

DRAFT

Minutes of the meeting of the
Woking JOINT COMMITTEE
held at 6.00 pm on 28 June 2017
at Woking Borough Council Civic Offices, Gloucester Square, Woking GU21
6YL.

Surrey County Council Members:

- * Ms Ayesha Azad
- * Mr Ben Carasco
- Mr Will Forster
- * Mr Saj Hussain
- * Mr Colin Kemp
- * Mr Richard Wilson
- Mrs Liz Bowes

Borough / District Members:

- Cllr John Bond
- * Cllr Deborah Hughes
- * Cllr Ann-Marie Barker
- * Cllr David Bittleston
- * Cllr Melanie Whitehand
- Cllr Beryl Hunwicks
- * Cllr Graham Chrystie

* In attendance

16/17 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN [Item 1]

The Committee elected Councillor David Bittleston as Chair – nominated by Councillor Colin Kemp and seconded by Councillor Graham Chrystie. .

17/17 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN [Item 2]

The Committee elected County Councillor Liz Bowes as Vice Chair – nominated by Councillor David Bittleston and seconded by Councillor Colin Kemp. .

18/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 3]

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Will Forster, Liz Bowes, John Bond and Beryl Hunwicks. Councillor Richard Wilson was late to join the meeting.

19/17 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING [Item 4]

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

20/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 5]

There were none.

21/17 PETITIONS [Item 6]

Two petitions were received and discussed:

- a) We the undersigned petition Woking Borough Council to take action to bring back overnight street lighting.

Mr Hugh Wicks spoke in support of the petition and raised the following points:

Residents want the streetlights back on and 462 signatures have been gathered. The consultation undertaken was short and there was little publicity on the issue. The last 6 months has seen an increase in burglary and car crime, with some occurring between midnight and 5am when the lights are switched off. Residents feel they have a midnight curfew and that their quality of life has been reduced. We wrote to the Chief Executive and have now presented a petition as we want lights back on in Byfleet.

It was noted that this petition was tabled for the joint committee to discuss, however, since then, Surrey County Council will allow Borough and District Councils to switch their lights back on across their areas – if they meet the cost of this. This petition will therefore be referred to the Borough Council for decision, but the Borough would like the views of Joint Committee members.

Joint Committee members raised the following points:

The County Council switch off policy is not blanket across the whole of the Borough and lights stay on at major roads or well used areas. Surrey County Council can review individual areas and switching on of lights will be considered when referred by the Surrey Police for crime or safety reasons. If the Borough Council did want to go ahead and pay for lighting after midnight, this would need to be across the whole Borough for a 5 year period. Some residents prefer the switch off as it is better for the planet and reduces light pollution, however, some residents that worked nights / shifts had genuine concerns over safety. The Police Officer present confirmed that Byfleet burglaries have increased during the daytime, but not after midnight.

It was noted that Joint Committee members were not asked to vote on this issue, but gave views that a local approach and review was much better than a borough wide switch on at an enormous cost commitment.

- b) Given the planned extensive work to increase access to the Hoe Valley, We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to urgently implement a 20mph speed limit and HGV restriction on the most dangerous section of White Rose Lane and commit to completing a footpath along its entire route as soon as practicable.

Mr Mike Kelly spoke in support of the petition and raised the following points: White Rose Lane is used to access 2 schools and an area of land for a wetland amenity park. The lane has blind bends and cars have to swerve around pedestrians. Pedestrians are hemmed in with no refuges. Until we have a footpath, we need a speed reduction to 20mph which will only involve a few signs as we already have speed bumps and islands.

Joint Committee members raised the following points:

The speed limit on this lane was discussed by the Committee in 2014. Members supported resident concerns and the points raised in the petition, but noted that accident statistics (2 recorded) did not detail speed as a factor. Although a footpath or boardwalk was the ideal, this would be very difficult to achieve due to the width of the road and could involve loss of front gardens which was previously opposed by residents. Some members felt that the report did not account for changing circumstances with developments, more traffic, more parking and traffic cutting through the area. There was strong support for a boardwalk as part of the Hoe Valley flood alleviation scheme and some Members felt that the focus should be on that rather than an interim speed limit that might not prove to be effective. It was felt that HGV access was not excessive in the area and any restrictions would impede deliveries to local homes.

The Chair summarised that it had been a long and good debate and that while the petition covered two areas, an HGV limit would not be appropriate and a 20mph zone needed further investigation.

RESOLVED

That a further report be brought to the Joint Committee on how a 20mph zone could be achieved within the current SCC Speed Policy, together with associated costs of any scheme.

22/17 WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 7]

Three public questions were received and tabled. A copy of the questions and answers are annexed to these minutes.

23/17 WRITTEN MEMBER QUESTIONS [Item 8]

One member question was received and tabled. A copy of the question and answer is annexed to these minutes.

24/17 SURREY FIRE AND RESCUE ANNUAL REPORT (SERVICE MONITORING AND ISSUES OF LOCAL CONCERN) [Item 9]

Paula Hartwell, Borough Commander for Woking presented the annual report for 2016-17 which outlined the initial results from a co-responding trial with the South East Coast Ambulance service. The presentation also covered the successful Youth Engagement Scheme which made a big difference to young people, their families and those who interact with them.

The Grenfell tower fire was also discussed in terms of reassurance to those living locally in high rise buildings. Surrey Fire and Rescue Service has written to every building over 6 floors and had commenced reassurance visits looking at appliance access, fixed installations and precautions and had provided advice to owners and occupiers. Members gave special thanks to crews from Leatherhead who attended the incident.

Woking Joint Committee recognised the achievements of Surrey Fire and Rescue Service teams both within Woking and across the County this year and supported their commitment to further identifying and improving initiatives

to reduce risk and make Woking Borough safer especially for those more vulnerable within the Community.

25/17 HIGHWAYS UPDATE (EXECUTIVE FUNCTION) [Item 10]

The Area Highways Manager introduced the report which updated the Committee on highways schemes within the borough. The report detailed the funding position for 2017/18, with a capital budget of £36,363 for the year, plus any parking surplus and a revenue budget of £40,909. It was noted that potholes would continue to be dealt with by Kier under the safety defects contract and that Project Horizon, which covered major road resurfacing schemes, would continue.

RESOLVED

Woking Joint Committee agreed to:

- (i) Note the progress with ITS highways and developer funded schemes and revenue funded works for the 2016/17 financial year.
- (ii) Note the budgetary position.
- (iii) Approve the advertising and removal of a redundant disabled parking bay in Cheniston Close, West Byfleet as set out in plan 20050 rev E.
- (iv) Note that a further Highways Update will be brought to the next meeting of this Committee.

26/17 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS FOR THE WOKING TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE (EXECUTIVE FUNCTION) [Item 11]

The Town Centre Project Manager presented a report on the various traffic regulation orders (TRO's) needed to support improved transport access to Woking town centre as part of the ongoing improvements. This included a change of speed limit on Victoria Way from 40mph to 30mph. Members heard from the Area Highways Manager who raised concerns that the proposal did not fit within the County Council Speed Reduction Policy.

Members raised the following points:

There are 6 sets of traffic lights on the stretch of road being considered for a 30mph limit, so it is likely that 40mph can only be achieved at very quiet times of the day. There are other areas i.e. the A320 past Hoe Valley School which are 40mph, so this would suggest inconsistency within the town. This was part of an investment of £23.5 million to include pedestrians and cyclists with new access to stores and facilities across Victoria Way, hence the speed reduction to reshape and create a slower environment.

RESOLVED

Woking Joint Committee agreed to:

- i. Note the results of the advertising of the TRO's and the update from the previous March 2017 report.

- ii. Authorise the advertising of the Traffic Regulation Order for the creation of a 30mph speed limit along Victoria Way between the junction with Church Street West (the start of the existing southbound 30mph speed limit) to Chertsey Road, to include revoking of the existing speed limit of 40mph; 40mph (**NB – Step 6 of the SCC Speed Limit Policy states that if the Committee disagree with with recommendations presented to them by the Highways Manager and wish to proceed with an alternative option, then the issue must be submitted for decision by the Cabinet Member responsible for road safety**).
- iii. Authorise the Surrey County Council Area Highways Manager, in consultation with the Woking Town Centre Project Manager and the Chairman and Vice Chairman, to advertise the appropriate legal notices in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will be to implement the proposed changes and revoke any existing traffic orders, as necessary;
- iv. Agree that the Surrey County Council Area Highways Manager, in consultation with the Woking Town Centre Project Manager and the Chairman and Vice Chairman, resolve any objections received in connection with the proposals, and implement subject to no irresolvable objections.

27/17 SURREY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (FOR INFORMATION) [Item 12]

The Joint Committee received a presentation from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey, which outlined his plans and priorities for the forthcoming year.

28/17 COMMUNITY SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT (EXECUTIVE FUNCTION) [Item 13]

The Committee received a report which provided an update on the activity and impact of the Safer Woking Partnership in the year 2016/17 and a report on budget spend. The Joint Committee also has a delegated budget of £3,000 for community safety projects, and the report recommended that the Community Safety Task Group considers the use of this budget.

RESOLVED

The Woking Joint Committee agreed to:

- (i) Note the contents of the report and the progress made in 2016/17.
- (ii) Note the budget spend during 2016/17 (Annex 2)
- (iii) Note the 2017/20 Safer Woking Partnership Plan (Annex 3)
- (iv) Agree to delegate responsibility for signing off the 2018/21 Safer Woking Partnership Plan to the Woking Borough Council Strategic Director (Sue Barham) in consultation with the Community Safety Task Group.
- (v) The Community Safety Task Group considers the allocation of the £3,000 delegated Community Safety budget for 2017/18 on behalf of the Joint Committee.
- (vi) Authority is delegated to the SCC Community Partnership Manager, in consultation with the Chairman of the Community Safety Task Group

to authorise the expenditure in line with the recommendations of the Community Safety Task Group.

- (vii) The Committee receives information on the projects awarded the local community safety funding and the outcomes and impact they have achieved as part of the regular quarterly updates.

29/17 JOINT COMMITTEE TASK GROUPS (EXECUTIVE FUNCTION) [Item 14]

The Joint Committee received a report outlining the proposed Task Groups for the forthcoming year. The Task Groups will enable the Joint Committee to carry out its functions in an efficient and expedient manner.

RESOLVED

Working Joint Committee agreed to:

- (i) The terms of reference for the following (as set out in Annex 1):
 - a. Health and Wellbeing Task Group
 - b. Community Safety Task Group
 - c. Parking Task Group
 - d. Infrastructure Working Group

- (ii) The County Councillor and Borough Councillor appointments to the following:
 - a. Health and Wellbeing Task Group (up to 2 County and 2 Borough)
 - b. Community Safety Task Group (up to 2 County and 2 Borough)
 - c. Parking Task Group (up to 2 County and 2 Borough plus Chairman and Vice Chairman)
 - d. Infrastructure Working Group (One County, One Borough)
 - e. Early Help Advisory Group (2 councillors)

30/17 FORWARD PROGRAMME (FOR INFORMATION) [Item 15]

The Joint Committee received a report on forthcoming meetings and items scheduled. The report was produced so that members can review the forward programme, and the reports that are currently anticipated to be received at future meetings.

RESOLVED

Working Joint Committee noted the forward programme.

31/17 DECISION TRACKER (FOR INFORMATION) [Item 16]

The Joint Committee noted the Decision Tracker.

Meeting ended at: 9.29 pm

Chairman