



Minutes of the Local Committee for Woking  
General Agenda  
Meeting held at 4.15 pm on 19 January 2005  
at  
the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Woking.

Members present:

Mr Geoff Marlow – Chairman  
Mrs Val Tinney – Vice Chairman  
Mrs Elizabeth Compton  
Mr David Rousell  
Mrs Diana Smith

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**Part One – In Public**

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

**01/05 Apologies for absence** [Item 1]

Mrs Gruselle gave her apologies for absence.

**02/05 Minutes of last meeting: 14 October 2004** [Item 2]

RESOLVED – That subject to an amendment to minute 69/04 where Mrs Smith had in fact said that she hoped impatience would not hamper the building the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October were agreed and signed.

**03/05 Declarations of interests** [Item 3]

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

04/05 **Petitions** [Item 4]

There were no petitions received.

05/05 **Written Public Questions** [Item 5]

**This question was received from Mr Bob Milton:**

I have today found reference in the Countryside Agency CROW 2000 s15 exempt land list that the Garibaldi lands and the rest of Bisley common in the ownership of Surrey County Council are subject not only to s193 of the Law of property Act 1925 but also to a Scheme of Regulation under the Commons Act 1899. This requires that the sole purpose of the acquisition of the land is to maintain it for public recreation. Why has this not been divulged before by the County's Estates Officer in his dealings with the Local Committee and residents and will the County now amend their maintenance regime to facilitate the duties under the Scheme for public recreation.

**Cecile Rose, Legal Executive, Legal Services responded:**

The County Council has no evidence that S.193 of the Law of Property Act 1925 applies to this land we have been unsuccessful in locating the Deed Poll.

The County Council also has no evidence that the District Council has exercised its power to make a scheme for the regulation of this land (if it is common) under the 1899 Act referred to.

If there is such evidence, it would be very helpful if Mr Milton shared it with the County Council so that a definitive and agreed position on the legal status of this land could be reached without further expenditure of time and money.

**This question was received from Mr Andrew Bowden**

At the last meeting I was present and it was said that SCC and WBC would discuss the subject of the ownership and maintenance of the "Garibaldi Land".

I understand that reference has been found in the Countryside Agency CROW 2000 s15 exempt land list that the Garibaldi lands and the rest of Bisley Common are subject not only to s193 of the Law of Property Act 1925 but also to a Scheme of Regulation under the Commons Act 1899. This indicates that the purpose of the acquisition of the land is for public recreation and that this would require maintenance of the land.

With reference to the above please could you tell me what progress has been made by either or both councils to reinstate that required maintenance for 2005.

**Mike Howes, Local Director for Woking, responded:**

The claim that the Garibaldi land features in the exempt land list has only just come to the Council's attention. Officers need to satisfy themselves that this claim is correct and then to ascertain the implications of such a listing. The claim has resulted in negotiations between the County and Borough Councils being suspended pending clarification of the legal status of the land and the management and maintenance implications of that status.

It is expected that seeking the necessary clarification will delay negotiations by some weeks.

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

I have been informed that there is a reference in the Countryside Agency CROW 2000 s.15 exempt land list that the Garibaldi land and the rest of Bisley common in the ownership of Surrey County Council are subject not only to S.193 of the Law of Property Act 1925 but also to a Scheme of Regulation under the Commons Act 1899.

Is this the case and if so can the Council give a straightforward account of the effect of this on the Bisley common and in particular the Garibaldi land?"

**Mike Howes, Local Director for Woking, responded:**

Officers have not yet confirmed that the Garibaldi site features on the exempt land list or that it is subject to a Scheme of Regulation under the Commons Act of 1899 nor have they determined the implications of such a listing or scheme of Regulation. However, the claim that this listing exists and the possibility of a Scheme of Regulation has, at least temporarily, halted negotiations between the Borough and County Councils over the future of the site.

**This question was received from Mr Clive Wood**

Martyrs Lane Civic Amenity is not an accessible service to disabled people. There are steps to the waste containers, which are extremely steep. Wheelchair users are totally excluded from using this service. Staff who work at the facility do not seem willing to give assistance to people with special needs. How can this situation be rectified to ensure

this amenity is made fully accessible to all the residents of the borough?

**Mike Howes, Local Director for Woking, responded**

Officers will be reporting later in the meeting on the plans by Surrey Waste Management for improvements at Martyrs' Lane and will address in their report the issues of access.

**06/05 Written Member Questions [Item 6]**

**The following questions were received from Cllr Diana Smith**

1. What progress has been made in discussions between Woking Borough Council and Surrey County Council, proposed at this committee on the 14<sup>th</sup> October, on the possible transfer of the 'Garibaldi land' to Woking Borough Council?

2. How many possible time slots for youth activities at evenings and weekends are there at each of Surrey's Youth facilities in Woking? What proportion are currently used for activities for young people?

**Mike Howes, Local Director for Woking, responded:**

Discussions between Officers of the two authorities have begun and arrangements are in hand to prepare an agreed management and maintenance specification for the site to help identify the ongoing costs associated with the site. This process will, however, now need to be suspended pending clarification of the claim that reference has been found in the Countryside Agency CROW 2000 s15 exempt land list that the Garibaldi lands and the rest of Bisley Common are subject not only to s193 of the Law of Property Act 1925 but also to a Scheme of Regulation under the Commons Act 1899. This indicates that the purpose of the acquisition of the land is for public recreation.

Officers need first to examine the exempt land list and, if indeed the Garibaldi land is included, to ascertain the implications for the management and maintenance of the site. Clarification may take some weeks.

**David Blake, Woking Youth Development Officer, responded**

In answering this question, it is extremely important to make the point that where, traditionally and historically, youth work was in the main isolated within youth centres, it now takes place in a variety of settings, and at a variety of times. Consequently, the totality of youth work in Woking exceeds the aggregate of slots at Surrey Youth Centres in the Borough.

The first priority is the need(s) of the young people we are working with. It is then decided which method of youth work we will employ to address these identified needs. Many young people do not live near a youth centre, or do not wish to go to a youth centre, so youth workers engage with them on the streets. Furthermore, many schools often develop partnership projects with the Youth Development Service which involve youth workers engaging with young people on the school's grounds. We may also use buildings that don't belong to the Youth Development Service to meet and work with young people, e.g. The Maybury Centre, Sheerwater Community Centre and Woking Borough Council Civic Offices.

Additionally, again, historically and traditionally, youth work has taken place in evenings during the week. However, now we have targeted schools work being delivered in a morning, babysitting courses and young parents groups being delivered during afternoons, and drop-in sessions and project work taking place on Sundays. Again, all of this in response to the needs of young people, and delivered alongside, and in addition to, regular evening sessions.

**Woking Youth Centre** - This is a part-time youth centre with a part-time leader- in-charge. The Youth Development Service have 3 sessions running in the building, 1 of which is a targeted session for Asian young women. These sessions take place:

Tuesdays: 5.00pm - 7.00pm

Wednesdays: 7.30pm - 10.00pm

Thursdays: 7.30pm - 10.00pm

Most of SCC's youth centres across the county are available for community groups to hire when the building is not being used for youth work. As each youth centre needs to be, in the main, self-financing, any money obtained from hire groups is used to subsidise the core youth work. Furthermore, no hire group's use of the building should result in the inability for core youth work to take place.

Woking Youth Theatre regularly use Woking Youth Centre for their rehearsals on Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm - 9.30pm and Sunday evenings from 6.00pm - 9.30pm

**Lakers Youth Centre** - This centre is currently closed due to lack of staff. However, it is being used by the Active Learning Programme during the day on Tuesdays, Young Carers every second Tuesday from 5.30pm - 7.00pm, Sheerwater Girls football project on Wednesday afternoons between 3.30pm and 5.00pm, Link Leisure on a Wednesday evening from 5.00pm until 7.00pm, Woking High School on Thursday mornings from 9.00am - 12.30pm and Outcrowd on a Thursday evening from 7.30pm until 9.00pm. However, once a new

full-time youth workers is appointed it is envisaged that the core youth work at Lakers will develop dramatically.

There is also a Tumble Tots play group who use the building on Wednesday mornings from 9.00am - 12.30pm, and Fridays from 9.00am - 5.00pm.

**Sheerwater Youth Centre** - This centre is currently being redecorated by the newly formed Sheerwater Youth Committee, under the guidance of Lyn Nunnerley, the full-time Neighbourhood Youth Worker for East Woking. Youth sessions take place:

Mondays: 7.00pm - 10.00pm

Thursdays: 6.00pm - 8.00pm

Saturdays: 12.00pm - 3.00pm

Sundays: Either 10.00am - 3.00pm OR 3.00pm - 10.00pm

There is a play group that use the centre during term times, Monday to Friday 8.45am - 12.45pm, Allegro Dance Academy use the centre on Tuesday evenings from 4.30pm - 6.30pm, Friday evenings from 6.30pm - 8.30pm and Saturday mornings from 9.00am - 12.00pm, and Link Leisure use the centre on Tuesday evenings from 7.00pm - 9.00pm

**Woking Youth Arts Centre** - This centre is currently being refurbished. A VIP opening will be scheduled for early February and there are many plans for Service specific youth work and partnership projects to be delivered at the centre once it opens.

Many of the youth centres are used by the youth work team on an ad hoc basis for meetings, sessions and projects with young people when and where appropriate.

There are currently two full-time youth workers in Woking with a dedicated face-to-face brief. They work 74 hours a week between them, 42 of which are face-to-face sessions with young people, in and out of our buildings.

## **Executive Functions**

### **07/05 Member Update on Lead Areas [Item 7]**

Mrs Smith updated the committee about Knaphill library. The supermarket to be used as a replacement for the Library needs planning permission to change the use of the building; this is a cause of further delay. Chris Norris, head of libraries hopes the issue will be resolved at the latest by the end of April.

Mrs Smith also gave an update about the Primary School Review; officers have continued to work with representatives of schools to find solutions to the difficulties caused by falling pupil numbers. Mrs Smith stated that Cllr Andrew Crisp had been involved in discussions with head teachers and governors in the South Woking Schools. Discussions have also taken place with representatives from Broadmere, New Monument and Maybury Schools.

Mrs Compton circulated a briefing sheet, which updated the Committee about the Recruitment and Retention Task Group that has been established by the Adults and Community Care Select Committee and details about a new vision for adult social care that is to be published.

Mr Rousell stated that the consultation on waste is online and the deadline had been extended until the end of February.

Mrs Tinney commented that the Planning application for the Fire Station had been submitted and plans were available to view.

#### **08/05 Children's Services Annual Report [Item 8]**

Jane Clarke Introduced the report which updated the Committee on the performance of the Children's Service during 2003/04 in Woking.

In response to a question received from Mr Marlow about the low attendance by Children's services to the Community Incident Action group (CIAG) meetings, Jane Clarke responded that she was aware of the problem and discussions had taken place with colleagues and the Police on how to address this. She commented that it was difficult to find the appropriate staff to attend these meetings and that she would try to improve information sharing so that, if staff were unable to attend, relevant information could be passed on to the meeting.

Mr Marlow also asked what action the Committee could take in the new financial year to help in the recruitment of foster carers, particularly those from the minority ethnic community. Jane Clarke explained that agencies which could encourage people to become foster carers needed to be identified, and incentives put in place to attract foster carers e.g. leisure facility concessions.

Jane Clarke agreed to get back to Mr Marlow about the low take up places at the Sheerwater Neighbourhood Nursery.

Mrs Compton wanted to know how far away from the County children were fostered and if families who visit were helped with travel expenses.

Jane Clarke explained that the location of out of County placements varied but that they were only used when there were no appropriate

foster carers available more locally. In these circumstances, if family visits were appropriate, help could be given with the costs of travel.

**RESOLVED -**

That

The performance of the service countywide, by area and locally be noted.

**09/05 Policing in Woking Borough [Item 9]**

Chief Inspector Paul Farrow introduced the report and gave the following updated crime figures for Woking Borough for April – October 2004, compared to the same period last year

<b>Offence</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Numerical difference</b>
Total crime	-7%	-386
Burglary dwelling	+ 18%	+51
Violent crime	-0.6%	+6
Robbery	- 37%	-22
Theft of motor vehicle	- 20%	-34
Theft from motor vehicle	- 26%	-117

The figures show that Woking is doing well on most crime categories compared to the rest of the county and nationally.

Violent crime figure is particularly impressive as it bucks the regional trend. Particular emphasis has been placed on the town centre. A reduction of 15% in the last 3 months has been achieved through high visibility policing and positive intervention.

The Police are developing a 'reassurance project' across the borough. Officers are holding meetings with ward level groups so that they can raise issues of concern in their local area and agree priorities. Many local concerns involve either speeding or environmental issues.



Work was currently underway to assist the Borough Council in the development and implementation of licensing policies, which will come into effect from 7<sup>th</sup> February this year. The intention was to build on the good working relationship between various agencies and the local Pubwatch to ensure that the changes to licensing procedures were introduced smoothly and contributed to the safety of the town centre in particular.

Mrs Tinney asked if the closing of Chertsey Road on a Friday and Saturday nights over the Christmas period had been successful. Inspector Paul Farrow replied that it had been extremely successful and that they were looking to extend this.

Mrs Smith commented that there was some discontent from members of the public regarding reporting incidents to the police and the response they received.

Inspector Paul Farrow was aware of certain problems and commented that staff needed more training in communications skills so that when the public reported information to the Police, they felt that their efforts had been worthwhile.

**RESOLVED -**

That the report be received and noted.

10/05 **Woking Borough Council and Surrey County Council working together** [Item 10]

Members commented that joint working with Woking Borough Council was a good way forward, but that the details needed to be looked at carefully.

Mr Rousell commented that he would like to see more co-operative working and hoped that the efforts of the two authorities could be amalgamated to make a greater impact.

Mrs Compton had some reservations about the proposals that would vary the arrangements for Local Committees which had not been around for very long and also felt more discussions needed to take place.

Mr Marlow welcomed the move and agreed that there is a need to look at further development so that a truly co-operative committee could be formed in the future.

**RESOLVED -**

That

- (a) the initiative of the Borough Council in seeking closer joint working with the Local Committee be welcomed and that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Local Director be authorised to progress discussions regarding the areas of activity that could usefully and successfully be covered by joint arrangements; and
- (b) a further report on the conclusion of these discussions be received.

**11/05 A waste development framework for Surrey [Item 11]**

Hilary Herbert introduced the report and commented that the consultation period had been extended to the end of February.

Mr Rousell wanted clarification about whether the Woking Municipal Depot or the Woking aggregate depot was to be safeguarded. Hilary Herbert clarified that the Day's Rail aggregate depot had not been recommended for safeguarding and that both the Martyrs Lane Civic Amenity site and the Monument Way depot had been recommended for safeguarding.

Mr Rousell then pointed out that the only way to minimise the need for waste disposal and transfer sites, which people tend to object to being located in their neighbourhoods, was for everyone to modify their behaviour and produce less waste.

Hilary Herbert drew attention to the education programmes for different groups about the benefits of waste minimisation and recycling and the need to improve recycling facilities.

**RESOLVED -**

That the approach to managing waste set out in the issue papers be supported and the Local Director be authorised to respond in detail via the on-line consultation mechanism that has been established.

**12/05 Martyrs' Lane Civic Amenity Site [Item 12]**

Richard Parkinson updated the committee on proposals for improvements at the Martyrs' Lane Civic Amenity Site. He showed Members a plan of the new layout and discussed the proposed changes which included the need to replace compactors, to increase recycling capacity, to improve visibility of staff and to improve traffic flow and parking.

In response to a question from Mrs Tinney about traffic flows within the site, Mr Parkinson explained that cones would be used to maintain safe traffic flows.

Mrs Compton asked whether the site could be expanded onto land adjacent to the current site. Mr Parkinson explained that the current changes were to deal with short term issues.

In response to a question from Mrs Smith about commercial waste, Mr Parkinson responded that Martyrs' Lane site was to dispose of household waste and commercial waste should not be accepted. However, he was aware that traders were tempted to use the site to avoid paying disposal charges and because there were very few local disposal facilities for commercial waste.

Mrs Smith also asked about the new EU directive on electrical waste, Mr Parkinson responded that Surrey County Council were aware of the EU directive which was due to be implemented in August 2005. However the Government were still consulting on the detail of how the regulations would operate in practice and that therefore the Council were awaiting final details of the proposed arrangements before making any plans. It was, however, clear from previous consultations that civic amenity sites had a role to play as collection points for electrical waste and that the Council would look to use them for this purpose if sufficient space could be found on the sites.

In response to a question from Mr Rousell, Mr Parkinson responded that the containers in the new plans were similar to the existing ones which had doors for low level access but these doors had to be closed once the level of waste had risen.

**RESOLVED -**

That the proposals for improvements at the Martyrs' Lane Amenity Site be noted.

**13/05 Allocating Local Committee Funding: Members' Allocation**  
[Item 13]

**RESOLVED -**

That the following allocations be approved:

South West Woking Neighbourhood Care Scheme -	£1000
St Johns Care	£750
Planter/Bin in Gloster road, Old Woking	£880
West Byfleet Evergreen Club	£1220
Cornerhouse- Self harm	£1000
Woking District Scout Camp	£1500
Basingstoke Canal	£3000
British Red Cross	£3076
Byfleet Amenity Group	£1020
Coldharbour Lunch Club	£300

14/05 **Local Committee Forward Programme** [Item 14]

**RESOLVED -**

That the programme set out in the report be approved except that no general meeting be held on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2005.

15/05 **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 5.50pm]

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Chairman