



Minutes of the Local Committee (Woking)
General Agenda
Meeting held at 5.00 pm on 1 February 2006
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]

01/06 Apologies for absence [Item 1]

There were no apologies for absence.

02/06 Minutes of last meeting held on 20 October 2005 [Item 2]

The minutes were agreed and signed.

03/06 Declarations of interests [Item 3]

In accordance with Standing Order 60, Mr Marlow, Mr Doran and Mrs Compton declared a personal interest in relation to Item 8 on Allocating Local Committee Funding.

04/06 Petitions [Item 4]

There were no petitions received.

05/06 Written Public Questions [Item 5]

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

06/06 Written Member Questions [Item 6]

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

In response to a supplementary question from Mrs Smith regarding the Business Delivery Review, Mr Crisp confirmed that the present Local Education Office staff would be retained until other arrangements were in place.

Executive Functions

07/06 Policing – Woking Borough [Item 7]

Inspector Dave Mason presented his report which focussed on the crime figures for Woking Borough from April-November 2005. The report highlighted the issues of crimes of violence and thefts from motor vehicles. Both are now decreasing as a result of arrests made following a sharp increase over the summer months. The report further highlighted areas where there has been significant reductions in crimes, including theft of motor vehicles, burglary of dwellings and drug offences.

With regard to domestic violence it was noted that the Police have a very specific response policy. An increase in reporting levels of this crime is seen as positive as people are becoming more confident in coming forward. It is generally recognised that there are 30-40 incidents of domestic violence occurring before a report is made to the Police. Figures for this financial year to date show a 15% increase in reports.

With regard to racially aggravated crime it was noted that there has been an increase partly due to the incidents on 7/7/05 and 21/7/05. The Police are investigating every report to reduce the levels, but are pleased people are confident enough to come forward.

In response to a question from Mr Doran, Insp Mason explained that the increase in crime in the Horsell area over the summer was mainly around robberies. Since the summer and subsequent arrests made it has been quieter and there has been increased patrols in the area. Response Teams get areas to patrol in their down time. Horsell and Goldsworth Park are key areas. At the moment in Horsell and

Goldsworth Park there is one NSO and two PCSOs. There will be an additional officer dedicated to the area from April 2006.

Mr Doran asked for information on the number of vehicles stopped using the ANPR. Insp Mason agreed to pass this information to him outside the meeting.

In response to a question from Mrs Compton, Insp Mason confirmed that the Police were aware of the vandalism issues at Woking Golf Club and the local Sergeant and NSO were dealing with it.

In response to a question from Mr Tabrez regarding hate crime, it was confirmed that levels were now back to 'normal' following the rise in the summer and cases are across borough and not confined to one particular area.

In response to a question from Mrs Smith, it was confirmed that the CCTV in Knaphill will not be linked to the ANPR.

Mr Marlow asked if future reports could include a geographical breakdown according to ward or police area. Insp Mason agreed and noted that ward level information is available to all on the Police website.

The Chairman thanked Insp Mason for his presentation.

08/06 Allocating Local Committee Funding: Members' Allocations
[Item 8]

In accordance with Standing Order 60, Mr Marlow Mrs Compton and Mr Doran declared a personal interest in relation to aspects of this item.

Regarding the application from Knaphill Lower School it was noted that they had been working towards this for some time, and a similar project at Guildford Children's Centre works well.

RESOLVED

Members agreed the following allocations:

Reopening Byfleet Primary School spinney:	£2,500
Rotary Mobility Exchange	£3,000
Woking YMCA – Ypod	£16,183.27
Sheerwater Youth Centre Garden Project	£3,990
Liaise Women's Centre	£400
Knaphill Lower School –	£2,200

Engaging the whole school community at lunchtimes	
St Johns Primary School – disabled toilet conversion	£2,000
Woking Youth Arts Centre and Lakers – Computer Suite	£4,000
Directory of youth services	£5,000 with the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that the Woking Youth Strategy Local Action Group (WYSLAG) liaise with Connexions over their leaflet for young people to ensure that there is no duplication and to work together where possible to achieve savings • that WYSLAG quantify the number of young people in the target age group to clarify how many leaflets are required • That WYSLAG consider putting a version of the passport on the internet to reduce the need for so many hard copies • and that WYSLAG provide quotes for the design and printing of different quantities of leaflets.
Age Concern Woking	£1,040
Pirbright Arch Feasibility Study	£2,500
Horsell Village Hall Stage Restoration	£10,015.51

It was agreed that any money returned as unspent before the end of the financial year should be split three ways between Woking Hospice, YMCA and Age Concern Woking.

09/06 **Item for information** [Item 9]

A report will be bought to a future meeting of the Local Committee on Standing Orders following work currently being undertaken to standardise Standing Orders across all 11 Local Committees.

10/06 **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 5.50pm]

Chairman

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Annex 1

Public questions on general matters

This question was received from Mr Denzil Coulson:

QUESTION 1

It was reported in the last week's Woking Informer that The Surrey Care Trust is appealing the planning committee's refusal of their application to remain at Wayside Close. Clearly, the decision was correct. Providing this service in the middle of a residential area, where you have disaffected non-school attenders and elderly residents, clearly don't mix. The SCT are offering a valuable service but this facility is in the wrong location. What is the SCC planning to do to help the SCT find an alternative facility for helping disaffected youngsters out of school? Clearly the SCC is currently not meeting their own targets to help youngsters under 16, who don't attend school.

David Blake, Woking Youth Development Officer responded:

I have been in touch with Surrey Care Trust regarding this issue. Whilst the Youth Development Service has a number of targeted partnership initiatives working with young people who are struggling academically or are at risk of permanent exclusion, there may be possibilities that one of our youth centres may be able to host this project, as long as it obviously did not clash with one of our own core projects. My understanding is that SCT are internally discussing their requirements and will contact me to talk further once this has been completed.

This question was received from Cllr Richard Sanderson:

QUESTION 2

In the Surrey County Council Business Development Review, there are plans to reduce SCC's funding for the Basingstoke Canal. Could the County Council say:

- (i) what criteria have been used to determine the amount of this cut?
- (ii) what consultation is being carried out with the Canal Authority, the district and borough councils, canal users and members of the public?
- (iii) when and where is this consultation taking place?
- (iv) what the likely impact of these cuts will be on the canal and utilization thereof?

Mike Dawson, Head of Countryside and Heritage responded:

- (i) the BDR proposal is to remove £50,000 from Surrey County Council's contribution in 2006/07 and a further £50,000 in 2007/08 making a total reduction of £100,000pa (overall our contribution is £150,000pa). The criteria for the reduction is that the funding is to be reduced gradually over two years and leaving £50,000 in the budget in year three would allow for Surrey County Council to continue to monitor and react to the situation on the ground.
- (ii) Surrey County Council is currently consulting with Hampshire County Council who own the Hampshire stretch of the Canal (Surrey County Council owns the Surrey stretch); Hampshire County Council also employ the Canal staff. The Canal Authority (staff) have been informed and the also the Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society.
- (iii) the consultation outlined above began last week.
- (iv) the impact of the cuts is being discussed with Hampshire County Council

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Annex 2

Member questions on general matters

These questions were received from Cllr Diana Smith:

QUESTION 1

- (i) Has the lease for the new Knaphill Library yet been signed?
- (ii) What arrangements have been made for building work to begin when the lease is signed?
- (iii) When will designs for the interior of the library be available for public comment?

Chris Norris, Head of Libraries, responded:

A completion date of 14 February has been set for the lease, which is in the hands of the owner's solicitors. Consultants and Contractors have been appointed for the fit out, and local consultation on the layout will be undertaken once there is an agreed timescale for the development.

QUESTION 2

In Full Council on 24th January Mr Crisp said in answer to a question that "The BDR proposals remove the LEO service and seek to make more use of the Contact Centre and Local Area Directors in providing support for schools."

- (i) What qualifications and experience will in future be required of the Local Director for the area including Woking to enable him or her to carry out the role of mediating authoritatively and fairly between parents and Head Teachers, and advising members when their constituents ask for help with complex concerns about local Surrey schools?
- (ii) What proportion of the Local Directors time is it anticipated will be directed to this work, and what work will it displace?

Andrew Crisp Executive Member for Schools, Children and Community Services responded:

In my reply to Council I also said that consideration is being given to part-trading the LEO service. In addition I am working with the CYP Directorate to

find ways to retain the emergency, statutory and member support elements of the service. In these circumstances the role of Area Directors would remain as it is at present helping members through the Local Committee to get information about their local schools from this redesigned service.