



Minutes of the Local Committee for Woking
General Agenda
Meeting held at 5.00 pm on 18 July 2005
at
the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Woking

Mrs Val Tinney – Chairman
Mrs Elizabeth Compton – Vice Chairman
Mr Andrew Crisp
Mr John Doran
Mr Geoff Marlow
Mrs Diana Smith
Mr Shamas Tabrez

Part One – In Public

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

25/05 Apologies for absence [Item 1]

No apologies were received.

26/05 Minutes of last meeting held on 2 March 2005 [Item 2]

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2005 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

27/05 Declarations of interests [Item 3]

On 19th July, Mr. Marlow contacted the Local Office to say that he had a personal interest in the item on Members' Allocations in that he is a member of the adult committee of the Woking Air Training Cadets, and his wife is a member of the adult committee of the Sea Cadets

28/05 **Petitions** [Item 4]

None received.

29/05 **Written Public Questions** [Item 5]

A copy of the questions and answers can be found in annex 1.

30/05 **Written Member Questions** [Item 6]

A copy of the questions and answers can be found in annex 2.

Diana Smith asked a supplementary question regarding the cutting of brambles. The Local Transportation Director(LTD) confirmed that a meeting had been arranged with the Borough Council to discuss this issue. The LTD will reply back to Diane Smith after this meeting.

Diana Smith asked a supplementary question regarding the delay of Knaphill Library.

Andrew Crisp confirmed that the delay was due to a planning determination so the question can only be answered by the relevant planning department.

John Doran asked a supplementary question regarding the new waste plant on Horsell Common and when the waste strategy will be finalised. The waste strategy is being formulated and consulted on. There is no chance of this happening immediately and the development on Horsell Common is not likely to happen for several years.

Andrew Crisp informed the meeting that Surrey County Council has to produce a minerals strategy as well as a waste strategy. There is good communication between the Borough Council and Surrey County Council on developments at both County and Borough Level.

Carolyn Rowe will check the situation with Richard Parkinson at County Hall.

Executive Functions

31/05 **Community Safety Strategy for 2005-08 for Woking Borough**
[Item 7]

Carolyn Rowe introduced Camilla Edmiston, Community Safety Officer for Woking Borough to the meeting.

Mrs Edmiston outlined the report. The new Community Safety Strategy for Woking has just been published following the three yearly crime and disorder audit. The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) receives funding from the Home Office (£171,845) and funding from partners with each agency contributing £2,000.

The CDRP also fund a Domestic Violence outreach worker with Surrey Women's Aid. This costs £35,000 per year.

The question of cars and motorbikes causing noise nuisance and driving at excessive speed on Black Horse Road was raised. Mrs Edmiston replied that the Borough Council work closely with both the Police and Surrey County Council on such issues. Vehicle activated signs that monitor speed are deployed in the area. The data collected is used to determine future actions, this appears to be effective.

Inspector David Mason, Surrey Police, undertook to carry out an assessment to determine if speed is the main issue. The Police will report to Surrey County Council if overhanging vegetation, lighting etc. are a concern. Agencies will work in partnership to address any issues highlighted.

The issue of young people congregating in the summer was raised. Mrs Edmiston replied that the Borough Council run summer playschemes to give young people something to do. Particular areas are raised at the Joint Action Group (JAG) when appropriate. The Youth Development Service has received additional funding for holiday provision. The Police are working to address the potential for increase in youth disorder during the summer holidays.

RESOLVED

The Committee:

- (a) Noted the Community Safety Strategy for Woking and the priorities in the current annual action plan.
- (b) Agreed to delegate the funding of £24,000 to the Area Director, and commented on their priorities within the Strategy;
- (c) Agreed that in their engagement with services, to endorse each services contribution and role on the wider community safety agenda.

32/05 Policing in Woking Borough [Item 8]

The Chair of the Committee welcomed Inspector David Mason to the meeting. Inspector Mason outlined the report highlighting the good news in Woking that there was been a 5.2% reduction in total notifiable crimes in 2004/05.

However, violent crime has risen by 6.5%, this reflects a countrywide trend and a change in the way the figures are recorded This rise also reflects the work on Domestic Violence which aims to increase the number of people coming forward to report incidents. The pilot project conducted in December 2004 to pedestrianise Chertsey Road on Friday and Saturday evenings was judged a significant success by Insp. Paul Smith and local licensees, doorstaff, and businesses in reducing tensions and the potential for disorder as a result of alcohol. It

also significantly increased the ability of police to control people exiting from licensed premises and increased the safety of pedestrians otherwise confined to narrow pavements.

Burglary (dwelling) has risen by 14%. This rise was due to two or three individuals who have now been dealt with.

Racially aggravated crime has risen by 4.7% due to an increase in the perception that these incidents are treated seriously and sensitively. The actual rise in incidents was three. In response to a question from a member of the Committee, Inspector Mason said that it is not possible to say which races aggravates which other races and there has been no significant rise in incidents since the London Bombings on 7th July 2005.

The Police find the Neighbourhood panel Meetings valuable as they allow the Police to focus on what the community sees as important. Anti-social behaviour is a priority but this must be balanced with the need to allow young people to associate with each other and enjoy themselves. Vandalism in villages was raised. There are only 6 Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) in Woking. Inspector Mason informed the Committee that the ASBO process is a very long one and ASBOs are very restrictive on people so are only used as a last resort. Other methods such as Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) are tried first. There is also the burden of proof – you have to be able to prove which person committed which act of vandalism before it can be considered as evidence for an ASBO.

It was stated that an application for a bar and nightclub in the High Street has been declined twice, as a result of police arguments of a link between excessive consumption of alcohol and violent crime. It was also felt that this development would have stretched Police resources and other parts of the infrastructure within Woking (eg transport links) which would have led to "pinch points" and potential further disorder.

Inspector Mason will ensure that the next report to the Committee includes separate figures for Domestic Violence.

RESOLVED

Members agreed that the multi-agency partnership approach is the key to success in reducing crime and the fear of crime.

33/05 Allocating Local Committee Funding: Members' Allocations [Item 9]

The decision on the funding for the Sea Cadets was deferred pending further information on the total costs.

Members requested that the total amount of funding being allocated to Age Concern be looked at in Octobers Committee meeting. Members saw this as a valuable service that they are keen to support.

It was also agreed to look at additional funding for WAVS at a future meeting.

RESOLVED

Members agreed the following allocations:

Woking Galleries	25000
Training room in Fire Station	3860
Club Zone & Ozone	4630
Friends of West Byfleet Library	1000
Self reliance in Lakeview	5000
Stroke & acquired brain injury	1000
Age Concern	2000
WAVS Centenary celebrations	1000
Open door counselling service	200
ELMA	1500
Trailer for Air Cadets	2650
West Byfleet Womens Institute	1000
Trailer for Sea Cadets	Deferred
Byfleet Cricket Club	2000

34/05 Exclusion of the Press and Public [Item 10]

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 6.45pm]

Chairman

Local Committee for Woking 18 July 2005

Annex 1

Public questions on general matters

This question was received from Mrs Pauline Marshall:

Does Surrey County Council now accept that Section 193 LPA 1925 applies to the "Garibaldi" land (we understand that Mike Howes received an email from DEFRA stating that it applies) and if so, where is the County registering the fact that the land is Section 193 land so that all departments and outsiders will be aware of the fact, as it cannot be registered on the Commons Register?

Joanna Mortimer (Principal Solicitor, Legal Services) responded:

Whereas there is a register of Common Land/Rights of Common kept by this Council as the Administrative Authority under the 1965 Commons Registration, there is no such register kept by any body in relation to land which has the benefit of s. 193 of the Law of Property Act 1925 giving the public the right of air and exercise. It is a matter of historical evidence as to whether the land is manorial waste (land covered by that section) of the Lord of the Manor which is a remnant of the feudal system and so any answer **cannot** be conclusive only indicative. The email from DEFRA does not help establish that s. 193 applies (quite the contrary). Research would need to be carried out at Kew Public Records, Surrey History Centre and other places, but this is not something which either Legal or Property has the resources to do and is not, in my opinion, a priority for the Council.

We have previously said that, if the Council decides to sell this land, (which we are not currently intending), we would put any potential purchaser on notice that the land may be covered by s. 193. This would effectively, in my experience, put off anybody from taking the risk of developing the land, without researching that s.193 did not apply and they are unlikely to find a satisfactory conclusive answer. May I also point out that, if the land is ever sold, disputes have to be disclosed to the purchaser.

The position may change with the Commons Bill which is in Parliament at present.

This question was received from Cllr Peter Ankers

What are the plans and timing for reorganising and re-equipping the layout and machinery at Martyrs Lane waste site?

Richard Parkinson (Operations Group Manager, Economic and Sustainable Resources) responded

Unfortunately there has been a delay to the proposed redevelopment of the Martyrs Lane site as Surrey Waste Management Ltd have recently indicated to the County Council that the redevelopment can no longer be accommodated within their budget. This is disappointing as they had previously indicated that the business case for redeveloping the site had been approved by their board. The County Council is therefore now faced with a choice of requiring Surrey Waste Management to replace the compactors on a like-for-like basis or considering other options for the redevelopment that would fit within the same budget.

Annex 2

Member questions on general matters

18 July 2005

The following questions were received from Cllr Diana Smith

Question 1. Concerning the land at the Garibaldi Crossroads, Knaphill:

1. a) Can SCC confirm that it no longer intends to sell the land at the Garibaldi Crossroads?

1. b) In answer to my question on this subject at the meeting on 19 January 2005, the Local Director said that as part of discussions between Woking and Surrey County Council, "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", that there were "indications that the purpose of the acquisition of the land [was] for public recreation," and that "Clarification may take some weeks."

What further progress was made both with these enquiries and with the discussions with Woking Borough Council?

c) What arrangements will Surrey now make to maintain this land in a reasonable condition, given that there are "indications" that the land was acquired for public recreation and the parts of it that are accessible are used by the public?

Carolyn Rowe, Surrey County Council Area Director responded:

1. a) Steve Evans, Property has confirmed that Surrey County Council's Executive resolved that the land be retained at their meeting on 11 November 2003, and there are no plans to sell the land at present.

1. b) The Borough Council have confirmed that there have been discussions with the former Surrey County Council Local Director with a view to establishing the basis for the Borough acquiring and undertaking the future maintenance of the land. It is recognized that with the recent changes, including the restructuring of the County Council Director arrangements, these discussions have been stalled and this has been confirmed by Surrey County Council's Property Dept. A meeting between the Borough Council and myself is scheduled for 28 July 2005 at which this will be raised.

1. c) Steve Evans, Property has advised that there are no plans to extend the arrangement for the maintenance of land beyond that which currently exists. This is the subject of the scheduled discussions with the Borough.

Question 2 Concerning Knaphill Library:

2. a) What stage has been reached in the planning application for change of use of the closed supermarket in Knaphill to the new Knaphill Library?
2. b). When is it anticipated that a decision on the change of use will be made?
2. c) Is Surrey taking action to decrease any possibility that continued delay will result in the opportunity to lease this building being lost?

Steve Evans (Principal Surveyor, Property) responded:

2. a) The Library Service has submitted a planning application for a change of use of a shop unit in Knaphill to the County Council as the relevant planning authority. Minor amendments are needed before the application can be accepted as valid and placed on the register of current applications. Once registered, the application will be subject to public consultation.
2. b). Once the planning application has been lodged, it is anticipated that the application will be considered by the County Council in the Autumn.
2. c) A letter has been written to the owner of the unit to assure him of the County Council's commitment to take a lease of the unit at the agreed terms, subject to planning consent being forthcoming.

The following question was received from Cllr John Doran:

How does Woking Borough Council's plans for a new waste plant on Horsell Common fit the County Council waste strategy? What are the implications?

Richard Parkinson (Operations Group Manager, Economic and Sustainable Resources) responded:

The County Council does not have its own waste strategy, it works in partnership with the eleven district and borough councils to produce a Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JWMS) . The Strategy is being

coordinated under the auspices of the Surrey Local Government Association. A draft JMWMS was produced in September 2003 and the participating authorities are now starting to work on their individual action plans. Woking BC are taking an active part in this process.