

RESOLVED

Members agreed to respond to the consultation by the Members' Asset Panel as follows:

"The Local Committee for Woking thanks the Members' Asset Panel for inviting them to provide information on any local perspectives or local issues which might have a bearing on the decision to sell, and notes that this is to take local needs and issues into account, not to comment on financial aspects.

"The Local Committee asks the Panel to note all the views collected by the Local Director for Woking from local people and interest groups, and comments about legal constraints expressed by local people, Woking Borough Council and the Principal Solicitor. In the light of all the views and comments and the strength of local beliefs about the land, the Local Committee recommends that the Asset Panel

- a) does not consider any proposals for the future of the land until the legal position is thoroughly and openly investigated
- b) once the legal position is clear, takes the strength of local views into account before reaching a view about the future of the land
- c) having reached a view about the future of the land, consults the Local Committee before formally making an Asset Panel recommendation to the Surrey County Council Executive."

The Local Committee made it clear that this recommendation to the Asset Panel also applies to the request from Highways for a 2 meter strip of land for highway use; this should be considered at the same time as the rest of the land.

65/03 Census Results [Item 13]

Christine Holloway presented the census results for Woking broken down to ward level and explained that the data at enumeration level were still not available. (For a copy of the presentation, please contact the Community Support Team on 01483 518095 or email communitysupport.woking@surreycc.gov.uk).

The presentation covered the following data broken down to ward level: population and households, household income, black and ethnic minority communities, methods of travel to work, and where Woking falls within the top 10 best and worst wards in the county on a number of issues. The data confirmed that Maybury and Sheerwater ward remains deprived in comparison with other wards in Surrey.

Christine Holloway agreed to clarify the definition of lone pensioner with Mrs Hill outside the meeting. It was noted that not owning a car may be a positive choice and not a sign of deprivation.

In response to a question from Mrs Tinney regarding funding coming into Maybury and Sheerwater, Christine Holloway responded that the County Council has earmarked £150k for the area over a 3 year period. At an officer meeting it was agreed that:

1. The County Council should decide in partnership where the money should be spent.
2. They will also take account of previous work, and it is hoped that a student will collate data from consultations etc.
3. Although it is too soon to make decisions, two main problems in the area are the need for welfare rights advice and making sure the County Council has employees from the Maybury and Sheerwater area, particularly from the Asian community.

Christine Holloway agreed to keep Mrs Tinney informed.

It was noted that the County Council has already prioritised Maybury and Sheerwater as a self reliance area. Members noted the report and the implications for self reliance in Woking. Members asked for service providers in Woking to inform them of how their services will be modified as a result of the census results.

66/03 Deposit Draft Structure Plan 2002 – progress report [Item 14]

The Committee noted the report which summarised the progress made to date and the timetable for the rest of the process. Following the

meeting on 12 June the Local Committee sent the report on the Structure Plan and integrating strategies [Item 15] to the Executive who confirmed they have noted the contents of the report.

67/03 **School Organisation Plan** [Item 15]

John Ambrose introduced the report which set out the draft Plan and highlighted the potential need for action regarding school places in Woking. The plan set out a rolling 5 year projection which shows there will be a surplus of school places at certain places within the Borough in a few years time as a result of a fall in birth rate.

With regard to developing a way forward in Woking, headteachers will be consulted first stage, followed by Councillors, before a wider public consultation takes place on recommended action.

In response to a question from Mr Marlow regarding the impact of new homes on the forecast figures, John Ambrose explained that for a proposed 280 new homes in Woking by 2004/05, there would be an increase of 7 children per year group. Members expressed concern that there may be more development planned for the area than Education is aware of.

Members noted the report and looked forward to being consulted early in the process on future plans for Woking schools.

68/03 **Local Committee Action Plan – progress report** [Item 16]

Members noted the report and the priorities for the Community Support Team in the second quarter of the year and looked forward to hearing about further progress at the October meeting.

69/03 **Planning and Countryside Service Annual Report**

Geoff Glassup introduced the report which summarised the planning and development and countryside and heritage issues relating to the Woking area for 2002/03.

In response to a question from Mrs Tinney, Mr Rousell confirmed that a watering system is in place at the aggregates depot during the summer months to alleviate the dust problems.

In response to questions regarding the queues at Martyrs Lane civic amenity site, Geoff Glassup confirmed that they were being monitored on a random basis, but he would take Members' concerns back to the relevant officers.

In response to a question from Mr Marlow, Geoff Glassup confirmed that the Woking Local Transportation Service and Transport Development Control work closely together where appropriate to respond to consultations by Woking Borough Council Planning Department.

In response to a question from Mrs Tinney regarding whether the countryside management projects could take over the management of surplus highway land, Geoff Glassup agreed to discuss this outside of the meeting.

The transportation gains highlighted in paragraph 6 of the report were clarified as:

1. Improvements to the zebra crossings to the south of Victoria Arch and new cycle ways around Victoria Road to the station
2. Developments around the station to improve the station - (Woking Borough Council Local Plan)
3. Land for tunnels on either side of Victoria Arch for pedestrians and cycles (Woking Borough Council Local Plan).

The timescale is as set out in the Woking Local Transportation Service Programme, and funding is being sought.

70/03 Voluntary and Community Groups in Woking

Lesley Kitchen, Director of Woking Association of Voluntary Services (WAVS), gave the committee a presentation on the needs of voluntary and community groups in Woking.

There are at least 450 voluntary and community groups active in Woking, and WAVS receives an average of 40 enquires from these groups and the public each day. A big part of the work of WAVS is to help recruit volunteers. They also check criminal records and will be developing a mentoring scheme to assist people with special needs to volunteer. They also offer support to groups aimed at building capacity in the voluntary and community sector.

The greatest needs of groups in Woking are:

1. direct support on issues such as employment and financial management
2. funding, and the need for funders to be clear about what they are funding
3. training
4. consistency of message from statutory organisations – is the message being given policy or the view of an individual officer.

Her most important message was that volunteers are a precious resource and need to be valued.

Mr Rousell thanked Lesley Kitchen for her presentation.

71/03 **Forward Programme**

RESOLVED

That the forward programme of the Committee be approved.

72/03 **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 6.55 pm]

Chairman