



Minutes of the Local Committee for Woking
General Agenda
Meeting held at 7.30 pm on 29 September 2004
at
St John's Cornerstone Centre, Camphill Road, West Byfleet.

Members present:

Mr Geoff Marlow – Chairman
Mr David Rousell
Mrs Diana Smith

Part One – In Public

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

60/04 Apologies for absence [Item 1]

Mrs Compton, Mrs Gruselle and Mrs Tinney gave their apologies for absence.

61/04 Minutes of last meeting held on 14 October 2004 [Item 2]

It was agreed to sign the minutes at the meeting on 14 October 2004.

62/04 Declarations of interests [Item 3]

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

63/04 **Written Public Questions** [Item 4]

There were no written public questions.

Executive Functions

64/04 **Best Value Review of Passenger Transport** [Item 5]

Stephen Styles introduced the item which proposed a sustainable way forward for the future of passenger transport within Surrey. It was noted that the current escalating costs of passenger transport could not be sustained and it was proposed that an Integrated Transport Co-ordination Centre could be the way forward for Surrey.

In response to a question from Mrs Smith, it was noted that if the Transport Co-ordination Centre could use the Peter Bus when it was not being used, then it would generate income for them and maximise use of the vehicle. Regarding whether young people would be able to benefit from the scheme it was noted that officers are working closely with Connexions etc. to help ensure that young people needs are met.

Mr Rousell commended the report and noted that people need to recognise that a new and imaginative solution is needed to solve the current issues for passenger transport across the County.

RESOLVED

The Committee agreed the findings and recommendations of the Best Value Review of Passenger Transport and Halcrow's recommendations.

65/04 **Discussion of Key Issues within the Community** [Item 6]

The Committee agreed to adjourn the meeting to enable open discussion with members of the community. Issues discussed included Martyrs Lane Civic Amenity Site, the Quality Bus Partnership and highway maintenance. Annex 1 sets out details of these discussions.

66/04 **Outcomes of discussions with community** [Item 7]

The meeting was formally reconvened and officers were instructed to note and act, where appropriate, on comments raised during discussions.

67/04 Exclusion of the Press and Public [Item 8]

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 9.15 pm]

Chairman

Presentation on two key local issues by Surrey County Council Officers:

1. Martyrs Lane Civic Amenity Site

Richard Parkinson, Operations Group Manager, Waste Management gave a short presentation on the Martyrs Lane Civic Amenity Site. Surrey Waste Management operates the site on behalf of the County Council. It was explained that this site is very busy, but has a low recycling rate. There have been a number of problems over the past few months as the compactors have been vandalised, and due to their age they need to be replaced rather than repaired. Surrey County Council recognise that there are problems with congestion and overflowing containers.

To address the current issues they are proposing the following improvements:

1. one way traffic flow in the site
2. more accessible recyclable containers which will have a squasher to keep the capacity up, especially during busy periods.

They are currently awaiting final approval but hope to have the improved site up and running in 3-4 months.

2. Quality Bus Partnership

David Ligertwood, Senior Transport Officer, gave a short presentation on work on going to set up a quality bus partnership in the east of the borough from the Brooklands Marks and Spencer through Byfleet, West Byfleet and Sheerwater to the town centre. Along this route:

1. the bus stops will be replaced by Christmas 2004
2. new and additional bus shelters will be added
3. kerbs will be improved to enable level and safe pedestrian access
4. bus stop clearways will be created
5. a tube like map for buses in Woking will be available by end of 2004
6. real time passenger information will be introduced in east Woking during 2006/07
7. work will be undertaken to integrate bus and rail timetables
8. bus priority measures will be introduced along with low floor buses
9. customer care training for drivers will be undertaken.

Summary of issues raised by Residents of Woking East Division

Martyrs Lane Civic Amenity Site

- i. Cliff Bush from the North West Surrey Association of Disabled People raised a question on the Disability Discrimination Act and access to the site, as currently the site is not accessible to disabled people and staff are not helpful. In response Richard Parkinson explained that the staff should be there to help people, and this was therefore an issue which needed to be addressed. In addition, when the site has been revamped there will be some new containers which will be able to be opened up at the back to enable better access.
- ii. A number of members of the community backed up the above point about staff being very unhelpful.
- iii. The steps up to the green waste are very slippery and it is currently easier to dump all waste in the compactors rather than to separate it.
- iv. In response to a point raised that the site is not big enough and the containers are not emptied regularly enough, it was noted that the containers cannot be emptied at the weekends as commercial sites are shut. It was also added that we all need to take responsibility for reducing the amount of waste we generate in the first place.
- v. In response to a question it was clarified that home improvement waste can only be taken to a civic amenity site in a car. Waste taken in a van or trailer needs to be taken to a commercial site and disposal paid for.
- vi. It was agreed that some work may need to be done at the site to stop commercial contractors using it.
- vii. The County Council is aware of Woking Borough Council's plans for the incinerator and composter and they are keen to work with all districts and boroughs to achieve increased recycling rates across the county.
- viii. Work is ongoing to look at lessening vehicle movements along Martyrs Lanes, possibly making it one way.

Street Cleansing

- i. A number of comments were made about the cleaning of highway drains. It was noted that all drains in the borough are done once a year. A number of specific problem locations were identified at the meeting, which the Local Transportation Service agreed to look at.
- ii. The cleaning of highway ditches was also raised on Pyrford Road and the Local Transportation Service agreed to look at the situation.

Quality Bus Partnership

- i. It was requested that after lessons learnt from the Quality Bus Partnership in the west, that any changes to bus stops and bus boarders in the east are talked through locally before being implemented.
- ii. It was noted that if anything is done to make Albert Drive more accessible to buses, then care needs to be taken to ensure that other big vehicles are not encouraged/able to use this route.

Best Value Review of Passenger Transport

- i. In response to a question about the above, it was noted that best practice from across the world has been looked at, and in relation to a specific question it was noted that depending on population density, taxi vouchers will be one option available.

General Highway Issue

- i. A question was raised about why it took six months to resurface a pavement damaged by developers, and why the tax payer had to pay instead of the developer. In response officers explained that Highway Stewards should inspect work after contractors have dug up roads. In addition, the Government has now put in place highway managers to help co-ordinate work by statutory undertakers. The County Council can claim back money from developers for remedial work.