

DRAFT

Minutes of the meeting of the
Surrey HEATH LOCAL COMMITTEE
held at 6.00 pm on 2 July 2015
at St Marys Church, Park Road, Camberley, GU15 2SR.

Surrey County Council Members:

- * Mr David Ivison (Chairman)
- * Mr Chris Pitt (Vice-Chairman)
- * Mr Mike Goodman
- * Mr Bill Chapman
- * Mr Adrian Page
- * Mr Denis Fuller

Borough / District Members:

- * Cllr Vivienne Chapman
- * Cllr Rodney Bates
- * Cllr Valerie White
- Cllr Josephine Hawkins
- * Cllr Paul Ilnicki
- * Cllr Rebecca Jennings-Evans

* In attendance

16/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

Apologies were received from Cllr Josephine Hawkins. Cllr Rebecca Jennings-Evans sent apologies that she could not make the start of the meeting, but joined later.

17/15 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING [Item 2]

The minutes of the last meeting held on 12 March 2015 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

18/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

Cllr Rodney Bates declared an interest under agenda item 8 regarding Berkshire Road, as he lives on that road.

19/15 WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 4]

There was one written public question from Carl Crease regarding the highway safety situation at Pine Ridge School. The question is attached to the minutes as Annex B and was discussed under agenda item 6b (Petition Response, Pine Ridge School).

20/15 WRITTEN MEMBERS QUESTIONS [Item 5]

There were no written member questions.

21/15 PETITIONS [Item 6]

An additional petition was received at the meeting. The hand written petition containing 120 signatures was presented by Hester Clark from Bisley Parish Council.

The petition states “We, the undersigned, petition Surrey County Council to reduce the speed limit from 40 MPH to 30 MPH on the A322 from the Gordons School roundabout to the Knaphill traffic lights through Bisley and West End. Bisley Parish Council, who are sponsoring this petition, consider this measure will contribute to greater road safety and reduce the risk of death and serious injury to pedestrians and others who travel on or who have to cross this increasingly busy road.”

Although this was mentioned under agenda item 6e (speed limit reduction at West End) it was noted that a full response would be given at the next meeting.

22/15 PETITION RESPONSE - REMOVE THE BUS LANE IN LONDON ROAD, CAMBERLEY [Item 6a]

The Chair stated that a public meeting was being set by himself and Cllr Denis Fuller, together with the Camberley Society to gather public views on the A30 and the Bus Lane. This would be held on Tuesday 21 July at the Camberley Theatre at 7.30pm. Although this was not a meeting organised by the Local Committee, he welcomed all Councillors and public present to attend and give their views.

It was noted that the report be deferred.

23/15 PETITION RESPONSE - PINE RIDGE SCHOOL [Item 6b]

Concern has been expressed over the safety of children arriving and leaving Pine Ridge infant School. The Chair took some public questions under this agenda item.

Question from Terry Beaumont. Local Resident, Old Dean Estate.

Terry Beaumont gave apologies from Jon Williams, who presented the original petition to the Committee. He stated that the report missed the points raised in the petition in that the closure of the school gate had caused extensive problems for the local residents and had created substantial problems on the Highway. He further asked whether a traffic counter had been fitted onto Mitcham Road, where the children now had to cross a busy estate road and bus route.

Carl Crease read out his written question on Pine Ridge and asked for Councillors and Officers to consider the following points:-

- The report refers to two accidents along Mitcham Road in the past ten years. However, this equated to one accident in 9 years prior to the

changes and one accident in the two years since the gates were closed, which would suggest a possible escalation.

- The closure of the school gate now results in a private access road being used by parents and children to enter the school. The private access road contains 5 private residential garages and parking bays, which cannot now be used safely by the residents during school opening and closing times.
- The report refers to improvements to signage etc costing £3,000 of public highways funds. Why is the school not being required to re-open their school gates and therefore save this public money?
- Why has there, to date, been no public consultation on these changes and why have the views and opinions of the local residents, many of whom have been adversely affected by this decision, not been included in the report?

Duncan Knox, Road Safety Team, thanked the petitioners for highlighting their concerns. He advised that a traffic counter had been installed, but that this had to be attached to street furniture, hence its location for the assessment.

He further added that the accident data only included casualties, not near misses and that only 1 recorded incident since the changes did not give a pattern or necessarily indicate an escalation, but accepted that residents concerns over this needed to be addressed.

He stated that the new Head of the School could not attend the meeting, but was committed to improving road safety training and sustainable travel. The gate closure had been discussed with the school, but that they were clear that there were safety issues and insufficient space within the school site to enable re-opening of the gates. Officers were unable to observe this themselves. The parking / access road should not be blocked and keep clear signage may help with this.

Andrew Milne, Area Highways Manager (NW) noted that that, with hindsight, the school should have discussed the changes with the local residents affected. He added that he was not convinced that the changes had improved safety on the Highway, but that even if he disagreed with the school over their actions, he was not in a position to force them to change. He further noted that although the potential negative impact on the highways did involve spending public money, the sum of £3,000 was a relatively small sum.

Local Councillors Bill Chapman and Rodney Bates noted that it had taken time to get a report prepared but thanked Officers, who had worked hard, for their efforts. Both Councillors welcomed the fact that the relationship between the school and residents had improved and both were happy to help build on this further. Cllr Chapman stated that he would look again at getting white lines for residents access points and also that he would be happy to fund school travel policies.

The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) agreed:

- (i) That Pine Ridge Infant School undertake additional school travel plan and road safety education activities including Park SMART, "Pedals" cycle/ scooter training, the Teaching Assistant Pedestrian Awareness

course, a Walking Bus and the “Golden Boot Challenge”. The school has begun implementing these activities, supported by the County’s Sustainable Travel Team.

- (ii) That the Headteacher reopen the combined vehicle and pedestrian entrance on Esher Road at lunch times for use by parents of children attending the nursery, on a trial basis.
- (iii) To include the suggestion for mandatory School Keep Clear markings on Mitcham Road within the annual Surrey Heath parking review.
- (iv) To include the suggestion for improved dropped kerb crossing points described within this report within their forward programme of highway improvements. The committee will then be able to decide whether to allocate funding depending upon prioritisation against other schemes in Surrey Heath.

24/15 PETITION RESPONSE - KINGSTON ROAD CROSSING, OLD DEAN ESTATE [Item 6c]

The Committee received a response report to a petition received at the Local Area Committee in March 2015. The petition requested a review of the traffic calming measures on Kingston Road, Old Dean and introduction of a Zebra crossing.

It was noted that Officers would continue to work with the school and that the chicane and crossing point would continue to be looked at. Local Cllrs Bill Chapman and Rodney Bates noted that there had been problems with the traffic lights at the A30/Caesars Road junction, which had delayed work on monitoring the area. Both Councillors noted that the chicane had been raised as an issue by residents and wanted to gather further residents views on this.

It was agreed that this issue would be brought back to the December Committee.

The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) noted:

- (i) The formal assessment of the benefits of removing the priority give way points and introduction of a controlled crossing has been delayed due to non-typical traffic flow outside the school prior to providing a response to the report.
- (ii) That as the purpose of the features had been to reduce the number of personal injury collisions and data showed it to have worked, removal of the features had to be carefully assessed to avoid the possibility increasing the number of collisions at the site.
- (iii) The location had been added to the safety outside schools assessments. Given the time in the school year, the assessment is likely to happen in the first term of the new academic year **(Sept 2015)**.

25/15 PETITION RESPONSE - KEEP BAGSHOT MOVING [Item 6d]

The Committee received a report in response to a petition received by the Local Area Committee in March 2015. The petition requested a yellow hatched box at the signalised junction between London Road (A30) and Station Road, Bagshot.

Local Councillors Mike Goodman and Valerie White noted that this issue had been raised two years ago and remained a problem. Yellow hatching may still be required regardless of the signalling work and this would be a priority for Members if the signalling did not resolve the issue.

The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) noted that:

- (i) Congestion along the A30 was currently viewed to be as a result of an issue with the traffic signals at the junction with Yaverland Drive and Waters Way.
- (ii) Improvements to the two sets of signals was planned by Surrey County Council's Traffic Signals Team in October 2015.
- (iii) After improvements to the junctions **and traffic signals**, the situation would be reassessed to determine whether a yellow box was necessary.

26/15 PETITION RESPONSE - SPEED LIMIT & CROSSING ON THE A322 AT WEST END [Item 6e]

The Committee received a report in response to a petition received at the Local Area Committee in March 2015. The petition requested a 30mph speed limit along the A322 and pedestrian facilities at the junction with Brentmoor Road.

The petitioner was unable to attend the meeting, but submitted a written response to the tabled report which is attached to the minutes as Annex 6e.

Councillors were pleased to note that the crossing points were being looked at through the Borough wide signals update scheme, however, it was felt that the report recommendation on the speed limit reduction was inconclusive and had not addressed the problem. Councillors noted that the speed limit was 30mph at Brookwood and some of the Committee felt that it should be 30mph along the entire stretch of the A322 as raised by Bisley Parish Council in their petition presented earlier in the evening.

Andrew Milne, Area Highways Manager (NW) clarified that the report did not make a firm recommendation as Highways Officers had not yet carried out a full review under the County Council's speed policy. The policy required up to date speed data and officers would meet with the local Member and petitioner to review the speed with Surrey Police (This partnership approach is essential as the Police would have to enforce any new speed limit). The needs of residents would need to be balanced with the needs of road users as this was an "A" road and a consistent approach would be required.

The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) noted that **a further report would be brought to the next meeting.**

27/15 PETITIONS RECEIVED [Item 7]

28/15 RECEIVE PETITION - STURT ROAD BRIDGE [Item 7a]

The Committee received a report in response to petition received. The petition requested the County Council to seek a permanent resolution to flooding under Sturt Road Railway Bridge (B3411).

The petitioner, Mr Cliff Hilton thanked Surrey County Council, Surrey Heath Borough Council and Councillor Chris Pitt for pursuing Thames Water and Network Rail and for ultimately gaining a solution to the flooding. Although the situation had been resolved, the petitioner was keen to know whether the situation was permanent and whether a planned preventative maintenance programme had been put in place.

Surrey Highways has been working closely with Network Rail and Thames Water, and this matter has now been resolved. It was noted that Surrey County Council could not guarantee that Network Rail would continue to provide a permanent solution, but could press them not to allow this to occur again.

The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) noted the report.

29/15 RECEIVE PETITION - WATERERS WAY, BAGSHOT [Item 7b]

The Committee received a report in response to a petition. The petition requested the linking of signals on the A30, the junctions with Waterers Way and Yaverland Drive.

The petitioner welcomed the fact that the signals team would be reviewing the lights but asked that Highway Officers conduct on-site visits at peak times, after the Waitrose store had opened.

It was also noted that that A30 would be undergoing works once again for the installation of fibre optic cables. It was regretted that this followed so soon after the previous work, but was out of the hands of the County Council.

The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) noted:

- (i) That improvements to the two sets of signals is planned by Surrey County Council's Traffic Signals Team.
- (ii) Improvements are currently expected to be implemented in October **2015, if not sooner**, with adjustments to the timings soon after to improve junction efficiency.

30/15 RECEIVE PETITION - IMPLEMENT SAFETY MEASURES TO MIDDLETON ROAD / UPPER PARK ROAD BRIDGE FOR ALL ROAD USERS [Item 7c]

The Committee received a report in response to a petition. The petition requested highway improvements to resolve safety concerns on the Middleton Road / Upper Park Road Bridge.

The petitioner, David Oakley highlighted the safety concerns and the danger factors and the fact that traffic over the bridge had increased with local planning decisions. The petitioner encouraged creative thinking and small improvements and would be happy to meet with Officers on site over these.

Members welcomed the petition but were disappointed with the report and felt that further traffic studies were required, possibly with costed solutions. It was noted that it would be difficult to do much due to the bridge ownership.

The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) noted that:

- (i) **A further traffic study be implemented with a further report to the Committee.**
- (ii) Maintenance work will be undertaken to address overgrown vegetation on the approaches to the bridge.

31/15 HIGHWAYS UPDATE REPORT - ANDREW MILNE [Item 8]

The Committee received a Highways update report which made recommendations to enable progression of all highway related schemes and works.

The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) agreed to:

- (i) Note the progress with the ITS highways and developer funded schemes, and revenue funded works for the 2015/16 financial year.
- (ii) Note the budgetary position.
- (iii) Approve revisions to the 2015/16 capital works programme, **noting the change from Upper College Ride (included under Operation Horizon) to School Road.**
- (iv) Note that a further Highways Update will be brought to the next meeting of this Committee.

32/15 LIBRARIES HOURS CHANGES REPORT - ROSE WILSON [Item 9]

The Committee received a report on Library Opening Hours. Customer feedback, including from "lapsed user" surveys, shows that it was easier for residents to remember standardised hours across libraries. There was positive feedback after introducing standardisation at Group A and B libraries in 2008.

The library service review identified changes in the patterns of use in Group C community libraries. The recommended changes to opening hours reflect how local residents are now using these libraries.

The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) agreed to change the opening hours for Frimley Green and Lightwater libraries as set out in Annexe 2 and paragraphs 3 and 9 of this paper.

33/15 CYCLING STRATEGY - MARC WOODALL [Item 10]

The Committee received a presentation from County Council Officer Marc Woodall on the production of a cycling strategy for Surrey Heath.

David Chesneau, Local Resident, felt that current cycle paths were often inconvenient for cyclists due to their stop / start nature. He also noted that small potholes were not prioritised, but were often lethal for cyclists and that driver behaviour was off putting for some cyclists.

The Committee welcomed the introduction of a strategy and noted the presentation.

34/15 LOCAL COMMITTEE BUDGETS AND TASK GROUPS REPORT [Item 11]

The Committee received a report which contained an updated list of representatives on Task Groups, nominations to outside bodies and also updated members on the allocation of Community Safety funds.

The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) agreed:

- (i) The terms of reference for the Youth Task Group as set out in Annex A, and the membership of the task group as set out in paragraph 2.4.
- (ii) The terms of reference for the Major Projects Task Group as set out in Annex B and the membership of the task group as set out in paragraph 2.7.
- (iii) The terms of reference for the Local Cycling Plan Task Group as set out in Annex C and the membership of the task group as set out in paragraph 2.10.
- (iv) The nominations to outside bodies as set out in paragraph 2.12 of the report, **but with Cllr Mike Goodman as representative on the Surrey Heath Partnership.**
- (v) To agree that the community safety budget of £3,337 that has been delegated to the Local Committee, be transferred to the Surrey Heath Partnership for the purpose of addressing the criteria and monitoring requirements detailed in paragraphs 2.14 and 2.15 of the report; and that the Community Partnership Manager authorises its expenditure in accordance with the Local Committee's decision.

35/15 LOCAL COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS ALLOCATIONS FUNDING UPDATE [Item 12]

Surrey County Council Councillors receive funding to spend on local projects that help to promote social, economic or environmental well-being in the neighbourhoods and communities of Surrey. This funding is known as Members' Allocation.

For the financial year 2015/16 the County Council allocated £10,296 revenue funding to each County Councillor. The report provided an update on the projects that have been funded since April 2015 to date.

The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) noted:

- (i) The amounts that had been spent from the Members' Allocation budget, as set out in Annex 1 of the report.

36/15 FORWARD PLAN [Item 13]

The Committee received a report on the Forward Plan. The report is produced for each meeting of the Local Committee (Surrey Heath) so that members can review the forward plan. The reports that are currently anticipated would be received by the committee were outlined in paragraph 3.

The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) noted the forward plan.

Chairman