

Minutes of the meeting of the
Spelthorne LOCAL COMMITTEE
held at 6.30 pm on 30 June 2014
at Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines-upon-Thames. TW18 1XB.

Surrey County Council Members:

- * Mr Richard Walsh (Chairman)
- * Mrs Denise Saliagopoulos (Vice-Chairman)
- * Mr Ian Beardsmore
- Mrs Carol Coleman
- * Mr Robert Evans
- * Mr Tim Evans
- * Mr Daniel Jenkins

Borough / District Members:

- * Cllr Chris Frazer
- * Cllr Ian Harvey
- * Cllr Jean Pinkerton
- * Cllr Joanne Sexton
- * Cllr Richard Smith-Ainsley
- * Cllr Spencer Taylor
- * Cllr Robert Watts

* In attendance

100/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

Apologies were received from Mrs Carol Coleman.

101/13 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING [Item 2]

Minutes from the Local Committee held on 17 March 2014 were agreed and approved as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.

102/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

There were no declarations of interest.

103/13 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS [Item 4]

As an action for the Chairman from 17 March Local Committee, the Chairman sent letters to SCC Gold Command, Thames Water and the Environment Agency, to request information about the flooding in Spelthorne. These letters can be seen in the committee papers at Item 5a – Petition Responses.

The Chairman also wrote on behalf of the Local Committee to Abellio Bus company, regarding the revised bus routes effecting Stanwell Moor. The Chairman received a reply and this will be published with the minutes from the 30 June meeting.

104/13 PETITIONS & LETTERS OF REPRESENTATION [Item 5]

No petitions were received for this meeting.

105/13 PETITION RESPONSES [Item 5a]

A formal response to the three petitions received at the Local Committee meeting on 17th March 2014 was provided at Item 5a. The response to Petition i) was taken after Item 10 and before the Highways items. Petitions ii) and iii) were taken with Item 8 'Surrey Floods – Spelthorne'. The three petitions were:

- i) From Aldrin Fernandes which contained 48 signatures and read:
"We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to ban HGV on Cadbury Road (A244)."
- ii) From Paul Marks which contained 429 signatures and read:
"We the undersigned petition Spelthorne Borough Council [and Surrey County Council] to compel Thames Water and the Environment Agency to review and mitigate the River Ash flood risk."
- iii) From Martin Cherrett which contained 201 signatures and read:
"We call upon the Surrey County Council Local Committee in Spelthorne to make a public statement on the flooding in Greenlands Road and Leacroft, Staines-upon-Thames in the week beginning 10th February 2014."

The first petitioner was not present. Cllr Chris Frazer acknowledged that the Cadbury Road issue is linked to the Feltham Road HGV issue. Cllr Frazer, Mr Ian Beardsmore and Mrs Carol Coleman agreed to meet and work together to try to find a solution.

Mr Cherrett was present and he also represented Mr Marks. Mr Cherrett stated that a key issue was the sluice gate and information obtained from a Freedom of Information request had been passed to Kwasi Kwarteng MP, who had raised the issue in Parliament.

106/13 MEMBER QUESTION TIME [Item 6]

Two Member questions were received; one from Mr Richard Walsh and one from Cllr Robert Watts. The questions and answers are set out in Annexe 1 to these minutes.

Cllr Watts asked a supplementary question:
"Many changes have been made to the scheme following consultation and there were value engineering changes and should have reduced the costs.

This is the second major infrastructure project in Spelthorne in the Department of Environment that has run over budget before any work has been carried out. My understanding is that the cycle path has increased in cost from £1.1 million to £1.8 million.

Could the Director of the Environment confirm why the original budget carried out by professional staff was so far out.

This scheme is holding up the road resurfacing on Gaston Bridge Road and Marshalls roundabout but I note in the Project Horizon this is to be done in July to October this year. This resurfacing has already been delayed by the late completion of Walton Bridge works and this is to be delayed further. Would the Area Highway Manager confirm that the road surface currently meets the safety standards in terms of skid resistance, texture and surface irregularities. My request for a firm start date and completion date has not been answered.”

This question was passed to the officer after the meeting, for an answer.

107/13 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME [Item 7]

The Local Committee received written questions from four members of the public in advance of the meeting: one from Mr Andrew McLuskey, one from Mr Fred Wallin, one from Cllr Marian Rough and one from Mr John Seaman. The questions and answers are set out in Annexe 1 to these minutes.

Supplementary questions:

Mr McLuskey asked if the Local Committee would hold a public meeting so that Heathrow directors can explain themselves. The Chairman replied that Mr McLuskey’s county councillor will attend the SCC members’ seminar at County Hall on 15 September and will feed back to Mr McLuskey (see Annexe 1 for details).

Mr Wallin asked if any funds would be found to build the footpath. The Highways Team Manager replied that funds would be sought from both SCC and Spelthorne Borough Council, but funding could not be guaranteed.

Cllr Taylor asked a supplementary question on behalf of Cllr Rough, who was not present. “Please can this be looked at again, before a child gets injured or killed?” The Highways Team Manager replied that SCC cannot force the bus provider to take any specific action.

Mr Seaman would like the third paragraph in the written answer split, i.e. amount given for ‘metals’ and amount given for ‘other non-combustible or oversized materials’ within the 11,000 tonnes. This information was requested and the officer will reply to Mr Seaman.

108/13 SURREY FLOODS - SPELTHORNE [Item 8]

The Chairman welcomed Ben Skipp, Programme Manager in SCC Emergency Management, who presented this item and also two petition responses at Item 5a.

The Chairman also welcomed Ian Good, Head of SCC Emergency Management, Liz Borthwick, Assistant Chief Executive Spelthorne Borough Council, Bob Weldon-Gamble SFRS, Sgt Chris Smith Surrey Police, Tony Coe and David Murphy from the Environment Agency and from Thames Water: Hilary Murgatroyd Local and Regional Government Liaison, Jason Eccles and Oliver Hope, Clean Water Operations.

Thames Water confirmed that the River Ash protocol/contingency plan is being reviewed, including ensuring Thames Water has enough staff and management in place. Work to be carried out will be done in consultation with

the Environment Agency and others, including the River Ash Action Group. Sand bagging mentioned in the protocol is probably no longer practical and suitable alternatives are being considered. Hilary Murgatroyd invited the River Ash Action Group and councillors to visit the sluice gate over the summer.

Tony Coe from the Environment Agency (EA) said that EA is reviewing the River Ash protocol in full and is trying to establish exactly what happened. The protocol review should be completed by October 2014. EA is carrying out a full survey and has secured some recovery funding from central government to look at short-term recovery requirements, which has to be spent by end of October 2014. EA is also working on a long term plan for the wider region, including Spelthorne, and is working closely with Thames Water. EA is leading on River Thames issues.

Ian Good from SCC stated that no one organisation takes the lead in an emergency; Surrey Police take a coordinating role during the response to incidents, but all partners are expected to provide resources as per the roles. The Strategic Coordinating Group (SCG) is responsible for the overall response to emergencies and consists of Chief officers and senior level directors (GOLD Officers) from the organisations involved, who work together to ensure an effective response.

Liz Borthwick said that as well as working with the River Ash Action Group, Spelthorne Borough Council will be working with several groups and communities as others in Spelthorne are also effected by flooding.

The Chairman said that this flood item will come again to the Local Committee for an update, on 15 December 2014.

THE LOCAL COMMITTEE (SPELTHORNE) AGREED TO NOTE:

- (i) The multi-agency response to the flooding event and the flood recovery work taking place.

109/13 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT FROM SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE [Item 9]

The Chairman welcomed Leigh Middleton, SCC Lead Youth Officer - West and Matthew Raleigh, SCC Youth Support Service Team Manager, who presented the item for information.

Cllr Taylor requested that allocations information within the Performance Summary on Youth Small Grants (page 59) be broken down to area. Leigh will arrange for this to be provided in future.

The Chairman thanked Lifetrain and SCC youth workers for their excellent work.

THE LOCAL COMMITTEE (SPELTHORNE) AGREED TO NOTE:

- (i) The progress Services for Young People has made during 2013/14 to increase participation for young people in education, training or employment, as set out in the annexe to this report.

110/13 CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE: LOCAL RE-COMMISSIONING FOR 2015 - 2020 [Item 10]

The Chairman said that he is on the Re-commissioning Board and that Spelthorne is always represented by several young people, who contribute greatly.

THE LOCAL COMMITTEE (SPELTHORNE) AGREED:

1. To support increased delegation of decision-making to include the current Centre Based Youth Work so that it can be re-commissioned alongside the current Local Prevention Framework.
2. That local priorities for the newly delegated commissions within Services for Young People will be decided by the Spelthorne Local Committee informed by the work of the constituted Youth Task Group.
3. To **continue** Spelthorne Youth Task Group.

111/13 HIGHWAYS UPDATE [Item 11]

Note: Table 4 (Divisional Programmes, page 79) should say Table 5. Table 5 (Russell Road traffic calming, page 83) should say Table 6.

The Local Committee agreed to write to the Spelthorne MP; see new recommendation (iii). Proposed: Mr Daniel Jenkins. Seconded: Denise Saliagopoulos.

(New) recommendation (iv) to remove the speed cushions from Russell Road was proposed by Mr Richard Walsh and seconded by Mr Tim Evans.

THE LOCAL COMMITTEE (SPELTHORNE) AGREED:

- (i) To approve the advertisement of a Traffic Regulation Order that would provide for a lockable gate to be installed in the service road behind Elgin Avenue (paragraphs 2.5 to 2.9 refer).
- (ii) **To maintain the objection** submitted by the Area Team Manager (paragraphs 2.11 to 2.17 refer) to the ban on overnight parking of goods vehicles and coaches being promoted by the London Borough of Hounslow **and for the Area Team Manager to write to the London Borough of Hounslow conveying the Spelthorne Local Committee's strong opposition to the promotion of the ban.**
- (iii) **The Local Committee through the Chairman will contact the Spelthorne MP to express their objections to the London Borough of Hounslow's overnight parking ban.**
- (iv) (previously recommendation (iii) on the report)
To remove the speed cushions from Russell Road when this road is resurfaced later in the Financial Year, and if they are

to be removed set aside funds from its 2015-16 Highways budgets to investigate an alternative scheme of traffic calming in the event that traffic speeds or the collision frequency increases following removal of the cushions (paragraphs 2.18 to 2.26 refer).

- (v) (previously recommendation (iv) on the report)
To authorise the Area Team Manager in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and relevant Divisional Member(s) to undertake all necessary procedures to deliver the agreed programmes.

112/13 CHURCH STREET STAINES-UPON-THAMES FEASIBILITY STUDY [Item 12]

This item was taken before Item 11. Mrs Denise Saliagopoulos thanked Nick Healey and Kwabena Kutten from SCC Highways for meeting with residents outside of office hours.

THE LOCAL COMMITTEE (SPELTHORNE) AGREED:

- (i) To authorise the Area Team Manager in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Divisional Member to finalise the detailed design for the Church Street, Staines-upon-Thames integrated transport scheme in partnership with the Staines Village Residents' and Traders' Association, and to undertake all necessary procedures to deliver the scheme.

113/13 REVIEW OF HIGHWAYS WINTER SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS [Item 13]

THE LOCAL COMMITTEE (SPELTHORNE) AGREED TO:

- (i) Consider the current Winter Service provision and operations in their area and provide feedback, via their Local Committee Chairman, on any change requests.

114/13 DECISION ON LOCAL COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTES [Item 14]

Under the County Council's Constitution (Part 4. Standing Orders, Part 2 40 (f)) no substitutes are permitted for district/borough council co-opted members of local committees, unless a local committee agrees otherwise at its first meeting following the Council's annual meeting and in relation to all meetings in the following year, upon which named substitutes will be appointed to the Local Committee on the nomination of the relevant district/borough council.

The Local Committee voted. For: 8. Against: 3.

THE LOCAL COMMITTEE (SPELTHORNE) AGREED:

- (i) To continue to allow co-opted substitutes in the municipal year 2014/15 for Spelthorne Borough Council members.

115/13 REPRESENTATION ON TASK GROUPS & OUTSIDE BODIES [Item 15]

The Local Committee voted on the change to recommendation (i), proposed by Cllr Watts and seconded by Cllr Harvey. All agreed.

The Local Committee voted on (new) recommendation (ii), proposed by Mr Ian Beardsmore and seconded by Cllr Taylor. The vote was 6 for and 5 against.

THE LOCAL COMMITTEE (SPELTHORNE) AGREED:

- (i) Members be appointed to the outside bodies, partnerships and task groups listed in this report, **with a change in the Youth Task Group: Cllr Ian Harvey will replace Cllr Vivienne Leighton.**
- (ii) **That the Education Action Group will have a substitute member, to attend the Group when another councillor on the Group is unable to attend. For the 2014/15 municipal year, this will be Mr Daniel Jenkins.**
- (iii) (previously recommendation (ii) on the report)
Members be allowed to bring update reports from those bodies and partnerships to the Committee, when relevant.
- (iv) (previously recommendation (iii) on the report)
The terms of reference of the Youth Task Group and the Parking Task Group, as in Annexe A.
- (v) (previously recommendation (iv) on the report)
The Education Action Group agrees its terms of reference when it next meets.

116/13 LOCAL COMMITTEE COMMUNITY SAFETY & MEMBERS' ALLOCATION FUNDING UPDATE [Item 16]

Note: In 2.1 (page 161), the amount paid to Shepperton Cricket Club was £500, not £1,000.

Mrs Denise Saliagopoulos requested that members consider contributing to the Choral Society.

THE LOCAL COMMITTEE (SPELTHORNE) AGREED:

- (vi) To note the amounts that have been spent from the Members' Allocation and Local Committee capital budgets, as set out in Annexe 1 of this report.
- (vii) That the Community Safety budget of £3,294 that has been delegated to the Local Committee be transferred to Spelthorne Community Safety Partnership (known as the Spelthorne Safer Stronger Partnership Board) and that the Community Partnership Manager authorise its expenditure in accordance with the Local Committee's decision.

117/13 LOCAL COMMITTEE FORWARD PROGRAMME 2014-2015 [Item 17]

Members requested that Local Committee meetings are shorter in length, with not so many items.

THE LOCAL COMMITTEE (SPELTHORNE) AGREED:

- (i) The Forward Programme 2014/15 as outlined in Annexe 1, indicating any further preferences for inclusion.
- (ii) To consider any further themes for Member briefings during 2014/15 and the next municipal year.

118/13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING [Item 18]

To be held on Monday 29th September 2014 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Spelthorne Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines-upon-Thames TW18 1XB.

(6.30pm – 7pm: Informal Public Question Time)

The meeting which commenced at 6.50pm ended at 10.30pm.

Annexe 1 - Written Questions

Annexe 2 - Letter to the LC Chairman from Abellio

Meeting ended at: 10.30 pm

Chairman



SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN SPELTHORNE – 30 June 2014

AGENDA ITEM 6

MEMBER WRITTEN QUESTION TIME

1. Mr Richard Walsh will ask the following question:

“Following the recent high winds, rain and floods, what plans do Highways have to include an appropriate response to such severe weather conditions in their winter service arrangements and when will these be implemented?”

Nick Healey, SCC Highways Area Team Manager (NE), will give the following answer:

“Surrey County Council's response to cold weather is proactive, well developed and after a number of cold winters is well rehearsed. Our response to the recent floods was coordinated through our Emergency Planning Team on a reactive basis. That said parts of the Winter Service Plan are common to all extreme events and indeed the Merrow control hub was utilised by our contractor to coordinate resources over the storm periods of the most recent winter.

We are developing a project to develop a proactive, coordinated response to other weather events. The project is at a very early stage but is likely to cover a number of key themes:

- (1) What we do in response to an extreme weather event
- (2) What the community can do
- (3) Coordination with partner agencies
- (4) Communication.

The Winter Service took some time to develop to the level of service we now enjoy. It may well take a similar length of time to develop a similar level of response to other weather events.”

2. Cllr Robert Watts will ask the following question:

“Why is work running late on the new proposed cycle track at Gaston Bridge Road and Walton Bridge? This is now holding up the Project Horizon road repair programme. Please can you tell me what the start and completion dates are for this project?”

Lesley Harding, SCC Sustainability Group Manager, will give the following answer:

“The work to construct the Cycle Scheme has not begun as early as hoped, partly because of the need to prioritise resources to tackle the local flooding and associated remedial works. In addition, there is pressure on the budget for a number of reasons, including enhancements to the scheme as a result of the consultation, the estimated scheme costs are now greater than the estimate provided when submitting the bid to the Department for Transport.

Officers have been working intensively to undertake value engineering and will be undertaking negotiations with DfT and Sustrans within the next couple of weeks to ensure the scheme can proceed within agreed limits.

Surrey County Council does apologise for any frustration this delay may cause; however, it is clearly important to ensure the overall design fully meets the needs of the community and demonstrates best value. We will seek to confirm the revised delivery dates as soon as possible and will keep Local Committee chairmen, vice chairmen and divisional members updated.”

AGENDA ITEM 7

PUBLIC WRITTEN QUESTION TIME

1. Mr Andrew McLuskey will ask the following question:

"Given Heathrow's declared intention - in its recent submissions to the Airports Commission - of extending its boundaries into Spelthorne and thereby prohibiting Stanwell's use of its 'green lung', what action does the Committee feel it can take to defend local people's interests?"

Katharine Harrison, SCC Principal Spatial Planning Officer, will give the following answer:

"The submission as proposed by Heathrow Airport indicates that part of Stanwell Moor will be lost as a result of the scheme to accommodate a third runway and related additional development at the airport. Replacement green space is proposed to compensate for this loss, but this appears to be sited outside the Surrey boundary. The submission documents can be downloaded from this website: <http://your.heathrow.com/britainsheathrow/downloads/>

It should be noted that the schemes submitted by the two promoters (Gatwick Airport Limited and Heathrow Airport Limited) have not been officially published, although Heathrow Airport Limited have made their submission public. They will be officially published for public consultation, scheduled to start in October and likely to run to December. The Airport Commission will be scrutinising the schemes between now and October and they will be carrying out further assessment work and may recommend further changes.

Therefore, at present, there is no formal consultation processes in which the committee can currently be engaged and the proposals for consultation have yet to be finalised. However the Local Committee should be aware that a Members' seminar for County Councillors is scheduled for the morning of 15 September 2014 at County Hall, to be chaired by Peter Martin, to which both Heathrow Airport Limited and Gatwick Airport Limited have been invited to give presentations on their submissions. The Leader and relevant portfolio holders from each borough and district will also be invited to this event where there will be the opportunity to seek more detailed information about the schemes, raise specific issues of local concern and to engage in discussion about these concerns."

2. Mr Fred Wallin will ask the following question:

"Could I have an update on the proposal for a footbridge over the railway at Clockhouse Lane? I was told some time ago that £30,000 was passed to Hounslow BC as a Surrey contribution for a feasibility study. As yet I have heard no outcome."

Nick Healey, SCC Highways Area Team Manager (NE), will give the following answer:

“A full reply has been provided within the Highways Update report at Item 11. The Local Committee provided £30,000 to the London Borough of Hounslow from its 2010-11 budgets as its contribution to a feasibility study to investigate improved pedestrian and cycle facilities over the railway line intersecting Clockhouse Lane, Ashford.

The London Borough of Hounslow is trying to gain access to the private land in order to complete site investigation works, which would in turn enable them to complete the feasibility study. The private landowners have made some demands in terms of indemnities and this request is currently with their legal department.

The Area Team Manager has received from the London Borough of Hounslow copies of invoices from the consultant undertaking the study totalling £69,487.20. A further approx £5,000 has been spent on other costs such as the temporary traffic orders, road closures and staff time. The original understanding of Spelthorne Local Committee was that the scheme should be funded 50:50 by Surrey County Council and the London Borough of Hounslow. To date the London Borough of Hounslow has contributed approximately £45,000 to this scheme. The London Borough of Hounslow is still keen to see this scheme delivered in due course, although funding remains a challenge.”

3. Cllr Marian Rough will ask the following question:

“Following on expressions of concern from ward members over touring coaches being utilised on narrow residential wards with on road parking in my ward, please may I ask that these routes be re-examined and redirected to the two main arteries for Stanwell - Clare Road and Town Lane?

I have previously enquired from the roads department and a verbal answer was that the teenagers boarding these vehicles for schools outside of the ward cannot walk the 10 minutes to either road. However it would seem that other Stanwell teenagers are walking to Knyvetts and other local schools over a longer distance. I was also assured that the vehicles used were 29 seaters and this is definitely incorrect.”

Nick Healey, SCC Highways Area Team Manager (NE), will give the following answer:

“As Highway Authority Surrey County Council has no powers to instruct the operator of a bus or coach to use a particular route. The only way to prevent the use of a particular route by buses or coaches would be to introduce a Traffic Regulation Order to prevent routes being used. Officers are not aware of any technical justification to introduce such a restriction in this case. As Highway Authority our primary function is to maintain the Highway safe for public use, for passing and re-passing. Therefore if on street parking is

making it difficult for coaches to pass and re-pass, we may need to consider the removal of the on street parking.”

4. Mr John Seaman will ask the following question:

"Statements made by County Councillor John Furey about waste disposal and the proposed Eco Park at Charlton Lane, Shepperton which were published in the Surrey Herald on 15 May 2014 included *'The Eco Park will take out all the landfill waste in the three surrounding boroughs of Elmbridge, Runnymede and Spelthorne'*.

How much waste from these three boroughs is currently sent to landfill either directly or indirectly as rejected material, bottom ash and air pollution control residue?

If the Eco Park is built and operated successfully how much waste from these three boroughs will sent to landfill either directly or indirectly as rejected material, bottom ash and air pollution control residue?"

Richard Parkinson, SCC Waste Group Manager, will give the following answer:

"In 2013/14 we estimate that approximately 16% (10, 762T) of the **residual** municipal waste produced by Spelthorne, Runnymede and Elmbridge was landfilled. When we add land filled bottom ash from the energy recovery process (3,466T), this percentage rises to 22%. We do not have a figure for the amount of air pollution control residue (APCR) produced but this is typically 3-4% of the total waste sent for incineration so would be around 1900 tonnes per year.

The proposed gasifier at the Eco Park will deal with approximately 55,500 tonnes of waste from Spelthorne, Elmbridge and Runnymede each year.

Of this 55,000 tonnes, approximately 11,000 tonnes per year of materials including metals and other non-combustible or oversized materials will be removed at the pre-processing stage.

The remaining 45,500 tonnes of material will be gasified and this will produce 6300 tonnes of bottom ash and an estimated 1600 tonnes per year of APCR.

It would be SITA's intention to source recycling or recovery markets for as much as possible of the pre-processing residue, bottom ash and APCR, with the aim of avoiding any landfill.”

This page is intentionally left blank

Abellio Surrey

301 Camberwell New Road
London, SE5 0TF
tel: +44 (0)20 7788 8550
fax: +44 (0)20 7788 8593
www.abellio.co.uk

Mr Richard Walsh
Chairman
SCC Local Committee (Spelthorne)
Council Offices
West Entrance
Knowle Green
Staines
TW18 1XA

29th April 2014

Dear Mr Walsh

Bus Route 441 and Stanwell Moor Village

Thank you for your letter of 10th April 2014 in relation to the changes to Abellio Surrey bus services which have affected residents in Stanwell Moor.

The changes were introduced in order to significantly improve the reliability and sustainability of our bus services in Surrey and are part of a widespread package of improvements we are introducing to improve bus services for residents of Surrey, which includes half price travel for all under 20s, free wifi, real-time passenger information on mobile phones, tablets and other such devices, 'next stop' announcements, upgraded vehicles and improved ticketing options.

We spent a long time planning these changes and considered many options as part of this process, including discussions with key stakeholders such as Surrey County Council and Bus Users UK. The reason that we have needed to make the changes on route 441 is that buses on this route require more time to complete their journey than was previously allowed in the timetable, due to increasing volumes of traffic. As a result, the route was becoming unreliable and we needed to take action to ensure the buses run on time as required in our obligations to the Traffic Commissioner.

We made details of our proposed changes public in late January via the web, road shows and posters on the buses and asked for comments to be submitted in respect of these. I am sorry to note that the residents of Stanwell Moor felt they were not made aware of these change but, although we were only able to offer a short period of consultation, we did receive a number of comments from residents of the village.

We considered a wide array of options in order to allow the route to carry on serving the village but, in order to leave the route unchanged, we would have needed to invest in an additional bus to operate the service. This would have amounted to an investment of more than £100,000 each year, which could not be sustained through increased revenue. Whilst the route was used from the village, the levels were relatively low and we therefore looked at other ways we could continue to serve it whilst providing 441 with the time it needs to undertake its journey.

As a result, we took the decision to divert route 441 away from the village and I am very sorry that we are not able to offer an option whereby it would continue to service Stanwell Moor. The change was a difficult decision for us to make and in order to ensure that Stanwell Moor retained a bus service, route 557 was diverted to serve the village and then continue to Heathrow Terminal 5. Whilst we accept this is a reduced level of service compared to the 441, the route will provide links to Heathrow and Ashford. Routes 590 and 591 continue to provide a service between Stanwell Moor and Staines.

We also discussed the impact of the changes with Heathrow Airport and I am pleased to confirm that the Heathrow free fares zone will be extended out to Stanwell Moor village from 1st May, meaning that residents will be able to travel between Heathrow Airport and the village at no cost on both the 557 and 441.

The overall changes to the network were needed to ensure that we can deliver a reliable bus network for all our customers and firmly believe the alterations made will deliver this. We also believe that the revisions will strengthen our network of services and improve patronage to provide a strong backbone of routes. It is hoped that this will allow us to further develop services and improve frequencies in future at a reduced level of taxpayer subsidy as compared to that currently required to support bus services in Surrey.

We will closely monitor the changes but, as things stand, we do not see a position whereby we could sustainably restore the 441 to Stanwell Moor Village.

With regard to the safety point you make in respect of crossing the dual carriageway and having suitable facilities for waiting, I would thoroughly agree with your proposal and trust that you will be able to influence internal SCC sources to get the appropriate infrastructure in place as a matter of urgency.

I hope that the above provides some further insight into our reasons for the changes and if you would like any further information, please contact me.

Yours sincerely



Tony Wilson
Managing Director