

Minutes of the meeting of the
Epsom AND EWELL LOCAL COMMITTEE
held at 2.00 pm on 10 December 2012
at Epsom Town Hall, The Parade, Epsom, KT18 5BY.

Surrey County Council Members:

- * Mr David Wood (Chairman)
- * Mr Chris Frost (Vice-Chairman)
- * Mr Eber A Kington
- * Mrs Jan Mason
- * Mr Colin Taylor

Borough / District Members:

- * Borough Councillor Michael Arthur
- * Borough Councillor Ian Booker
- * Borough Councillor Paul Arden Jones
- * Borough Councillor Julie Morris
- * Borough Councillor Jean Smith

* Present

49/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]

There were no apologies for absence.

50/12 WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTION TIME [Item 2]

Four questions were received. The questions and responses are set out in Annex A.

A supplementary question was asked in relation to question one: It is not clear why it is proposed that the residents of Ashley Road could be excluded from the scheme when there is plenty of space in Ladbrooke Road to accommodate all residents wishing to park. The Chairman replied that this issue would be considered when the item is debated.

51/12 ADJOURNMENT [Item 3]

Several members of the public attended, and three informal questions were put to the meeting. Answers were provided to the questions at the meeting.

52/12 PETITIONS [Item 4]

There were no petitions received for this meeting.

53/12 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING [Item 5]

Confirmed as a correct record.

54/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 6]

There were no declarations of interest.

55/12 MEMBER QUESTION TIME [Item 7]

1 question was received. The question and response is set out in Annex B. The following supplementary question and answer was given at the meeting:

Cllr Smith indicated that she was disappointed in the response as it failed to take account the contribution to the Borough's economy of the racing stables. She asked for measures such as a raised table and speed limit reductions to be considered and invited officers to attend the next meeting of the Training Grounds Management Board. The Highways Area Team Manager responded that it would not be possible to introduce reductions in the speed limit in the area without installing traffic calming which could make transporting horses by road in this area difficult. He agreed to see if an officer would be available to attend the meeting.

56/12 EPSOM AND EWELL PARKING REVIEW - PHASE 6: CONSIDERATION OF FORMAL OBJECTIONS - LADBROKE ROAD [Item 8]

Members acknowledged that there had been an unfortunate administrative error in this case and felt that the reason for introducing residents parking schemes was to help residents to park by removing shoppers and commuters from the area. If some residents would be disadvantaged by the scheme then it shouldn't go ahead. Many of the properties in Ladbroke Road have driveways so there should be sufficient road space available to accommodate the additional residents from Ashley Road who currently park there.

In relation to residents parking schemes generally it was reported that the Borough Council will issue permits to residents. It has itemised the spaces available and there are currently no plans to limit the number of permits that will be issued. Possession of a permit will not guarantee residents a parking bay near to their property. It is anticipated that residents will be contacted by the end of January asking them if they wish to purchase a permit. A notice will then be published to enable enforcement action to be taken against parking by non permit holders in residents only areas. In some roads parking bays will not be marked out as this allows for more vehicles to be parked. The Borough Council is able to take enforcement action against vehicles parked over driveways at the request of residents.

Resolved: that

- i] the residents of Ashley Road, from nos. 20 to 30, should be included in the Ladbroke Road residents permit scheme;
- ii] the County Council makes amendments to existing traffic regulation orders and introduces new traffic regulation orders as necessary for this change to be implemented.

**57/12 PROPOSED BUS STOP CLEARWAYS IN KINGSTON ROAD, EWELL
[Item 9]**

Members supported the proposals which are badly needed to avoid congestion caused by buses having to stop in the centre of the road.

Resolved : that

- i] a bus stop clearway be introduced in Kingston Road at the existing bus stop adjacent to properties 104A to 110A the restriction to be 'at any time';
- ii] a bus stop clearway be introduced in Kingston Road at the existing bus stop adjacent to the property known as Grange Mansions, the restriction to be 'at any time'

58/12 HIGHWAYS UPDATE [Item 10]

In some areas of the Borough divisional boundaries will be moved following the May County Council elections. There was discussion over how members should put forward schemes for areas which may no longer be in their divisions and it was agreed that members should continue to work with the existing boundaries until after the elections.

Members had concerns that the parking schemes agreed by the Committee in January 2012 had still not been completed as a result of a lack of capacity within the parking team and extra work associated with the Olympics. Residents are frustrated at the time it takes for parking restrictions to be agreed and the next phase of proposed restrictions will now not be considered by the Committee until March 2013. It has also recently come to members attention that the school keep clear signs are currently unenforceable until the Committee makes a further decision, which will now not be possible until March 2013. On a proposal from Mr Kington, the Committee agreed to make a recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Transport to press for urgent action.

The Highway Area Team Manager reported that there had been some delays in schemes requiring micro asphalt, as work had been halted during the Olympics and the subsequent bad weather had meant that work could not be completed as laying of this type of surface is weather dependent. If the weather is suitable work will begin again in March and money will be carried over to next year if schemes cannot be completed before the end of the financial year.

The Highway Area Team Manager reported that at a meeting of interested parties before the Committee meeting, it had been agreed to recommend to the Committee that the pedestrian crossing directly outside the station should be removed and the crossing at Waterloo Road extended and improved. This would allow for space for 17 taxis, some on the south side of Station Approach acting as a feeder to bays on the north side. There would also be two bus bays and two loading bays and 18m for pick up and drop off, sufficient for a lorry or three cars. There would be a peak time loading ban to allow more space for commuters to be picked up and dropped off. Such a scheme would be a priority for the pooled capital money of £100k and could use most of it, although costings have not yet been sought. The proposals would be formally advertised and Members requested that all residents in

Station Approach and Horsley Close are made aware of the proposals and invited to comment together with station users. It was noted that the station is scheduled to be completed in February and it could take several months for any proposals to be advertised, agreed and implemented so consideration will have to be given to some interim arrangements.

Resolved:

- i] To approve the allocation of next Financial Year's budgets as set out in Table 4;
- ii] To delegate authority to the Area Team Manager to:
 - (a) finalise the design of the layout of Station Approach, based on the plans outlined verbally at the meeting and in consultation with the established working group;
 - (b) issue the necessary traffic orders and arrange for a consultation process which enables all interested parties, including nearby residents and commuters, to express a view on the scheme;
 - (c) bring a report back to the next Local Committee for approval of the final scheme.
- iii] [On a proposal from Mr Kington seconded by Mrs Mason]
That this Committee expresses its concern that the arrangements for the legal enforcement of school keep clear lines in Epsom & Ewell is being delayed until March 2013 and calls upon the Cabinet Member for Transport to provide the necessary resources to enable this to be completed by January 2013.

59/12 APPROVAL OF SMALL GRANTS BIDS [Item 11]

Mr Taylor queried why a bid that he had been told had been submitted was not shown in the report. The representative from services for young people agreed to check whether a bid had been received. He expressed concern that people without access to a computer were disadvantaged in submitting bids.

It was noted that the bids received are only evaluated to check that they meet the criteria for bids and that the officer recommendations are not based on any analysis of the work being proposed in the bid. Where less than the requested amount had been recommended this was either as a result of the bid covering a wider area or because there was insufficient funding remaining to meet all bids.

Resolved (Mr Kington and Mr Taylor abstained):

That funding be awarded to the following groups for the amounts shown:

Two Birds	£800
1 st Cuddington (Warspite) Sea Scouts	£900
Stoneleigh Youth Project	£1000
United Reformed Church & Soroptimists International	£810
Studio ADHD	£590

Longmeadz Kickn	£5000
Epsom & Ewell Karate Club	£2000

60/12 FLEXIBLE FORWARD PLAN [Item 12]

Noted the forward plan. Members noted the dates for the next municipal year and asked for either the June or September meeting to be held at Ewell Court House if it is available.

61/12 LOCAL COMMITTEE FUNDING [Item 13]

Noted the addendum to the report tabled at the meeting. Noted that as there is a period of purdah before the County Council elections that the cut off for bids will be earlier than in previous years, Members will receive written notice of the final date for the acceptance of bids, but all members were encouraged to spend their funding as early as possible in the new year.

Resolved to:

- i] agree the items recommended for funding from the Local Committee's 2012/13 Member Allocation funding, as set out in section 2 of this report and summarised below:

Organisation	Project Title	Amount
1st Cuddington (warspite) Sea Scouts	Secure Scouting At 1st Cuddington	£4,500
Epsom & Ewell Borough Council	Cox Lane Bmx/skate Facility	£10,000
Cuddington Croft Primary School Team	Wraparound/extended Care Provision	£1,000

- ii] retrospectively approve a change in the use of funds previously awarded to the Epsom Medical Equipment Fund for the purchase of a Paediatric Echocardiograph Ultrasound Machine that has since been used to fund a Fibroscan machine for patients suffering liver damage, as set out in Section 1 of the addendum to the report.
- iii] approve the reallocation of £5,000 capital funding previously awarded for the Hook Road Area BMX project to the Long Grove Park BMX/Skate facility, as set out in Section 1 of the addendum to the report.
- iv] note the expenditure previously approved by either the Community Partnerships Manager or the Community Partnerships Team Leader under delegated powers, as set out in section 3 of the report.
- v] note any returned funding and/or adjustments, as set out within the report and at Appendix 1.

62/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING [Item 14]

Monday 10 March 2013, 7.00pm at Bourne Hall, Ewell.

Meeting ended at: 4.15 pm

Chairman

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL
LOCAL COMMITTEE EPSOM & EWELL
10 December 2012**

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

**Question 1 – Mr Daniel Berry and Ms Angelique Mercier
Re: Ladbroke Road Parking**

Question:

Is the Committee aware of the fact that to date Ashley Road residents have not been consulted or given an opportunity to make representations with regard to their exclusion from the scheme?

Officer Response:

Surrey County Council believe that they have kept all residents fully informed of the progress of the Ladbroke Road residents permit scheme. We have also acknowledged that we have made errors in the advertising that directly relates to that scheme, all of which have been dealt with by way of a Stage 2 complaint.

The purpose of Item 8 on the agenda for today's Committee is to try to resolve the issue of the exclusion of Ashley Road residents in the Ladbroke Road scheme. All members of the committee have received copies of the report prior to this meeting.

**Question 2 – Andrew and Helen Page
Re: Ladbroke Road Parking**

Question:

Will the following documents be tabled before the Committee:

- Officer's Report (27/06/2011) to local committee Epsom and Ewell Parking/Waiting Restrictions (Phase 6) Review
- Complaints Investigation Report (CO 12669), 20/11/12, authored by Carole Comfort?

Officer Response:

All previous Committee reports are available on the County Council website at <http://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=197&Year=0> if Committee members or other interested parties wish to refer to them.

The complaints report is provided for those directly involved with the complaint and would not normally be more widely circulated. However I understand that a resident of Ashley Road has sent a copy to all members of the Committee.

**Question 3 – Mr Andrew Beswick
Re: Ladbroke Road Parking**

Question:

Can we see a copy of the key Officer's Reports, dated 27.06.11 and 25.01.12, following which commuter (non-resident) parking was identified as the principal issue?

Officer Response:

All previous Committee reports are available on the County Council website at <http://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=197&Year=0> for anyone who wishes to see them. Printed copies are available from the Community Partnership & Committee Officer, whose contact details can be found on the front of the agenda, for those without internet access.

**Question 4 – Mr George Dick
Re: Ladbroke Road Parking**

Question:

Is the Committee aware of the fact that of the FOUR households (24-30 Ashley Road) whose complaints have been upheld, there are only four(4) vehicles that would need Residents Permits in the Scheme.

Officer Response:

Generally, the number of cars per household is not directly related to the actual implementation of a residents permit scheme, however as this question has been posed, the committee will be aware of this prior to any decisions being made in relation to Item 8 on the agenda.

The original preliminary consultation did include nos.20 &22 Ashley Road, so there are actually 6 households that need to be included. These other two properties may or may not require permits, but they have to be taken into account too.

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL
LOCAL COMMITTEE IN EPSOM & EWELL
10 December 2012**

MEMBER QUESTIONS

**Question 1 Cllr Jean Smith
Re: J621 crossing Epsom Downs**

As a member of the Training Grounds Management Board I would draw your attention to the danger being experienced by the Epsom Trainers at the J621 crossing from the Derby Stables to the Queen's Stand.

There are instances of vehicles jumping the red light just as a string of racehorses is about to cross. Racehorses are highly sensitive and this has resulted in the horses being spooked, falling over and suffering injuries. Photographs of some of the injuries will be available at the meeting. The following is a description of such instances from Trainer, Simon Dow:

- 29th October at 7.15 am. 2 horses were returning from exercise. The rider of the lead horse pressed the button and as he arrived at the crossing a motor cyclist flashed through on a red light. This caused the horse to jump suddenly and lose his footing. He took a fall into the carriageway sustaining superficial injuries and bruising.
- Earlier in October a similar incident occurred. This time a 3 year old filly had a severely bruised hip and a large haematoma which required lancing. The filly is still not fully recovered.
- 12th November at 7.30 am. 2 separate instances. In each case drivers coming from the racecourse roundabout direction to Langley Vale/Epsom drove across the lights well after they had turned red.
- Other trainers have experienced and reported similar instances, supporting Simon Dow's comments.

These incidents have been reported to Highway Officers who have responded by changing the timing of the lights. However, the view of the trainers is that these changes have not prevented the continued red light violations.

Simon Dow has real anxieties that a serious accident is imminent and as a responsible employer it makes his daily risk assessments with regard to the welfare of his riders very difficult.

He feels that the process of reducing the speed limit on this stretch of highway must begin. Otherwise ultimately it will be too dangerous to access the Downs this way and this will affect the numbers of racehorses trained on the Downs which would hugely impact on the welfare, aesthetic appearance and openness of this site. There is no dispute over how the Downs are protected by the presence of the training gallops and the racehorses that use them. They also bring in revenue to the Borough both directly through the gallops fees and generally by the accepted annual figure of £6 million income to the Borough's economy

My question, therefore is – what can be done to address this problem and how soon can the remedy be carried out?

Suggestions put forward are:

- Traffic calming such as a raised table at the crossing
- A red light violation camera with appropriate warning sign

Officer Response:

A new red light violation safety camera would cost in the order of £50,000. Two cameras would be required at this site to cover both directions of travel. Any new camera would then require ongoing maintenance and commitment of police staff to process offences detected by the camera.

Due to the initial cost and then ongoing running costs, safety cameras are reserved for the very worst collision hotspots where there has been a continuing history of collisions associated with red light jumping or speeding. The county council's database of personal injury collisions recorded by Surrey police shows that there hasn't been any traffic collisions at this site in the last three years. Therefore, while we sympathise with the problems being experienced by the equestrians at this location, we would not recommend investing in red light violation cameras at this location. Members of the public can report instances of anti-social driving to the police via the Drive SMART website www.drivesmartsurrey.org.uk.

An officer from SCC's Traffic Systems, has also met with the trainer and adjusted the delay time for the equestrian demand. This is to recognise the lower number of horses on each run and the reduction in time to get from the high level push button to the crossing. Initially a trial was conducted and the trainer has since confirmed this has met his requirements.

It remains a temporary change, however a complete refurbishment is planned in the next financial year (2013/2014), when all timing changes could be made permanent. The signals currently have automatic extension of the intergreen time should vehicles be detected on approach to the crossing above 35mph. Extending the intergreen further is likely to exacerbate rather than resolve the problem.

The complaint clearly identifies that drivers and motorcycle riders are ignoring the red signals. Showing the vehicle red signals for longer without there being any evidence of the crossing being used is likely to increase the risk of red light violation - and at higher speeds. The new signals after refurbishment will be brighter and therefore more visible, although visibility does not appear to be an issue. It is simply down to driver behaviour which must be addressed either by Police enforcement, or by introducing traffic calming measures. An individual road table at the crossing point will not address the issue of vehicles going through red lights and introducing traffic calming over a wider area is likely to be expensive and not appropriate given the transportation of horses in vehicles to and from the racecourse during the year.