

DRAFT

Minutes of the meeting of the
Waverley LOCAL COMMITTEE
held at 10.00 am on 24 March 2017
at Hale Institute, Wings Road, Farnham GU9 0HN.

Surrey County Council Members:

- * Mrs Pat Frost (Chairman)
- * Mr David Harmer
- * Mrs Nikki Barton
- * Mr Steve Cosser
- Ms Denise Le Gal
- * Mr Peter Martin
- Mr Alan Young
- * Mr Wyatt Ramsdale
- Mrs Victoria Young (Vice-Chairman)

Borough / District Members:

- Cllr Brian Adams
- * Cllr Carole Cockburn
- * Cllr Jerry Hyman
- * Cllr Denis Leigh
- Cllr Julia Potts
- Cllr David Round
- * Cllr Richard Seaborne
- * Cllr Val Henry
- Cllr Jeannette Stennett

* In attendance

55/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

The following apologies were received:

Ms Denise Le Gal
Mrs Victoria Young
Cllr David Round
Cllr Jeannette Stennett
Cllr Brian Adams

56/17 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING [Item 2]

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

57/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 4]

No declarations of interest were made

58/17 DECISION TRACKER [Item 3]

The items on the decision tracker were noted.

With reference to the item on parking: The chairman informed those in attendance that 4 additional parking enforcement officers would soon be in action in Waverley.

59/17 PETITION [Item 5]

No petitions had been received.

60/17 FORMAL PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 6]

Question 1: This was from Mr Hodgson and concerned the condition of the surface of the footpath from South Hill to Brighton Road in Godalming

The response from Highways was noted. Mr Hodgson expressed disappointment that the issue had not been made a priority.

Comments from the committee members also expressed that they did not think that Members' Allocations was a suitable funding vehicle for works of this nature and they would prefer that this was not recommended by Highways without prior agreement from the divisional member. Especially in the current financial climate where it is likely that member's allocations will be reduced in the coming year.

Question 2: Mr Hesse asked a question about road conditions in Surrey and in particular the condition of road signs and litter along the carriageway.

The response from Highways was noted and Mr Hesse was invited to provide any specific examples of signage that needed cleaning or replacing to the committee officer so that these could be considered.

The Principal Highways Maintenance Engineer confirmed that illuminated street furniture was not included in the 2015 survey and they are now addressing this. They will be prioritising mandatory signage (circular signage and any sign that is supported by a traffic order)

Committee members also mentioned that parish councils were getting more involved in maintaining the appearance of street furniture and this is an option that the parishes might want to consider.

Question 3: Ms McGrory submitted a question about safety at traffic crossings in Farnham.

Ms McGrory was unable to attend local committee. The response from Highways was noted.

61/17 MEMBER QUESTIONS [Item 7]

No member questions had been submitted

62/17 HIGHWAYS UPDATE (EXECUTIVE FUNCTION) [Item 8]

The Principal Highway Maintenance Engineer presented his report which highlighted projects that had been due to be completed by the end of the financial year.

The budget for the financial year 17/18 is currently being finalised and the result of this will not be known until April.

Committee members requested status updates on a number of the projects that were listed that had not yet been completed. The Highways Engineer noted these and will advise the appropriate divisional members accordingly.

It was noted that it was not yet possible to discuss plans for works that had been prioritised for next year and this had therefore not been included in the report. In the event that the funding allocated to the local committee is less than the £430,000 estimated budget set out in the December report, the local task groups will be asked to meet again to bring the programme within the available funding. Where appropriate, public consultation for individual improvements will be sought to allow residents to submit their views in order that the best solution can be implemented.

The committee requested that reports indicate which projects were being funded by Planning Infrastructure Contribution (PIC). This is a contribution made to local authorities by developers as a condition of their permission to build in a specific area. The reason for this request is that as local committee reports are put out into the public domain, this will allow residents to gain an appreciation of how this type of funding is being used in their area. A list of the PIC funding currently available was included with the December 2016 report. The Local Committee were reminded that this list included only items that were prioritised by the area task groups and that members were invited to discuss the task groups' selection with the chairman of the relevant local area task group.

The Local Committee resolved to:

- (i) Note progress of the 2016/17 programme of highway works funded by this committee and by developer contributions.

Reasons:

- i. The Local Committee established the Local Transport task group and 4 area task groups to prioritise the projects that made up the 2016/17 programme

63/17 SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL INTERNAL AUDIT TEAM (SERVICE MONITORING AND ITEMS OF LOCAL CONCERN [Item 9]

This item was deferred as the speaker was unable to attend due to family illness.

64/17 LOCAL COMMITTEE FORWARD PROGRAMME 2017-18 (SERVICE MONITORING AND ISSUES OF LOCAL CONCERN) [Item 10]

The committee was presented with the forward programme for items that will be included in future committees. Members requested that an item updating the committee on the cycling strategy across Waverley and the county was included in the programme.

Meeting ended at: 11:07

Chairman

Agenda item 5



LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)

PUBLIC QUESTION & RESPONSE 1

DATE: 24 March 2017

A question has been received from Mr Graham Hodgson,

The public path link between South Hill, Godalming and Brighton Road, has been in dire need of maintenance for many years. The wearing course had worn away over much of the surface area, and even the base course is being reduced by wear, rain, frost and root intrusion, and is often covered with piles of sodden leaves. The trip hazard is significant. The path is used by many commuters, visitors and residents, daily. Whilst it is lit, there are many parts which cannot be seen clearly at night.

This is a SCC responsibility, and should there be any personal damage, clearly SCC will be responsible as they have been warned about this by me through the earlier question over 3 months ago.

My question to the Committee is:

Please could you inform me how often this path is formally inspected; where does this path stand in the list of those requiring maintenance, and when works will be carried out to make it safe?

A report was considered by the Local Committee (Waverley) at its December meeting, regarding the 20% Horizon 2 programme. The 20% list in the Annex covers carriageways only, however the remaining 80% list covers all assets including pavements, structures, drainage, traffic signals, safety barriers, and embankments. This programme commences on the 1st April 2017, for a period of five years. Members were asked to determine the balancing 20% of the overall Horizon 2 list. This included a list of schemes prioritised by the Asset Planning team based upon a rigorous assessment of road condition, hierarchy, and risk. This footway is not currently on the Horizon 2 programme, and as such will continue to be maintained on a need basis. However there is always scope for locations to be amended on these lists.

Although this footway has been assessed and does have a high condition score for Footway Network Survey, It does not however currently meet the criteria for inclusion in Pavement Horizon.

As you are aware the complication of the location is such that this public footway resides immediately alongside a section of private road running from the Brighton Road to South Hill. The footway is formal inspected twice yearly, and will continue to be, and any defects which picked up under our safety defect regime, will then be repaired. It was inspected by the local Highway Officer in October last year, when no defects requiring intervention were found. Sweeping of leaves is a Borough function, and in that regard your comments have been passed to them for attention.

A separate scheme to resurface the footway could always be carried out outside of the Horizon 2 programme, funded by the County member, if he was minded that this formed a high enough priority within his division.

Agenda item 5



LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)

PUBLIC QUESTION & RESPONSE 2

DATE: 24 March 2017

A question has been received from Mr George Hesse:

Many residents of Surrey, myself included, are extremely concerned about the continuing deterioration of the condition of our roads.

- There are road signs that have fallen over.
- There are road signs falling apart.
- Many road signs are filthy never having been cleaned.
- Many signs have tree branches that have grown out partially obscuring them.
- Verges on main roads, particularly the A3 and A31 are full of rubbish and litter.

Road surfaces are in many places, sub-standard, patched badly, have subsiding inspection covers and are sometimes potholed. These conditions are damaging to cars and life threatening to Motorcyclists & Scooter riders.

I have been fobbed off by SCC Highways for months telling me work is programmed but which hasn't been done.

Our County looks utterly shabby because of this neglect. It does nothing to promote the beauty of Surrey to visitors and tourists. What are they going to see if they do visit? Surrey is dirtier, more littered and broken down than Istanbul, and towns throughout France & Germany, and even towns in Southern Portugal which are cleaner.

We all pay our road tax and deserve far better than this.

My question to the Committee is: **Can SCC Highways provide a genuine and realistic remedial programme of work to address these serious issues before our roads deteriorate further?**

Mr Hesse's attention is directed towards the 'Highways and Transport Asset Management Strategy June 2016' which is available on the SCC website (www.surreycc.gov.uk) and sets out in detail the County Council's approach to maintaining the highway network. The response below contains extracts from the strategy in italics.

Managing a highways network the size of Surrey is complex and challenging. As Highway Authority and Lead Local Flood Authority, we are responsible for assets with a gross replacement cost of £7.8 billion, including over 3,000 miles of roads, 1,800 bridges and structures and 3,262 miles of pavement. Most of the assets we look after are obvious to users (roads, pavements, bridges, tunnels, street lights and so on). However we also manage assets that are less visible, such as embankments and safety barriers. Few of our assets are in an 'as new' state and with a limited budget we have to prioritise our work to achieve best value

Carriageway Surfaces

We already have a proven track record of the application of sound asset management principles delivering value for money. In 2012 17% of Surrey's road network was in need of structural repair. We developed the innovative Horizon programme to reduce the length of the network in need of structural repair to 12% over 5 years by resurfacing around 10% of the worst condition roads. At the time that Horizon was conceived, annual programmes of work were the norm in the highways industry; working in partnership with our Highways contractor we recognised the benefits that a long term programme of works would bring. For example, contractors would be able to give discounts due to long term continuity of works and specialist programmes of work could be developed.

Horizon 2, a second five year carriageway surfacing programme up to 2021, will be launched this April and should result in a further reduction in the proportion of the network in need of structural repair.

SCC Highways also operate a reactive maintenance system, repairing potholes and other defects as they are reported either by residents or highways safety inspectors.

Traffic Signs

Surrey has responsibility for maintaining a wide range of signs throughout the county that includes everything from small signs to direct pedestrians through to large advance direction signs on the principal road network. Following a Survey conducted in 2015 We now hold inventory data for over 111,000 signs across the county with comprehensive coverage on all classifications of road the county The survey data has not been validated but we have an ongoing programme address this during the term of the LTP.

A basic condition assessment was conducted as part of the 2015 Survey, this shows that

2 % are in need of repair

10% are in a serviceable condition

88% are in a Good/ OK condition

We do not have a regular programme of sign replacement or cleaning. Currently signs are replaced on a purely ad-hoc basis when identified by inspections, following reports from the public or as the result of a Road Traffic Collision (RTC).

Litter

The borough and district councils are responsible for cleansing roads, as well as providing & maintaining litter bins on the public highway.

Note that both the A3 (part of the trunk road and motorway network which is maintained by Highways England) and A31 (maintained by SCC) are high speed roads. In the interest of safety litter picks are carried out under off-peak lane closures, which are organised twice each year by HE/SCC to cut grass verges and clear silt from road drainage systems. Given the very high volumes of traffic using these roads noticeable levels of litter can accumulate between picks.

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Agenda item 5



LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)

PUBLIC QUESTION & RESPONSE 3

DATE: 24 March 2017

A question has been submitted by Ms Jo McGrory

I write regarding traffic and safety in Farnham. There was recently an accident at the bottom of Sumner Road going onto Dogflud Way (towards the swimming pool). A child has reportedly been knocked down. It was only a matter of time. I walk everywhere in town with my three young children. There are several crossings in town that I find it is impossible to cross safely. The corners are blind, the cars are going too fast and it is very slow to cross with children and pushchairs.

They are:

1. The crossing across Dogflud Way towards the swimming pool.
2. The crossing from Gostrey Meadow to central car park.
3. The crossing from Fat Face to Argos.
4. The crossing from Hoops Velo into town (again Dogflud Way).
5. The crossing from Gostrey Meadow to the Maltings near the William Cobbett pub.
6. The crossing at Hinckley's corner

These are clearly indicated crossings but without the supported infrastructure to make them safe. They need traffic lights, pelican crossings, barriers, lower speed limits or other traffic calming methods.

My question to the Local Committee is: **Can the Local Committee review and improve these crossings and advise if and when Farnham may become a 20 mile zone town like Alton and Godalming?**

All requests for highway improvements are discussed and prioritised by the Farnham Task Group. This is one of the 4 groups established by the Local Committee to specifically consider highway improvements in their respective areas. The task group normally meets in the autumn to look at the following financial year's programme of highway works. In this case, we would be looking at 2017/18.

Pelican crossings can cost £150,000 each so their use is generally limited to areas of high pedestrian usage and where there has been incidences of pedestrian casualties' over a number of years. In this instance we can add the requests to the Farnham Task Group for discussion later in the year but the likelihood of success will depend on available budget.

A change in speed limit could also be considered at this time however, it is felt that this is unlikely to have an effect based on the current congestion which by its nature impedes the speed at which vehicles can travel through the town centre.

It is also worth considering that officers from the Transport Studies Team are currently looking at a proposal to pedestrianise the town centre which will contribute to the overall safety of visitors in the long term should this be implemented. A 20 mph speed limit could be incorporated as a result of this.

Surrey's current policy on setting speed limits is available on the website. The Committee Officer would be happy to supply a link on request.