



Minutes of the Local Committee for Woking  
General Agenda  
Meeting held at 4.15 pm on 26 April 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 (arrived at 5.40pm)  
Mrs Diana Smith  
Mrs Val Tinney

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**Part One – In Public**

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

29/04 **Apologies for absence** [Item 1]

No apologies for absence were received.

30/04 **Minutes of last meeting held on 1 March 2004** [Item 2]

Confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

31/04 **Declarations of interests** [Item 3]

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

32/04 **Petitions** [Item 4]

There were no petitions received.

33/04 **Written Public Questions** [Item 5]

**This question was received from Cllr Peter Ankers**

The SCC waste disposal site at Martyrs Lane provides a most useful facility. However all too often the green waste bin(s) are full to overflowing so that such material has to be dumped in the general waste bins. Are there any plans to redress this position?

**Richard Parkinson, Operations Group Manager, Waste Management Division responded:**

Both the County Council's waste management officers and our contractor, Surrey Waste Management Ltd are aware that from time to time, the green waste containers at Martyrs Lane become full resulting in recycling being lost in the general waste. This is a particular problem at the weekend when demand is highest but the composting facilities that deal with green waste are closed.

County Council officers have recently asked Surrey Waste Management to investigate a revised layout at the Martyrs Lane site. The aim of these changes would be to improve the general traffic flow through the site and to increase the storage capacity on the site, particularly for cardboard and green waste. The first part of this process, which is to suggest design changes, should be completed within the next few months.

**This question was received from Cllr Elizabeth Evans**

Residents have petitioned Woking Borough Council regarding the options for open space provision in the Maybury Central and Maybury estate areas. The relevant WBC Scrutiny Committee is in the process of determining the desirable level of community requirements in the area and expects to have this information agreed shortly.

To assist the exercise could the County Council state whether any land at New Monument School is likely to be declared surplus in the near future?

**Steve Evans, Principal Surveyor responded:**

The school has in principle agreed to support the release of land to fulfill the requirements of the current Local Plan. The County Council will be pleased to work with the Borough in identifying achievable and defensible options to fulfill the reasonable requirements of the community in the area.

**This question was received from Members of the Steering Group of the Knaphill Community Library Association (submitted by Mr Alan Wardle, Secretary of KCLA)**

Shortly after Knaphill Library opened in 1955 and several times subsequently the County Council described it as 'a temporary library'. In 1956 additional land alongside was acquired, by compulsory purchase, to enlarge the site for the construction of a bigger library.

In more recent times, but still in the days when the County Library Sub-Committee managed the Library Service, replacement of the building reached the list of first priorities. The Sub-Committee had specified a building of 2,000 square feet and called for proposals to be presented at its next meeting.

That meeting did not take place. The Sub-Committee had ceased to exist after the Council re-organisation at the end of 1988. Responsibility for the Library Service was put with the new Library, Information Services and Leisure Committee.

Little was heard of Knaphill Library for the next ten years until 1998 when the County proposed to close several of its smaller libraries, including Knaphill. There was protest countywide and the proposal was dropped.

The population has been growing rapidly since 1984; now there are more than 20,000 people for whom Knaphill is their nearest library. All other comparable parts of Surrey enjoy a library service superior to that provided in Knaphill (despite the best efforts of our highly valued staff); some areas get a vastly superior service. People living in this area expect and are entitled to the better facilities indicated by the Libraries Act and elaborated in the National Standards.

Almost six months have elapsed since the Local Committee for Woking accepted the officers' recommendation to relocate Knaphill Library to a shop. The Committee's decision was communicated to the press forthwith. Neither this Association or the public have had any further news.

We would appreciate prompt and effective attention to this matter.

How much longer is Knaphill to be the poor relation?

**Chris Norris, Head of Libraries responded:**

The Executive of Surrey County Council has stated in successive Annual Library Plans (and the Public Library Position Statement that replaced the ALP) that the replacement of Knaphill Library is a priority.

Officers of the Council investigated a number of options for replacement, and the Local Committee for Woking endorsed the recommendation that the best solution was to take a lease on a shop.

Suitable shop premises have been identified (incidentally larger than the specification recommended to the County Library Sub-Committee) and the Estates Service is engaged in negotiations with the landlord regarding a lease. When these negotiations have reached an appropriate stage, work will be undertaken on the detail of the conversion of the shop premises to a library. We intend to consult local interested people to get their views before finalising the specification for the conversion.

While recognising the need to replace the existing Knaphill library, the County Council does not accept the charge that people in Knaphill and surrounding areas are poorly served by the library service owing to the proximity of Woking library, which is used by many Knaphill residents. The 1964 Public Libraries Act and the subsequent Public Library Standards relate to the adequacy of a library service, and not any individual library".

In response, Mr Wardle stated that he was not happy with the answer. The question was addressed to the Committee, not an officer, and it asked for a timescale. Mr Rousell explained that the Committee looked to the officer responsible for managing the library service for a response. With regard to timescale, the lease is being negotiated and the Committee needs to respect commercial sensitivity. The Committee and the officers still intend to deliver what was agreed.

**This question was received from Mrs Pauline Marshall**

Will the Local Committee recommend to Surrey County Council and its Member Asset Panel that the Council should treat the Garibaldi land as manorial waste until such time as there is a definitive answer to the question of its status, in order that the land cannot be detrimentally or illegally affected in the intervening time?

It is not sufficient to consider the status of the land only in relation to proposals directly relating to the land itself, as suggested in recommendation (c) of the Local Director's report dated 13 April. For example, the recent application (since withdrawn) by the occupiers of the builder's yard for a Goods Operator's Licence did not involve the land itself but did involve crucial questions of access and parking. The same may apply to applications from utilities.

**Christine Holloway, Local Director for Woking had drafted this response:**

On 23 July 2003, the Local Committee considered this land. Part of their response to the Member Asset Panel reads: " 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..."

The report to this committee today recommends that there is no immediate need to settle the exact status of the land.

The proposed use of the land at present in no way conflicts with the status of the land should it prove to be manorial waste. To reinforce the spirit of the Committee's decision last July and the recommendation to this meeting of 26 April 2004, I suggest that this Committee should recommend to the Member Asset Panel to be vigilant that no action is taken that would conflict with the land's possible status as manorial waste. In effect, this is the equivalent of treating the land "as if" it were manorial waste.

This recommendation is "without prejudice" to eventual outcome on the question of the land's status.

Having had further comments from both Mrs Marshall and relevant officers before the meeting, the Local Director suggested amending the proposed recommendation from the Committee to the Members' Asset Panel. The Committee decided to instruct officers to endorse the file on the land at Garibaldi Crossroads to state nothing should be done that affects the land without referring it to the Local Committee for Woking, unless the Surrey County Council lawyers can suggest a better way of achieving the same aim.

**This question was received from Bob Milton, Local Correspondent for the Open Spaces Society**

I would like to ask the Councillors to support Pauline Marshall's question and statement as regard to this piece of common land as well as pointing out that the problems that are prevalent here appear all over the County. The reason is the state of denial of the status of manorial waste that has been going on in Surrey County Council since 1990 and the House of Lords judgment in the case of Hampshire County Council v Lord Milburn. I would also ask that the local Councillors will use this opportunity to direct the officers as to their expectations and requirements in getting this matter put on a proper

standing. If the Councillors feel they cannot deal with this matter can they please write to me as to why they cannot or will not take action.

**Christine Holloway, Local Director for Woking responded:**

The Local Committee for Woking has no authority to consider matters outside Woking. The County-wide Member Asset Panel has asked the Local Committee for its views in relation to this piece of land only. The Local Committee is making its recommendations clear to the Member Asset Panel and officers in relation to this land.

**34/04 Written Members' Questions [Item 6]**

There were no written Member questions.

**Executive Functions**

**35/04 Member Update on Lead Area [Item 7]**

Mrs Compton updated the Committee on the work of the Adults and Community Care Select Committee which included providing more nursing care in residential homes to enable residents to stay in their original placement and increasing the take up of welfare benefits. She also highlighted the publication of the 2003 annual report from the Director of Public Health of the Woking Area Primary Care Trust. The Commission for Social Care Inspection replaced the National Care Standards Commission on 1 April 2004.

Mrs Smith said that the primary school review is currently in progress and a report is going to the Executive on 27 April 2004 on secondary school planning.

Mrs Tinney reported that the Best Value review of property services would be considered by the Executive on 27 April 2004. If endorsed there will be stronger officer links with local committees.

Mr Rousell updated the Committee on waste issues. A Surrey-wide Waste Strategy Board has been set up for the county and the boroughs and districts to agree an overall view of how to deal with waste.

**36/04 Little Moor Lane Farm Ditch: response to question and petition [Item 8]**

An amended copy of page 3 of the report was circulated as the background papers originally listed are not open to public inspection.

This report set out a response to a question put to the Committee by Mr J D Mitchell on 22 October 2003 and a petition signed by 111 residents presented on 28 January 2004, which was supported by a letter from Mr Mitchell dated 21 January 2004. They complain about the cleaning of the ditch running along the western and northern boundary of the Council's tenanted small holdings at Little Moor Lane Farm, Woking, in October 2000.

In response to a question from Mr Rousell, Mr Mitchell indicated that he was not happy with the response.

### **RESOLVED**

Members agreed to respond to Mr Mitchell's question and petition by saying that:

- a) the ditch cleaning was not done by Surrey County Council but by contractors, Land & Water Ltd, on instructions from the Council's property consultants, BK (Bruton Knowles).
- b) The fact that the Council paid for the work does not mean that the Council takes responsibility for the manner in which the work was carried out, or for any consequences of the work.
- c) The Council does not accept that the dredging work was carried out improperly, or that it led to the consequences complained of.
- d) Even if it that were the case, the Council is not responsible for the negligence of its contractors. If the work was not carried out properly, and if properties have suffered damage as a consequence of work improperly carried out, householders have a remedy in law, but legal action should not be directed towards the Council.
- e) In the circumstances, the Committee does not recommend that the Council should initiate the remedial action urged by Mr Mitchell or act in the way requested by the petitioners.

### **37/04 Allocating Local Committee Funding: Members' Allocation**

[Item 9]

The report set out the bids received to date for the £110,000 Members' Allocation. It was noted that at least £35,000 of this needs to be spent on capital schemes for voluntary organisations.

Regarding the bid for Benny the Bus, Christine Holloway explained that the Woking Rotary Club, rather than the Woking Chamber of Commerce, would be the accountable body. Mrs Tinney supported this bid and requested the Committee to consider allocating additional funds if there is any money left in this budget at the end of the financial year.

Mrs Compton mentioned two further proposals for use of the funding, one on pumping the Basingstoke Canal and the other for the

Brookwood Memorial Hall. It was noted that she needed to supply details before the deadline for these to be considered at a future meeting.

**RESOLVED**

Members agreed:

- a) to amend one of the criterion for assessing bids from "the project will demonstrate its impact before the end of the financial year" to "the project will demonstrate its impact within 12 months"
- b) to set aside £2,500 of the budget for community engagement. If this has not been spent towards the end of the financial year, then it will be returned to the Members' Allocation budget for allocation to other projects.
- c) to the allocations as set out below:

**Project summary Sum agreed Conditions/comments**

**Capital**

Asian Home/School Liaison Project: toy libraries for 2 schools & mosque	£1,000	£500 agreed for Sythwood and Maybury Schools toy libraries. A further £500 has been agreed for a toy library at the Mosque to be released when the Local Director is satisfied that robust arrangements exist to manage the project.
"Benny the Bus": community facility used by numerous local groups	£3,000	The Local Committee recommended that the people responsible for "Benny the Bus" should liaise with other organisations which provide vehicles for community use to see if there can be improved efficiencies for example through joint insurance, maintenance or breakdown cover. The Woking Rotary Club need to confirm in writing that they will act as the 'accountable body' before the money is released.
Byfleet Cricket Club store-room	£6,000	
Byfleet Cricket Club training equipment for youth team	£1,500	
LIAISE portacabin replacement (LIAISE provides	£20,000	The allocation is conditional on match funding being secured from other key partners in



Draft minutes to be agreed on 14 July 2004

support to Asian women)		Woking.
Old Woking Community Centre roof repairs	£3,000	
Old Woking Cricket Club equipment	£5,000	
Woking District Scout Camp: to install a WC with disability access	£9,000	
<b>TOTAL capital</b>	<b>£48,500</b>	
Asian Home/School Liaison Project	£1,500	
Asian Girls holiday classes		
Coldharbour Lane lunch club (for older and disabled people)	£300	
Link Leisure - Fun Link (holiday scheme for severely disabled children)	£4,000	
Saturday School at Bishop David Brown School	£10,000	This money has been set aside to 'underwrite' the Saturday School during their fundraising, on the understanding that if fundraising succeeds, the money will be returned to the Local Committee to use for other bids.
Sheerwater Scouts - tree work to make site safe	£700	The Local Transportation Service will arrange for the work to be carried out and the cost charged to the Members' Allocation Budget.
St John's Brownies hire of hall for meetings	£400	Agreed. The Local Director to advise St John's Brownies that they cannot expect annual funding from the Local Committee.
Woking Community Relations Forum multi-cultural evening	£3,000	This funding is conditional on the Woking Community Relations Forum producing a detailed proposal with costings showing what they plan to do, and demonstrating that they

are liaising with the Town Centre Manager, Youth Council and One World Week to ensure that there is no duplication of events.

<b>TOTAL revenue</b>	<b>£19,900</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>£68,400</b>

38/04 **Land at Garibaldi Crossroads** [Item 10]

The report addresses the legal situation regarding the land at Garibaldi cross-roads, and what action Surrey County Council should take.

Regarding maintenance it was noted that grass cutting needs to avoid the daffodil and bluebell season. Trees will be cut in the interest of safety and to maintain sightlines. These costs will be covered by the Estates Strategy budget.

In response to a question from Mrs Smith regarding whether the land could be made replacement common land, Mrs Tinney explained that for this to be the case it has to be like for like, and does not think this piece of land would fit the criteria. However, Mrs Tinney would make sure that the Members' Asset Panel would consider it.

Members thanked Christine Holloway and Joanna Mortimer for all their work on putting the report together.

**RESOLVED**

Members agreed:

- a) to emphasise that any action taken by Surrey County Council to clear or maintain the site is done under its power to promote well being, and is not a precedent for the future of this or any other site
- b) that Surrey County Council can do nothing about local people's view that the land should have been registered as common land unless there is a change in law which allows the registration of land which has not previously been registered
- c) that Surrey County Council should not spend public funds on further inquiry into whether the land is manorial waste unless and until any action is considered which would be affected by the answer
- d) to include the land in the Local Transportation Service contract to cut the grass twice a year
- e) to approve the recommendation from Estates Strategy in relation to the banks alongside the track
- f) to approve the recommendation from Estates Strategy in relation to cutting back secondary growth and removing dead branches from trees on the site

- g) to recommend that any contract for cutting back vegetation should include cutting back growth which renders it difficult for wheelchairs or pushchairs to get round the barrier across the track, while making it clear that Surrey County Council accepts no responsibility for the state of the track
- h) to recommend to the Members' Asset Panel that Surrey County Council should not give permission for parking on the access track or land.

**39/04 Local Committee Action Plan – Annual Report for 2003/04**

[Item 11]

This report set out what had been achieved from the 2003/04 Annual Plan for the Local Committee and Community Support Team for Woking.

All but three actions had progressed. The important action which had not been progressed was to bring more funding into Woking. This will be a priority for the coming year.

Members noted the report and commended Woking Community Support Team on the work and Christine Holloway for her work as Secretary to the Local Strategic Partnership in particular.

**40/04 Local Committee Annual Plan 2004/05** [Item 12]

This report set out the annual plan for the Local Committee and the Community Support Team for Woking for the coming year.

In relation to the priorities identified, Members noted that with regard to finding solutions to community issues, it was suggested that once each one of these have been progressed, they could be used as a basis for a meeting of the Local Committee out in the community.

With regard to Knaphill Library, the Committee are keen to be involved in planning how it will function and how to use it in a flexible way, for example to support Youth Development Service.

**RESOLVED**

Members agreed:

- a) the recommended annual plan for 2004/05
- b) to allocate £8,750 of the community safety budget to Police Community Support Officers, a sum of between £2,000 and £3,000 to Safer Woking to use for administration and projects (the precise sum to be determined by *Safer Woking*) and the balance of the community safety budget to domestic violence outreach.

41/04 **Self-Reliance – progress and future planning** [Item 13]

Christine Holloway presented the report to the Committee which highlighted the County Council's Self-Reliance Policy and the work that has been carried out by the Community Support Team on identifying what has been happening in Sheerwater and Maybury, what has worked and what gaps exist.

Sheerwater and Maybury is one of the County Council's five self-reliance areas, and as such will receive £50,000 a year for three years to fund projects which can be mainstreamed.

Members were asked for their ideas for allocating some of the funding.

In response to a question from Mrs Compton, Christine Holloway reported on how the new Neighbourhood Nursery has been advertising its services.

Mrs Tinney is keen to see the Youth Worker at the Mosque linked into the worker at Walton Road Youth Centre. Christine assured Mrs Tinney that the relevant people are talking to each other.

Mr Rousell raised the issue of funding for the Saturday School at Bishop David Brown and whether this could become mainstreamed. Christine Holloway was instructed to pursue this, explaining that the Local Committee is keen to see this happen.

Mrs Smith is keen to see the idea of school packs raised at the meeting at the Mosque progressed. Christine Holloway is in discussions with Paula Evans from the Multi-Professional Team on this.

Mrs Tinney suggested that there should be more cricket nets in the area to enable the younger generation to have access to play cricket.

**RESOLVED**

Members approved the report and the use of the budget so far and agreed to liaise with Christine Holloway outside of the meeting regarding further views and ideas on how the funding should be spent.

42/04 **Forward Programme** [Item 14]

(Mrs Gruselle arrived 5.40pm)

As this was the final meeting of the current Council year, the Committee thanked the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman for all their work over the past year.

**RESOLVED**

The forward programme was approved as in the report with the addition that the item on community safety should also address anti-social behaviour.

43/04 **Exclusion of the Press and Public** [Item 15]

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 5.45 pm]

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Chairman