

Minutes of the Special Meeting of Local Committee (Woking)
Meeting held at 5.30pm on 30 November 2010
at
Woking Borough Civic Offices, Woking

Members present:

Surrey County Council

Mrs Liz Bowes (Pyrford)
Mr Will Forster (Woking South)
Mr Geoff Marlow (The Byfleets)
Mrs Diana Smith (Knaphill)

Woking Borough Council

Cllr John Kingsbury (St Johns and Hook Heath) – Vice Chairman
Cllr Tony Branagan (Horsell West)
Cllr Liam Lyons (Mount Herman West)
Cllr Glynis Preshaw (Brookwood)
Cllr Richard Wilson (West Byfleet)

Part One – In Public

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

65/10 Apologies for absence [Item 1]

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Mohammed Amin, Mr Ben Carasco, Mrs Elizabeth Compton, Cllr Mohammed Bashir, Cllr Derek McCrum and Cllr Bryan Cross. Cllr Liam Lyons acted as substitute for Cllr Cross.

66/10 Declarations of interests [Item 2]

There were no declarations of interest.

67/10 Chairman's Statement

At its meeting on 2 September 2010 the Local Committee asked that a Cycle Woking report be brought to its Committee meeting on 9 February

Draft to be agreed on 9 February 2011

2011 to include results of a further detailed consultation on allowing cycling in Woking town centre (shared use).

Consultation has commenced and initial feedback has clearly indicated that there are concerns regarding the short length of the consultation period, the complexity of the consultation documents and the availability in different formats. Views have been expressed that the current form and extent of the consultation process is not suitable to fully capture a broad range of views.

To acknowledge these concerns it is agreed that it would be beneficial to residents to extend the period of consultation. The existing consultation will therefore be extended to 27 February 2011. The detailed results of the extended consultation will then be reported to the Local Committee after this date in Spring 2011.

Executive Item

68/10 A245 Parvis Road, Byfleet – Speed Limit Reduction [Item 3]

Kevin Patching introduced the report.

In response to Cllr Wilson it was noted that there is a range of speed data across the 24 hour period, and it is the peak period flows that pull the mean speed down. There are periods of time when cars travel in excess of the mean speed.

In response to Mr Forster it was noted that the Police do not have specific views on whether the M25 bridge should be included, but they would not support the 30mph limit going much further west towards West Byfleet.

Mr Marlow commented that he supported the scheme which would provide a uniform speed limit along the A245 from Byfleet into Elmbridge.

Cllr Preshaw noted that she found the proposal acceptable.

Cllr Wilson proposed the following amendment to the recommendation (i) to read as follows:

Agree the reduction of the existing 40mph speed limit on A245 Parvis Road, Byfleet to 30mph, between the existing 30/40mph change point **in Parvis Road West Byfleet so as to include the M25 motorway bridge.**

This was seconded by Cllr Branagan.

In response Andrew Milne commented that the officer recommendations satisfy the concerns raised and provides a uniform speed limit across the area. He noted that it was possible to move the limit further to the west but outlined the following two reasons why this may cause negative issues:

1. The VAS by the junction with Dartnell Park Road flashes 40mph. If the speed limit was moved to the west of the bridge the VAS would have to be disconnected as you could not have the VAS flashing 40mph when the 30mph sign would be in sight. The VAS is popular and effective.

Draft to be agreed on 9 February 2011

2. Driver speed is dependant on the characteristics of the road (eg junctions, house frontages). By placing the 30mph on the western side of the bridge, drivers may ignore the sign due to lack of such characteristics and also that this may encourage drivers to not respect the new speed limit from the point they enter it, and this may reduce the effectiveness of the speed limit change further along Parvis Road. There will be no repeater 30mph signs on the eastern side of the bridge.

Cllr Wilson responded with the following points in support of his amendment:

- a slower speed on the bridge would increase safety for cyclists, recognising the pavements are narrow
- there are an number of junctions onto the A245 on the eastern side of the bridge, and if traffic is moving slower across the bridge then drivers would have more time to react.
- If the sign was on the eastern side there may be a possibility of increasing the number of shunts for vehicles travelling east over the bridge.

Cllr Lyons supported Cllr Wilson and proposed that if funding was available the VAS could be redeployed past the Parvis Road junction.

Mr Forster approved of the amendment. He noted that the road is narrow and he represents the family of the cyclist that recently died on the bridge.

It was noted that it would not be possible to change the existing VAS to show 30mph without replacing the sign.

The committee agreed to the amendment by a vote of 8 for the amendment with 1 abstention, so this replaced the original officer recommendation (i) and became the substantive recommendation (i).

Members noted that by going against officer recommendations the 40mph VAS on the western side of the bridge would need to be turned off, and there were no resources to move it to another location. They also noted officer's opinion regarding driver speed being dependant on the characteristics of the road and that if the new speed limit is placed on the west of the bridge, then it may reduce the effectiveness of the speed limit change further along Parvis Road.

RESOLVED:

The Local Committee (Woking):

- (i) Agreed the reduction of the existing 40mph speed limit on A245 Parvis Road, Byfleet to 30mph, between the existing 30/40mph change point **in Parvis Road West Byfleet so as to include the M25 motorway bridge;**
- (ii) Approved the advertising of the necessary Traffic Regulation Order
- (iii) Agreed that any objections should be considered and resolved by the Area Team Manager for the North West area in consultation with the Divisional Member and Chairman in accordance with the Council's constitution.

Draft to be agreed on 9 February 2011

Chairman

[The meeting ended at 6.00pm]