

Minutes of the meeting of the  
**Spelthorne LOCAL COMMITTEE**  
held at 6.30 pm on 7 December 2015  
at Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines-upon-Thames. TW18 1XB.

**Surrey County Council Members:**

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

**Borough / District Members:**

- \* Cllr Kevin Flurry
- \* Cllr Chris Frazer
- \* Cllr Ian Harvey
- \* Cllr Daxa Patel
- \* Cllr Joanne Sexton
- \* Cllr Richard Smith-Ainsley

\* In attendance

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**34/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]**

Apologies were received from Mr Daniel Jenkins and Councillor Chris Frazer.

**35/15 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING [Item 2]**

Minutes from the Local Committee held on 28 September 2015 were agreed and approved as an accurate record.

**36/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]**

There were no declarations of interest.

**37/15 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS [Item 4]**

Mrs Denise Saliagopoulos made the following announcements:

- 1) "You all know about the very sad death of Cllr Robert Watts, who was a much valued member of this committee. He was a very caring person and will be sorely missed. Please can we stand for a minute's silence."
- 2) "I will read a statement regarding the Youth item from the last local committee:

As requested by the Committee, Matthew Raleigh, Spelthorne Borough Lead for Services for Young People, enquired into the discrepancy in information provided about Shepperton Youth Centre's 2014/15 performance. This involved speaking to Services for Young People (SYP) commissioners of the service and Paul Wilkinson from the provider, Lifetrain. Paul Wilkinson has also met with Councillors Walsh and Leighton to discuss the issue.

Regrettably, it is not possible to provide revised data, or a revised report, for the period. The SYP data is reliant on the computer 'app' supplied to the provider to record their figures. This was the agreed means of collecting performance information from providers across the county and must remain the consistent measure. However, due to a technological issue at the centre, as well as issues of staff illness that affected recording, full data was not entered on the app.

Despite the report remaining unchanged, we feel it is important to advise Councillors, many of whom have a close relationship with staff at the Centre, that the 2014/15 figures are not a full reflection of the work that was done at the centre. Lifetrain will have a further meeting with Councillors Walsh and Leighton to advise the detail of the work that was not included in the returned figures.

We would assure the Committee that data recording processes for the 2015/16 period will be examined to ensure this issue does not reoccur.”

Mr Walsh said that the Youth Task Group would look at this matter in more detail, when it next meets.

3) “There is an update regarding the Staines Moor / Network Rail issue. The latest situation is that Network Rail has submitted an application to the Secretary of State for an extinguishment of the footpath. We wait to be consulted by the Secretary of State on the application.”

Mr Walsh requested that the Chairman writes to the Secretary of State and the local Member of Parliament to express the concerns of the Local Committee. Cllr Harvey reaffirmed the strength of feeling at the special Local Committee meeting on 23 April 2015 for the footpath to be re-opened and said that it was important for the views of the Committee and members of the public to be made clear. Mr Tim Evans requested that the Chairman asks for a response to contain timescales and that we should ask for replies as soon as possible.

James Painter, SCC Community Partnerships Team Manager, said that he would seek clarification from the SCC Head of the Countryside Access Team regarding what the Local Committee can do without prejudice.

### **38/15 PETITIONS & LETTERS OF REPRESENTATION [Item 5]**

Two petitions were received. The petitioners were both present at the meeting and they addressed the Committee for three minutes each.

One petition was from Abigail Macarty, a 10 year old primary school pupil from Spelthorne School, which contained 85 signatures and read:

“Improving the Safety Outside Our School.

Following the recent accident to Mrs Julie Porter, we would like to present this petition on behalf of the students and their families.

We strongly feel that some or all the following suggestions could be implemented to improve the safety outside the school:

- A Pelican/Zebra crossing
- More supervision on traffic control
- Bring back the drop off zone
- Yellow lines /Chevrons
- Rising bollards.”

Rebecca Harrison, SCC Sustainable School Travel Manager, said that she would be reviewing the safety policy outside the school and that she could arrange training for a temporary replacement school patrol person (‘lollipop’ person) while Mrs Porter recovers. SCC does not have a pool of volunteers for this work but would like to work with the school in partnership, to arrange cover.

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19:38 - The Chairman suspended the meeting for 4 minutes so that photos could be taken of the petitioners.

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One petition was from Sophie Sheppard which contained 135 signatures and read:

“Effectively maintain, pollard and make safe the trees and surrounding highway and pavements in Park Road Ashford”.

A petition response report regarding Park Road was presented by the Area Highways Manager, Nick Healey.

The Chairman thanked the petitioners and said that a response to Abigail Macarty’s petition would be presented at the Local Committee on Monday 14 March 2016.

#### **39/15 PETITION RESPONSE [Item 5a]**

Two petitions were received by the Local Committee on 28 September 2015 regarding Walton Lane. The petitions were responded to at that meeting by the Area Highways Manager. (See Item 8 in the Committee papers for 28 September 2015.)

#### **40/15 MEMBER QUESTION TIME [Item 6]**

No member questions were received for this meeting.

#### **41/15 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME [Item 7]**

A public written question was received on flooding from Mr Martin Cherrett. Mr Cherrett was not present at the meeting. The question and answer are set out in Annex 1 to these minutes.

#### **42/15 HIGHWAYS UPDATE (EXECUTIVE FUNCTION) [Item 8]**

The Area Highways Manager (NE), Nick Healey, presented the report.

It was confirmed that Surrey Police requested the raising of the speed limit. See Table 2 in the report regarding funding for this (from pooled capital).

The map at Annex C does not show schools in the area, which would be effected by a CPZ.

Cllr Harvey asked Mr Healey to review the work carried out on the footpath in Green Street (see Table 3), as he considers it unsatisfactory.

#### **The Local Committee (Spelthorne) resolved to AGREE to:**

- (i) To raise the speed limit in Charlton Lane, Shepperton, to 40mph between the railway bridge and New Road, keeping the existing 30mph speed limit between the railway bridge and the bypass, as shown in Annex B (paragraphs 2.7 to 2.10 refer).
- (ii) 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 confirmed their priorities by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 (paragraphs 2.24 and 2.25 refer).
- (iii) Authorise the Area Highway Manager in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and relevant Divisional Member(s) to undertake all necessary procedures to deliver the agreed programmes.

**Reason:** Recommendations are made to enable the 2016-17 Highways programmes funded by the Local Committee to be decided in good time to facilitate timely delivery of those programmes.

#### **43/15 ROAD SAFETY OUTSIDE SCHOOLS: ASHFORD C OF E PRIMARY (EXECUTIVE FUNCTION) [Item 9]**

Rebecca Harrison, SCC Sustainable School Travel Manager, presented the report.

Two schools have been trialled for reviewing road safety outside schools. The Committee welcomed the report and was keen to include other Spelthorne schools in such a study in the future. However, the small team is unable to review all schools in the foreseeable future as it has to cover all of Surrey. This report was about Ashford Park Primary School and Saxon Primary School will come in a report later in the year. Borough Councillor Joanne Sexton was consulted on the contents of this report.

There was discussion around what is funded by the School Expansion Scheme and what is funded by Surrey Highways. It was requested that information is provided to the Local Committee.

Mr Richard Walsh was very interested in the 'kiss and drop' scheme (see report paragraph 3.2) and would like to see how this idea could be expanded to other schools.

**The Local Committee (Spelthorne) resolved to AGREE to:**

- (i) To add the parking proposals presented within the report to the list for the next annual review of parking and waiting restrictions.
- (ii) To ask Spelthorne Borough Council to amend the entrance to the car park adjacent to the school, and also to mark formal parking spaces in the car park, as described within the report.

**Reasons:** These suggested parking measures and changes to the car park would help to reduce anti social parking and so would reduce risk of collisions and improve the road environment to encourage more walking and scooting to school. A successful increase in these modes would contribute to fewer car journeys and less motor vehicle congestion. The school travel plan and road safety education improvements would also help to improve road safety and reduce reliance on the car for the school journey.

**44/15 EARLY EDUCATION & CHILDCARE SERVICES & CHILDREN'S CENTRE SERVICES (SERVICE MONITORING & ISSUES OF LOCAL CONCERN) [Item 10]**

The Chairman welcomed Phil Osborne, SCC Head of Early Years and Childcare Service, who presented the report.

The report was for information only.

Mr Osborne said that he would raise the concerns of headteachers on children 'being ready for school' when they start in the Reception Year, with the Local Committee Education Action Group.

Mr Richard Walsh asked for an amendment to be noted in Table 10. Saxon Sure Start Children's Centre is in Shepperton, not Sunbury South (which does not exist; there is a Lower Sunbury, however).

The Committee requested that they receive further information on Spelthorne early education and childcare services, including Ofsted reports on children's centres, as it becomes available and invited Mr Osborne to attend a future meeting.

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9.30pm: Mr Robert Evans left the meeting.

**45/15 LOCAL COMMITTEE DECISION TRACKER [Item 11]**

The Chairman confirmed that she and Mr Daniel Jenkins had agreed to combine funding so that the Ashford Road Speed Assessment feasibility study could go ahead.

The Chairman requested that the Bowls Club parking issue (raised in the public question time at the start of the meeting) be added to the tracker.

Mr Walsh asked why the 'decision tracker' had not been moved up the agenda as this would be useful; for example, Highways officers would be present to answer queries. James Painter, SCC Community Partnership Team Manager, explained that some local committees elsewhere in Surrey had found that having the tracker item earlier in the meeting resulted in too much discussion before the main report appeared on the agenda.

#### **46/15 FORWARD PROGRAMME 2015/16 [Item 12]**

It was agreed that the following be added to the Forward Plan:

- Cycling Strategy for Spelthorne - information.
- Cycling signage in Spelthorne.

#### **47/15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING [Item 13]**

To be held on Monday 14 March 2016 at 6.30pm 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 6.30pm ended at 9.50pm.

Meeting ended at: 9.50 pm

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**Chairman**



**Minutes ANNEX 1:**

**SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN SPELTHORNE – 7 December 2015**

**AGENDA ITEM 6**

**MEMBER WRITTEN QUESTION TIME**

No member questions were received for this meeting.

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**AGENDA ITEM 7**

**PUBLIC WRITTEN QUESTION TIME**

**1. Mr Martin Cherrett will ask the following questions:**

“1. Does the Lead Local Flood Authority (Surrey County Council) still accept that it has a duty ‘for developing, maintaining and applying a strategy for local flood risk management’ relating to the Thames Water owned Staines Reservoir Aqueduct?”

2. In February 2014 the Environment Agency tried to implement the 2003 River Ash Protocol, the principal aim of which was to prevent floodwater passing down the Thames Water owned Staines Reservoir Aqueduct. They tried to implement this on the 8th, 9th and 10th February.

Only after 10pm on the 10th February were some residents in the affected areas in Staines warned by Police to evacuate their homes. The Lead Local Flood Authority (Surrey County Council) were not informed at all. The flooding of peoples homes started on the 11th February in the early hours of the morning.

Does the Lead Local Flood Authority agree that this situation should be avoided in the future?

3. Does the Lead Local Flood Authority agree that its ‘strategy for local flood risk management’ should include specific undertakings:

a. for the EA to also warn the Lead Local Flood Authority when they advise Thames Water that local water levels have risen to the level that they may trigger the implementation of the new protocol?

b. For Local County Councillors and Borough Councillors to be individually warned by the Lead Local Flood Authority that there is the imminent possibility of implementing the Protocol?

c. For there to be public announcements and information circulated on public social media that there is the imminent possibility of implementing the Protocol?

4. The Leader of Spelthorne Borough Council, the late Mr Robert Watts, several times told the Spelthorne Local Committee during 2014 that "any new protocol should be independently assessed by properly qualified independent engineers" before being approved by the County Council.

Has the Lead Local Flood Authority (Surrey County Council) taken any steps to implement this recommendation?

5. In April 2015, at the express invitation of Councillor Denise Saliagopoulos, I met Doug Hill, the lead officer responsible, to put forward the views of the River Ash Action Group with regard to the proposed new protocol.

Amongst the points raised we said that:

- There should be more background information in the new protocol, so that anyone trying to deal with a similar incident in 10 or 20 year time should be better informed about the history and potential dangers.

- There should be much greater clarity about the objectives of the new protocol 'to prevent floodwater passing down the Thames Water owned Staines Reservoir Aqueduct towards a main residential area of Staines upon Thames'.

- The roles and responsibilities of the different agencies involved should be more explicitly stated in the document.

Has any regard been placed on these considerations?"

**Mr John Furey, SCC Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Flooding, Surrey County Councillor - Addlestone, will give the following answer:**

"1. The County Council in its capacity as LLFA has a duty for developing, maintaining and applying a flood risk management strategy for Surrey. However, this does not and cannot apply to privately owned assets. As the Staines Reservoir Aqueduct is owned by Thames Water, Surrey County Council does not have a duty for developing a strategy for its management.

The County Council published a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) in December 2014 and this document is publicly available. There is no prescribed format or scope for a LFRMS beyond the legislative requirements contained in the Flood and Water Management Act. Therefore, it is down to the LLFA to determine the scope for its strategy. In Surrey, the LFRMS was developed in full consultation with the Surrey Flood Risk Partnership Board, meaning that it took the views of Districts, Boroughs, the Environment Agency and other partners into account. Surrey's LFRMS fully adheres to the relevant duties under the Flood and Water Management Act (2010).

2. The 'River Ash Protocol' is an operational agreement that is owned by Thames Water and the Environment Agency. As a result, the County Council is not in a position to answer any questions on this subject. We do agree that information sharing and effective communication are paramount during incidents of severe flooding and would expect to work closely with partner risk management authorities to help protect residents in such events.

3. Operational matters based on a protocol owned by other organisations are beyond the scope of the LLFA's flood risk management strategy. Specific actions around implementation and use of the protocol will be agreed between the Environment Agency and Thames Water, with input from the County Council.

4. As the protocol is not owned by the County Council, it is not responsible for deciding whether it is necessary or appropriate for the protocol to be independently assessed by properly qualified independent engineers.

5. As previously advised, the feedback you submitted to Doug Hill has been passed on to Thames Water. We have also been involved in discussions with Thames Water, the Environment Agency and Spelthorne to better understand how the protocol fits with other emergency plans such as Spelthorne's multi-agency flood plan and the EA's flood warning procedures. Thames Water and the Environment Agency have stated that the 'protocol' is an internal operating procedure and as such is not a public document. All future questions relating to the protocol should be addressed to Thames Water and the Environment Agency as the relevant risk management authorities. The County Council will not comment further on this matter."

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