



Minutes of the Local Committee for Woking
General Agenda
Meeting held at 4.15 pm on 28 January 2004
at
the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Woking.

Members present:

Mr David Rousell - Chairman
Mr Geoff Marlow – Vice-Chairman
Mrs Elizabeth Compton
Mrs Sheila Gruselle (left at 5.55pm)
Mrs Val Tinney

Part One – In Public

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

01/04 **Apologies for absence** [Item 1]

No apologies for absence were received.

02/04 **Minutes of last meeting held on 18 November 2003** [Item 2]

Confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

03/04 **Declarations of interests** [Item 3]

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

04/04 **Petitions** [Item 4]

In accordance with Standing Order 62 the committee received a petition on the dredging of Little Moor Lane Farm ditch.

Mr Mitchell was invited to present the petition. He stated that the ditch at Little Moor Lane Farm was dredged in October 2000 with no notification to home owners. The work was paid for by Surrey County Council. Since 2000 a number of properties have lost 6-7 foot of garden. The petitioner would like Surrey County Council to investigate what has happened, would like the homes and gardens in the vicinity protected and wants a guarantee that any further work will not cause damage.

The Chairman thanked the petitioner, apologised that Mr Mitchell had not yet received a reply to his question submitted to the Local Committee on 22 October 2003 and assured him that he would receive a reply to the letter and petition at the next meeting of the Local Committee.

05/04 Written Public Questions [Item 5]

There were no written public questions.

06/04 Written Members' Questions [Item 6]

There were no written member questions.

Executive Functions

07/04 Member Update on Lead Area [Item 7]

Mrs Compton explained that Adults and Community Care had come in the top 17 local authorities providing care to adult social services; there has been a 74% reduction in delayed discharge; and the Health Select Committee has reorganised care services into five areas to coincide with Primary Care Trust boundaries.

Mr Marlow reported that the valve is now fitted to a drainage pipe at Foxlake Farm Estate, Byfleet to prevent flooding at a cost of £7000 to the County Council, paid by Local Committee Members' Allocations.

In response to a question from Mrs Gruselle regarding the update papers from the Local Strategic Partnership, it was explained that the Woking Borough Council planners are pulling together a group of planners across the borough to look at the infrastructure to support new housing.

Mrs Tinney reported on the £23 million that the county had received for key worker housing.

08/04 Youth Council Proposal for Spending Members' Allocation

[Item 8]

The Committee received a presentation from Tristram Smith from the Youth Council on the following short list of ideas that they would like to spend the £5000 Members' Allocation on:

1. part payment for facilities at the music event
2. youth shelters around the borough
3. graffiti art projects at West Byfleet and Woking Park
4. litter bins designed to appeal to young people.

Mrs Tinney suggested approaching the Borough Council to see if they had any additional funds for any of these.

RESOLVED

It was agreed that the Youth Council would come back to the meeting on 1 March 2004 with a clear statement on what they want to spend the money on, the benefit to young people in Woking and what they hope the outcome will be.

09/04 Allocating Local Committee Funding: Members' Allocation

[Item 9]

A revised report was circulated which recommended that the outstanding bid for £10,000 from Regen should be taken forward to the next financial year.

Regarding the bid from Woking Access Group it was noted that Members thought the guide should not be printed but should be web based, therefore any money agreed would go into survey analysis. If the money used was to be for employing someone, then it would be made a condition of grant that they explain how they will address the PAYE issues.

It was noted in reference to the bid from Woking Sea Cadets that they need the full £6000 to purchase a boat.

Mrs Gruselle requested that when Christine Holloway looked at the bid to support asylum seekers, she made sure that the committee would not be funding something that is a Government responsibility as the Members' Allocations is not for this purpose.

It was suggested that Mrs Tinney could advise that Woking Cycle Group put in a bid next year for a feasibility study for a cycle path between Woking and Guildford going through Woking Park.

Mrs Compton reminded the Committee that she would like funding for the refurbishment of Brookwood Memorial Hall. Mrs Compton was asked to liaise with Christine Holloway outside the meeting.

RESOLVED

Members agreed:

- a) all the recommendations in the report and noted in relation to the £5,000 for Woking Access Group, the money would not be used to publish a book, and it would be made a condition of grant that they explain how they will ensure that the County Council does not incur any liabilities for PAYE etc.
- b) to instruct the Local Director to explore the proposal for help for asylum seekers but note that the Members' Allocations should not be used to fund Government responsibilities.

10/04 **Consultation to Surrey's Admission Arrangements from September 2005** [Item 10]

This report set out the consultation document for proposed new admission criteria for oversubscribed Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in Surrey from September 2005. It was noted that Bishop David Brown is the only secondary community school in Woking, but as it is currently under-subscribed the admissions criteria would not affect it now. It was however noted that Fullbrook School, which is a foundation school and just over the border in Runnymede, uses the local education authority policy as a basis for its own admissions policy and therefore this would have an impact on children attending schools in the east of the borough, particularly those who go to Byfleet Primary School.

RESOLVED

It was agreed that the Local Director and Chairman would respond to the consultation on behalf of the Local Committee explaining that the committee are concerned that the proposal will make it harder for children to attend schools in a different borough from their home, even if it is the closest. This also contradicts our transportation policy, because it could result in an increase in children being driven to school.

It was further agreed that individual Members would write if the proposals adversely affected any of the schools within their division.

11/04 **Neighbourhood Nursery Update** [Item 11]

The Committee noted that the first version of the report circulated was incomplete. A revised paper was circulated which recognised the

project relied heavily on the support of Woking Borough Council to bring it to a successful outcome.

Peter Churchley, the Chief Executive of Caring Daycare, explained that the Sheerwater Neighbourhood Nursery had been established through the DfES SureStart programme to create local nurseries and children's centres in areas of disadvantage to deliver extended services to families and children, with the aim of reducing child poverty and improve their quality of life. The nursery opened on 5 January 2004. It currently has 6 children attending, with more booked for February. The training facilities in the upstairs part of the building are due to be completed by the beginning of February. Work is now concentrating on building up the nursery team, advertising etc. There will be an official opening early in summer 2004 when all the services are in place.

In response to a question from Mrs Tinney it was noted that the local training centre would be let out to other people. Inside the front door access to the nursery and the training centre are separate to ensure the safety of the children.

Members noted the report and thanked Peter Churchley for his presentation.

12/04 Fire and Rescue Integrated Risk Management Plan [Item 12]

Pete Grady introduced the Integrated Risk Management Plan for Surrey called "Safer Communities through Change". The document is currently out for public consultation which ends on 31 January 2004. Following this period a final document will be approved by the County Council for implementation from 1 April 2004. The plan aims to balance resources between protection, prevention and intervention.

In response to a question from Mrs Compton it was explained that the brigade still has sufficient capability if anything happened at Heathrow.

Mrs Gruselle noted the good work with the young cadets scheme, and the supported the fact that the plan focused on education.

In response to a question from Mrs Tinney, it was confirmed that the force is looking at carrying defibrillators, but there is no timescale as yet.

In response to a question from Mr Marlow regarding a combined emergency call-centre for police, fire and ambulance, it was noted that the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is pushing for a regionalised call centre for the Fire Brigade. It was further noted that all first line appliances are fitted with a sophisticated mapping system.

In response to a question from Mr Rousell, it was explained that work is on going nationally to allow all emergency services to communicate together.

Members noted the report and the implications for Woking.

13/04 Emergency Planning in Woking [Item 13]

Jerry Marsh and Mike Smith explained how emergency planning is organised in Surrey and more specifically in Woking. Emergency planning requires partnership working, and Surrey County Council and Woking Borough Council have a very close working relationship in this area.

Surrey Alert is being rolled out across the county and provides a secure extranet for those involved in the detail of emergency planning, and a public information site.

A lot of the work is about preparation. All necessary procedures are in place. Officers involved in emergency planning attend joint training. It was noted that plans are not in place for particular events, just getting the right people together with all the equipment necessary to respond to any eventuality.

In response to a question from Mrs Gruselle regarding funding, Jerry Marsh explained that Woking Borough Council does contribute financially to emergency planning in Surrey. A recent Best Value review stated that the County Council should be fully funding the service.

In response to a question from Mrs Compton regarding training, Jerry Marsh agreed to circulate details of a coming event to Members of the committee.

In response to a question from Mr Marlow regarding a local emergency plan for Woking, Mike Smith explained that Woking subscribes to SESMIC and the plan for Woking is complementary to Surrey-wide plans. The publication of the latest plan for Woking is imminent and will be circulated to Members of the Committee in due course.

(Mrs Gruselle left at 5.55pm)

On Page 20 of the Emergency Planning Annual Report regarding the scores for Woking on emergency preparedness across the County, Mike Smith agreed to circulate to Members the individual scores for Woking, but added that they are subjective so would be hard to compare across the county.

In response to a question from Mr Rousell regarding the impact of the ending of the Highways Agency, it was noted that the Borough Council still has very close working relationships locally with the Local Transportation Service and Ringway so there should be no impact should an emergency occur and the services of Ringway are required.

In conclusion it was stated that all agencies will work together to help people in distress. In order to do this effectively all the key people need to be working from one office. There are different views on where this should be, but these are being teased out.

The committee noted the close partnership working between the local authorities and the emergency services, and asked for the revised Working Emergency Plan to be made available to them when it is completed.

14/04 **Local Committee Action Plan – Progress Report** [Item 14]

Christine Holloway introduced the report which set out progress from the third quarter of 2003/04 and asked questions regarding priorities for the action plan for 2004/05.

RESOLVED

The committee noted the report and agreed the priorities for the last quarter of the year. Regarding next year they agreed:

- a) To continue with the public question time
- b) To continue to have a presence at community events
- c) To produce a shortened version of the Communication Plan
- d) To keep to the same timings for the meetings
- e) To continue to develop joint working with the Borough Council
- f) To review lead Member roles when the new Member is appointed
- g) To try and get more publicity around the Members' Allocation
- h) To develop the Local Committee's influence on countywide strategies

15/04 **Forward Programme** [Item 15]

RESOLVED

The forward programme was approved as in the report.

16/04 **Exclusion of the Press and Public** [Item 17]

There was no business that involved the likely disclosure of exempt information and thus required the public to be excluded from the meeting under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972.

[The meeting ended at 6.15 pm]

Chairman