

**DRAFT**

Minutes of the meeting of the  
**Elmbridge LOCAL COMMITTEE**  
held at 4.00 pm on 25 February 2013  
at Council Chamber, Elmbridge Civic Centre, High Street, Esher, KT10 9SD.

**Surrey County Council Members:**

Mr Mike Bennison (Chairman)  
Mrs M A Hicks (Vice-Chairman)  
John V C Butcher  
Nigel Cooper  
Mr Peter Hickman  
Mr Ian R Lake  
Mr Ernest Mallett  
Mr Tom Phelps-Penry  
Mr Tony Samuels

**Borough / District Members:**

Borough Councillor Barry Fairbank  
Borough Councillor Jan Fuller  
Borough Councillor Ramon Gray  
Borough Councillor Peter Harman  
Borough Councillor Stuart Hawkins  
Borough Councillor Neil J Luxton  
Borough Councillor Dorothy Mitchell  
Borough Councillor John O'Reilly  
Borough Councillor Karen Randolph

---

**57/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]**

Apologies were received from Councillor Dorothy Mitchell, who was substituted by Councillor Ruth Mitchell. In addition apologies were received from John V C Butcher after the meeting.

**58/12 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING [Item 2]**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012 were agreed as a correct record.

**59/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]**

None.

**60/12 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS [Item 4]**

The Chairman informed the Committee that Kevin Hurley, the new Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey had been invited to attend the meeting, but

unfortunately had a prior engagement. He will be invited to attend the June meeting.

As Mr Mike Bennison will be stepping down as Chairman at the end of March 2013, this was his final meeting. The Chairman thanked all the officers for their hard work over the last two years and acknowledged the achievements of the Local Committee. He also thanked the other Committee Members for their support and friendship, particularly Mrs Margaret Hicks.

#### **61/12 PETITIONS & LETTERS OF REPRESENTATION [Item 5]**

The Chairman kindly agreed for the Committee to receive a late petition with 195 signatures from the Surrey County Councillor, Mr Ernest Mallett, on behalf of a resident, Mrs Vicki Lane, requesting the installation of effective drains in St Peter's Rd., West Molesey.

The petition stated

'We are all fed up with the continual flooding of St Peter's Road due to there being no effective drains. Vehicles primarily going to the Church Hall, scout Hut and to the Molesey Cemetery, wash the flood water up the doors and windows of our houses and into our gardens and pathways and also make pedestrian access to our houses, the Church Hall, the Scout Hut and the Cemetery, very unpleasant. Please put in some effective drains'.

The Local Committee resolved to:

- i) note the petition
- ii) agree that a response will be brought to the next meeting of the SCC Local Committee in Elmbridge by the Highways Area Team Manager.

#### **62/12 BURWOOD ROAD, HERSHAM (FOR DECISION) [Item 5a]**

This report was a response to a petition brought to the last meeting requesting the implementation of speed reduction measures along Burwood Road and through Hershams Village. The Highways Area Team Manager, Nick Healey, explained that SCC is about to start a trial of a 20 mph restriction outside a school in Surrey. A similar trial has already taken place in West Sussex. The result of this trial will form part of the feasibility study. Mrs Margaret Hicks agreed to fund the feasibility study with £5,000 from her Divisional highway budget. A number of Members felt this was a positive report, but were keen to know the timescales and for the possibility of the implementation more widely of a 20 mph speed limit to be explored. Nick Healey explained the results of the feasibility study with its recommendations would be brought back to the Committee in September 2013. If the Divisional Member agrees to fund the work, most of it would be carried out in 2014/15. If the cost exceeds the amount which the Divisional Member has available then the Committee would need to decide whether the scheme was strategically important enough to top up the funding. As regards the 20 mph limit, the officers must abide by the SCC policy.

The Local Committee resolved to:

- i) approve that a feasibility study is carried out to determine, the most appropriate solution, to the petitioner's requests, subject to the funding for the feasibility being provided by the Divisional Member's next year's allocation.

Reason for decision: The feasibility would enable the most appropriate and cost effective proposal to benefit pedestrian safety and encourage walking/cycling by creating a greater confidence and safer environment for more vulnerable users.

#### **63/12 LONG DITTON (FOR DECISION) [Item 5b]**

This report was a response to a petition brought to the last meeting requesting the implementation of speed reduction measures in Long Ditton. The Highways Area Team Manager, Nick Healey, explained that the area already has many traffic calming measures in place. The Surrey County Councillor, Mr Peter Hickman, agreed to fund £5,000 required for the feasibility study from his divisional highway budget. Some Members thought that the introduction of the 20 mph limit was one of the solutions and that there could be flexibility within the SCC policy, which Nick Healey agreed to explore. In addition, the Local Committee requested that a letter be written to ask SCC to reconsider its Speed Limit policy, particularly in relation to 20 mph zones outside schools.

The Local Committee resolved to:

- i) approve that a feasibility study is carried out to determine, the most appropriate solution, to the petitioner's requests, subject to the funding for the feasibility being provided by the Divisional Member's next year's allocation,
- ii) request that a letter be written from the Local Committee requesting that SCC reconsiders its Speed Limit Policy, particularly in relation to 20 mph zones outside schools.

Reason for decision: The feasibility study would be carried out to determine the most appropriate solution to reduce vehicular speeds and also benefit pedestrian safety and encourage walking/cycling by creating a safer environment.

#### **64/12 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME [Item 6]**

A question was received from the resident, Mrs Caroline Stevenson. The question and the response are attached to the minutes in Annexe 1. The Community Partnership and Committee Officer agreed to keep the Chairman and Vice Chairman informed of the progress of the response to this question.

#### **65/12 MEMBER QUESTION TIME [Item 7]**

Three Members' questions were received. The questions with the responses are attached to the minutes in Annexe 1.

Councillor Barry Fairbank asked a supplementary question. He explained that the cutting of the hedgerow had created much annoyance among residents, partly because neither the residents nor the local councillors had been forewarned.

The Highways Area Team Manager accepted that the appearance of the hedgerow had changed suddenly because for a time SCC hadn't been able to maintain the area to the expected standards, but if it is routine maintenance the service cannot consult with residents as this would delay the work.

The Chairman, Mr Mike Bennison, asked a supplementary question regarding drains which keep flooding, once cleaned.

The Highways Area Team Manager explained the service has the use of a special machine, one week in every eleven to deal with problem gullies in order of priority. In addition the service is already looking at gully requirements for the next Financial year and is looking at increasing its use of this machine.

**66/12 EIKON CHARITY LOCAL PREVENTION FRAMEWORK PROVIDER (FOR INFORMATION) [Item 8]**

Ben Harman, the Director of Youth Work, at the Eikon Charity gave an update on the Youth Consortium's progress in delivering the Local Prevention Framework contract in Elmbridge. As of January 2013 Eikon Charity had worked with 88 young people, which is 80% of its target. There had been many challenges at the beginning of the contract, but since September 2012 there had been more referrals, the delivery had increased and the feedback had been excellent. There had been very good feedback from Hinchley Wood School, where some work had been taking place with pupils. The main area of the Local Prevention Framework proving difficult is the peer mentoring, which would not be achieved by March 2013 so the Charity will continue the work after that date. Mrs Margaret Hicks expressed disappointment that the peer mentoring had not yet taken place and Ben confirmed this should happen from April onwards.

The Local Committee resolved to:

- i) note the verbal update

**67/12 SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE LOCAL PREVENTION COMMISSIONING 2013-2015 (FOR DECISION) [Item 9]**

Jeremy Crouch, the SCC Service for Young People Contract & Performance Officer introduced the report. He explained that 2012 was the first year for the Local Prevention Framework. The service had listened and learned what improvements could be made.

The new Local Needs Specification had been created from a meeting of the Youth Task Group held in January 2013. An event will take place on March 18 2013 which potential bidders can attend to learn about the process and requirements. Any organisation can apply for a minimum of 25% of the total grant available to carry out this work from September 2013 for two years. Hopefully there will be an increase in the number of applicants this year. Previously, as the process was new not many applications had been received.

The Local Committee resolved to:

- i) approve the allocation of £23,000 to Personalised Prevention
- ii) approve the local needs specification to be considered by providers focusing on the identified needs of Elmbridge and the geographical neighbourhoods prioritised by the Youth Task Group.

Reason for decision: to support the Council's priority to achieve 100% participation for young people aged 16 to 19 to be in education, training or

employment and increase the access of the Local Prevention Framework through the use of a grant based commissioning process.

**68/12 EDUCATION: DATA OVERVIEW OF ACADEMIC PROGRESS IN ELMBRIDGE (FOR INFORMATION) [Item 10]**

Kerry Randle, the SCC North East Area Education Officer, introduced the report. Chris Byrne, Senior Primary Consultant, Babcock 4S, presented the information for the Primary Sector and Ian Wilson, Principal Secondary Consultant, Babcock 4S, the information for the Secondary Sector. Members asked a number of questions and it was confirmed that the statistics from academies were included, that there were no secondary schools in Elmbridge currently in 'special measures', but there were recently two primary schools with 'a notice to improve', one of which has just moved out of and the other is making good progress in this category. It was also explained that the reason why some figures in the report were 'suppressed' was to avoid the possibility of pupil identification, where numbers are very low. In addition it was confirmed that approximately 25% of Elmbridge pupils at KS4 are educated in the independent sector and added that three out of the 4 secondary schools in Elmbridge have excellent VIth Form Colleges, which contributes to the fact that Elmbridge is above the Surrey average at KS5.

The Local Committee resolved to:  
i) note the contents of the report

**69/12 SURREY FIRE & RESCUE PUBLIC SAFETY ACTION PLAN 2013-16 (FOR INFORMATION) [Item 11]**

Gavin Watts, SFRS Area Manager, introduced the report. The second action plan in support of the Public Safety Plan is currently under development. This process includes a review of the 2 year action plan for 2011-13 and also the proposals for a 3 year action plan from 2013-16. Gavin Watts pointed out any changes will ensure that current response times are maintained. The Fire Service is also aiming to reduce the availability time required of firefighters, which should help attract more recruits. It has also managed to increase the number of volunteers to over 100.

An improved location for a fire station is currently being sought in Elmbridge, but once there any concrete plans a report would be brought to the Local Committee and also an extended consultation would take place. No changes would occur in Elmbridge before March 2016.

Members raised questions regarding co-location, the use of 4x4 vehicles and the service on the River Thames. Gavin Watts explained any opportunity to co-locate is explored and they are working closely with the Police and Ambulance services. The Surrey F & R Service would only use 4x4s as support vehicles in case of flood or snow not as a replacement for a fire engine as in some areas. The water facility at Walton remains the same. Mr Ian Lake, the Surrey County Councillor, thought not enough emphasis had been put on preventative work in the plan. Gavin Watts explained much preventative work is taking place e.g. Safe Drive Stay Alive, Youth Engagement Scheme (YES), work with SCC Adult & Social Care. Councillor Barry Fairbank asked whether the report on the fatality in Hinchley Wood had been released. Gavin Watts promised to update the Councillor as soon as possible.

The Local Committee resolved to:

- i) note the progress to date on items in the Action Plan for 2011-13
- ii) provide feedback on proposed Action Plan for 2013-16
- iii) consider those items that will be subject of further public consultation at the appropriate time.

#### **70/12 BID TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT FOR CYCLING SAFETY SCHEMES (FOR DECISION) [Item 14]**

Item 14 was brought forward to this point on the agenda.

Duncan Knox, the SCC Road Safety Team leader introduced his colleague David Sharpington, Sustainability Programme Team Leader, and also the report. In July 2012 in response to pressure from the Times newspaper and the increase in the number of cycling accidents in the UK, the DfT announced a £15m fund for cycling infrastructure. A bid was submitted for the Walton Bridge Links cycle scheme, the aim of which is to provide cycle paths, to link up the cycle paths being included with the new bridge, which are separate from motor vehicles and pedestrians so improving access to the town centre and reducing casualties.

The DfT will announce whether the bid has been successful in February 2013 and it is also subject to the approval of matched funding by the Cabinet on 26 March 2013.

A number of Members expressed the view that many cyclists need more education regarding cycling. David Sharpington explained the aim is to extend the programme of cycling training, which is now known as 'Bikeability' and is aimed at any age. Duncan Knox added that part of the DRIVESMART initiative is to educate cyclists too.

The Local Committee resolved to:

- i) agree that the proposals for the Walton-on-Thames Bridge Links cycle scheme are approved and that residents and businesses will be consulted to inform upon the detailed design prior to construction, should the bid to DfT be successful.

Reason for decision: to reduce road casualties and encourage more cycling and safer cycling and in so doing improving the health of participants and reducing traffic congestion and carbon emissions.

#### **71/12 HIGHWAYS UPDATE (FOR DECISION) [Item 12]**

The Highways Area Team Manager, Nick Healey, introduced the report. He explained that the current programmes were being delivered and the budgets being spent. He updated the Committee on a number of issues

- that the Cabinet Member, Mr John Furey, had not approved the Elmbridge Local Committee's request to reduce the speed limit in Stoke Road, Cobham to 30 mph.
- that the consultation for the Cleves School pedestrian crossing was on going

- that there were currently concerns over the quality of some resurfacing, works, which reinforced the view that it is not the right time of the year to carry out such works

Councillor John O'Reilly was pleased that quality issues had been acknowledged.

As Members were concerned that the speed limit reduction request had not been approved, the Highways Area Team Manager suggested it is considered how this matter could be pursued.

He also explained that there has been a good amount of investment in road repairs across the divisions and some of the roads not included are now on the Project Horizon list. If roads are on the Project Horizon list Members can express their view on the order of priority and if not, then they can be considered for funding from the divisional allowances for 2013/14. As Members had now received the draft Project Horizon list, he hoped they were now in a position to make decisions on the schemes they wished to fund from their divisional allowances. He also said no locations for mobility ramps had been received in 2012/13, but he would welcome details so they can be installed next year.

Members discussed the work which has taken place at Station Approach in Weybridge and the ongoing feasibility study.

The Local Committee resolved to:

- authorise the Area Team Manager in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman to decide Divisional Programmes for next Financial Year, in the event that individual Divisional Members have not indicated their priorities by 15<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

Reason for decision: to ensure that next Financial Year's Divisional Programmes can be finalised in good time to facilitate timely delivery of those programmes.

## **72/12 2013 PARKING REVIEW (FOR DECISION) [Item 13]**

Rikki Hill, the Parking Strategy and Implementation Team Manager, introduced the report and explained there were three additional proposals to the schemes listed in the annexe.

- 303 Molesey Rd., Hersham - revoke parking bays and replace with single yellow line
- Cleves School, Oatlands Ave., Weybridge – reduce school keep clear and replace with a single yellow line
- Little Heath Lane, Cobham - install double yellow lines between Kimberley Ride and Woodside Rd

A number of requests were made for amendments including:

- Palace Rd and Wolsey Rd in East Molesey
- Extra provision in Molesey Rd to replace the bays being removed
- Fleece Rd., Ditton Hill Rd. and Rectory Lane in Long Ditton
- New Rd. and Walton Rd in West Molesey
- Thames St outside 21-31

The Local Committee resolved to:

- i) agree the County Council's intention to introduce the proposals in Annex 1, subject to the amendment of ID10 where the proposed yellow line will be shortened in both roads to 70 metres from the Bridge Road end, is formally advertised, and subject to statutory consultation,
- ii) agree the County Council's intention to introduce the additional schemes
  - a) revoke parking bays in front of 303 Molesey Rd, Hersham and replace with single yellow line
  - b) reduce the school keep clear zig zags in front of Cleve School, Oatlands Ave, Weybridge with single yellow line
  - c) install double yellow lines between Kimberley Ride and Woodside Rd in Little Heath Lane, Cobhamis formally advertised, and subject to statutory consultation,
- iii) if objections are received the Parking Strategy and Implementation Team Manager in consultation with the Chairman/Vice Chairman of this committee and the county councillor for the division, decides whether or not they should be acceded to and therefore whether the order should be made, with or without modifications,
- iv) consideration is given to allocating funding to proceed with the introduction of the parking amendments as part of its budget setting process for 2013/14,
- v) agree that the Parking Strategy and Implementation Team Manager in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of this committee and the Divisional Member can make minor modifications to proposals mentioned at the meeting.

Reason for decision: to resolve current parking difficulties highlighted within the borough and in so doing improve road safety, assist with access for emergency vehicles, ease congestion and improve access for visitors to local businesses.

### **73/12 LOCAL COMMITTEE FUNDING (FOR DECISION) [Item 15]**

Sandra Brown, the Community Partnerships Team Leader, introduced the report. Mr Ian Lake requested that the funding for the hall refurbishment for Girlguiding Weybridge district be increased to £1500.

The Local Committee resolved to:

- i) agree the items presented for funding from the Local Committee's 2012/13 revenue funding as set out in section 2 of the report subject to increasing the amount allocated to the Girlguiding Weybridge District for the hall refurbishment to £1500,
- ii) approve the reallocation of £4,885 capital funding that was returned by Surrey County Council's Parking Team, as a contribution to the Royal British Legion refurbishment project,
- iii) note the expenditure previously approved by the Community Partnerships Manager and/or the Community Partnerships Team Leader under delegated authority, as set out in section 3 of the report,
- iv) note any returned funding and/or adjustments, as set out within the report or at Appendix 1.



Reason for decision: To ensure that the Community Partnerships Team can process the bids in line with the wishes of the Committee.

**Annexe 1**

Meeting ended at: 6.20 pm

---

**Chairman**

This page is intentionally left blank



## SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN ELMBRIDGE – 25 February 2013

### AGENDA ITEM 6

#### PUBLIC QUESTIONS

**Question 1 : Mrs Caroline Stevenson, Resident**

I would like to ask if the Members of the Elmbridge Local Committee are aware of the current dangers to children, pedestrians, horses and riders from fast traffic exiting the A309 Esher slip road and encountering these vulnerable road users, as well as the unexpected two-way traffic on Woodstock Lane South.

Vehicles leave the 50 mph A309 dual carriageway taking a wide left-curving slip road, and suddenly confront four major hazards.

1 There are children from The Oaks who often play between the site driveways, but with no pavement on either side, they are inevitably in the road. A child has been hit by a car here in the recent past. Pedestrians have no safe footway due to the irregularly-cut overgrowth from trees into the verges, pushing walkers onto the road.

2 There are horses and riders from three separate large stables along this short stretch of road.

Visibility is obscured by the bend in the road, and riders face oncoming traffic on the wrong side of the road, as they ride home. As lorries swerve back to the correct side of the road their loads can shift noisily, upsetting the horses. Horses have frequently been spooked, as well as hit, in this vicinity.

3 There is regular fly-tipping on this road, the amount often requiring Elmbridge to remove it by the truck load.

4 In addition, there is an on-going road surface problem, with water constantly leaking into pot holes which vehicles try to dodge around, (adjacent to The Oaks). After heavy rain this is a flood point too.

The current speed limit of 40 mph is sign-posted from the bottom of the slip road bend.

For the above reasons, I am requesting as a matter of urgency, a speed reduction to 30 mph. To improve visibility and reaction time I suggest the signs are attached from nearer the top of the off-slip road, where there are already lampposts to take them.

The request is only for this particularly hazardous stretch of Woodstock Lane South, to its T junction with Clayton Road.

**The Chairman will give the following response:**

There are a number of concerns raised in this question that will need time to respond to fully. Therefore a response will be provided to Mrs Stevenson as soon as possible, and this response will be provided formally to the next meeting of the Local Committee. This would provide Mrs Stevenson the opportunity to pose any supplementary question that arises out of the response.

**SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN ELMBRIDGE – 25 February 2013****AGENDA ITEM 7****MEMBER QUESTIONS****Question 1 : Cllr Barry Fairbank, Elmbridge Borough Council**

As a result of Surrey County Council's failure to carry out regular maintenance to the hedges on the highway verge at the top of Rectory Lane Long Ditton (adjacent to St Mary's Church and Long Ditton Cemetery) Surrey CC deemed it necessary to severely cut back the vegetation to just above ground level in this location with work being carried out early in 2013.

Can you please advise me as to what plans there are to re-plant this area?

**The Chairman will give the following response:**

In short there are currently no plans to replant this part of Rectory Lane, although this statement is not intended to rule out replanting as an option.

The hedgerow in Rectory Lane consisted mainly of Elm and brambles. Some of the Elms had Dutch Elm disease; some had already died. On the advice of Surrey County Council's Arboriculturalist all the Elms susceptible to Dutch Elm disease were removed. There was a group of Elms of a slightly different species at the northern end of the row of trees, which we were able to leave as they are not so susceptible to the disease.

At the same time as removing the diseased and susceptible Elms, we also reduced the brambles to ground level. In doing this we discovered several years' accumulation of rubbish, including tin cans and concrete blocks. The result is a very different appearance of this part of Rectory Lane.

We are open to suggestions as to what to do with this area now. Some residents have enquired about Vehicle Crossovers (VCOs) that were previously unfeasible as the hedgerow was in the way. Other residents have enquired about replanting. From a technical point of view it is easier and more economical to maintain this area as verge in the long term, rather than hedgerow or trees. Therefore if the area were to be replanted, funding would have to be identified apart from the regular Highways budgets.

**Question 2 : Mr Mike Bennison, Surrey County Council**

At the last SCC Local Committee meeting it was noted that the annual plan to check gullies in Elmbridge was behind schedule. Is this now back on schedule and specifically has it been undertaken in Claygate? If not, why not and when will it be undertaken?

**The Chairman will give the following response:**

Whilst cleaning in some areas has been behind Elmbridge is on programme and Claygate will be completed during March. There are about 10 more days work required to complete the area.

**Question 3 : Mr Mike Bennison, Surrey County Council**

A resident reported on line in December 2012, 2 apparently seriously blocked gullies in Claygate and got tracking numbers. He checked the status in January. The only status history provided was the date opened and the date closed. There is no indication if any investigation occurred, whether a problem was identified and/or a solution put in hand. If residents are encouraged to report it on line is it not possible to have clear, explicit answers to those issues reported on line, instead of having to make follow up calls to the SCC call centre to try to find out what 'closed' means ?

**The Chairman will give the following response:**

These reports were investigated by the Community Highways Officer and the problem gullies have been added to the list of works for the jetting crew for attention by the end of March 2013. However there was an error made in the updating of the online tracking system, which mean that the customer was not updated as they should have been. On investigation this turned out to be a training issue with new Community Highways Officers, and we are grateful for this matter being brought to our attention. It should not have been necessary to contact the Contact Centre in order to obtain additional information.

This page is intentionally left blank