

Minutes of the meeting of the
Spelthorne JOINT COMMITTEE
held at 6.30 pm on 13 March 2019
at Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines-upon-Thames. TW18 1XB.

These minutes are subject to confirmation by the Committee at its next meeting.

Surrey County Council Members:

- Mr Richard Walsh (Chairman)
- * Mr Robert Evans
- * Mr Tim Evans
- Mr Naz Islam
- * Miss Alison Griffiths
- * Mrs Sinead Mooney
- * Ms Denise Turner-Stewart

Borough / District Members:

- * Cllr Ian Beardsmore
- * Cllr Ian Harvey (Vice-Chairman)
- * Cllr Maureen Attewell
- Cllr Quentin Edgington
- * Cllr Alfred Friday
- * Cllr Richard Smith-Ainsley
- * Cllr Howard Williams

* In attendance

Open Forum Questions

Questions and responses from the informal open forum session are attached as an Annex to the minutes.

59/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

Apologies were received from Mr Richard Walsh and Mr Naz Islam.

60/18 MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING [Item 2]

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2018 were approved as a correct record.

61/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

There were no declarations of interest.

62/18 PETITIONS & PETITION RESPONSES [Item 4]

No petitions were received.

63/18 WRITTEN MEMBER QUESTIONS [Item 5]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Nick Healey, Area Highway Manager.

Petitions, Public Questions, Statements: None.

Member Discussion – key points:

Two questions were received from Cllr Sider BEM; the questions and responses are included in the agenda papers for the meeting.

Cllr Sider expressed his dissatisfaction with the officer response to the question regarding vegetation overgrowing the shared pedestrian and cyclist route on Walton Lane. The Divisional Member for Sunbury Common & Ashford Common indicated that she would speak directly to Cllr Sider having had a conversation with the Cabinet Member.

64/18 WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 6]

No questions were received.

65/18 DECISION TRACKER (FOR INFORMATION) [Item 7]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Gregory Yeoman, Partnership Committee Officer

Petitions, Public Questions, Statements: None.

Member Discussion – key points:

The decision tracker was reviewed by the committee and the updates were noted.

The Divisional Member for Sunbury Common & Ashford Common asked for the amount of her highways allocation showing as a contribution to the feasibility study on Chertsey Road to be corrected.

66/18 SURREY FOSTERING SERVICE UPDATE (FOR INFORMATION) [Item 8]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Francesca Magnavacca, Fostering & Adoption Recruitment and Marketing Officer, and Mariana Bracho, Fostering Recruitment Officer for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

Petitions, Public Questions, Statements: None.

The officers presented their report. Across the county there were approximately 500 children in foster care, and between 300 and 350 foster carers. With a growing need for more fostering families, they stated that they wanted to work more closely with boroughs and explore the responsibilities that councillors have in this area of work. They noted that it was also important to engage more closely with residents, so they consider fostering.

Events were needed to promote awareness of the opportunities to foster, and of the benefits as well. Members were invited to be involved in this, particularly in the role of co-hosts of the events.

Member Discussion – key points:

The borough portfolio holder for Community Wellbeing stressed the seriousness with which the borough takes the subject of fostering and corporate parenting. Discussions are being held with leisure centres to provide free swimming and discounts on other services to Looked After Children, and the SCC Cabinet member for Children, Young People and Families and the Director of Children, Families and Learning are being kept up to date with the situation in Spelthorne.

Apart from the additional cost involved in locating children from Surrey with foster carers outside the county, the emotional and relationship issues that this can create were noted as children are removed from their peer group and other family members. By recruiting more foster carers the aim was to place children in welcoming homes in the county; in Surrey the conversion rate from those residents who showed an interest to actually applying to become a foster carer was 15% - above the national average. There were a number of misconceptions about becoming a foster carer, and the officers were keen to show what the real situation is in order to encourage more enquiries and interest. With the number of applicants currently working their way through the six-month process it was felt that 2019/20 would produce a good number of new carers.

Surrey has the third-highest number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, after Kent and Croydon. These represent a very specific group (mostly male, 13-18 years old) and bring their own issues, particularly language barriers. The reason the numbers are high is that the individuals are often picked up by police at Cobham or Clacket Lane services on the M25, and they are handed over to the local authority to be looked after. There is a slight downward trend in the numbers, year on year, but there is also a smaller number of people offering to foster this particular group.

While there was a suggestion that the public perception of the provision of services for children in the county may not be as positive as it might, the committee recognised the good work that the Fostering Service was doing and thanked the officers for their report.

67/18 HIGHWAYS UPDATE (EXECUTIVE FUNCTION) [Item 9]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Nick Healey, Area Highway Manager

Petitions, Public Questions, Statements: None.

Member Discussion – key points:

The Area Highway Manager presented his report, pointing out that there would be liaison with the Ward and Divisional members to agree the prioritisation of Local Structural Repair works in each area. Verbal corrections were made to Table 6 (Recommended Joint Committee funded capital LSR

programme for 2019-20) where some roads had been placed in the wrong Division.

In respect of the Staines Town Centre Scheme and associated SCOOT region revalidation project, it was noted that Cllrs Harvey and Mooney disagreed with the Area Highway Manager's record of the meeting held on 28th January 2019.

The Joint Committee (Spelthorne):

- (i) **Agreed** the (revised) strategy for allocation of Joint Committee Highways budgets for next Financial Year 2019-20 as set out in Table 4 (paragraphs 2.1.9 to 2.1.12 refer);
- (ii) **Approved** the proposed programme of Local Structural Repair (LSR – large scale patching) for next Financial Year 2019-20 described in paragraph 2.2.2 and Table 6.
- (iii) **Agreed** to the removal of 33 schemes from the prioritisation list in Annex A (paragraph 2.2.4 refers);
- (iv) **Authorised** the Area Highway Manager to commission two feasibility studies – the first for an amendment to the one-way system in Walton Lane, Shepperton, and the second to investigate pedestrian crossing improvements in Walton Bridge Road, Shepperton, as part of the Walton to Halliford Transport study (paragraph 2.6.2 and Annex B refers)
- (v) **Agreed** to the Area Highway Manager using part of the £30,000 Parking Surplus funding set aside for the re-validation of Staines Town Centre SCOOT region to arrange traffic surveys to design a new scheme of signs and road markings in the Staines Town Centre area (paragraphs 2.6.4 to 2.6.10 refer);
- (vi) **Agreed** to the Area Highway Manager using part of the £30,000 Parking Surplus funding set aside for the re-validation of Staines Town Centre SCOOT region to arrange traffic surveys to understand the pattern of traffic movement into, out of, and through Staines, in preparation for a review of the arrangement of roads within Staines (paragraphs 2.6.4 to 2.6.10 refer);
- (vii) **Authorised** 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.

Reasons for recommendations:

Recommendations are made to facilitate development of Committee's 2019-20 Highways programmes, while at the same time ensuring that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and relevant Divisional Members are fully and appropriately involved in any detailed considerations.

Specific recommendations are made to facilitate a rationalisation of Committee's Integrated Transport Scheme (ITS) prioritisation list, to facilitate the development of schemes emerging from the Walton to Halliford Transport Study, and to facilitate development of a potential major Staines Town Centre Scheme.

Committee is asked to provide the necessary authorisation to deliver its programmes of work in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and relevant Divisional Member without the need to revert to the Committee as a whole.

68/18 PARKING REVIEW (FOR DECISION) [Item 10]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Jack Roberts, Parking Engineer

Petitions, Public Questions, Statements: None.

Member Discussion – key points:

The officer presented his report. There was specific discussion about proposals affecting Stanwell Moor and Ferry Lane in Shepperton. Jack Roberts agreed to meet the chairman of the Stanwell Moor Residents Association, along with the Divisional Member, once advertising of the proposals has taken place.

A discussion was had regarding resolving situations when residents' views do not match officers' recommendations, and how to arrive at a balance of representing their wishes and managing the overall list of recommendations according to the priorities recognised by the officers.

The Divisional Member for Staines South and Ashford West asked for the proposals suggested by residents in her Division to be re-assessed, as none appeared in the Parking Engineer's list being put to the committee.

The Joint Committee (Spelthorne) agreed that:

- (i) the proposed amendments to on-street parking restrictions in Spelthorne as described in this report and shown in detail on drawings in annexes A - F are agreed; **comments arising from the advertisement of the proposals in Spout Lane (Stanwell Moor) and Horton Road (Stanwell Moor), together with the Parking Engineer's subsequent recommendations, will be referred to the Joint Committee at its next meeting; requests for parking restrictions in Staines South and Ashford West will be resubmitted to the Parking Engineer for further consideration, and if it is deemed necessary to propose additional parking restrictions in this division, then they will be included in the 2019 parking review advertisement. After such time, approval would be sought at the Joint Committee meeting in July 2019, prior to the making of the traffic orders.**
- (ii) the intention of the county council to make an order under the relevant parts of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to impose the waiting and on-street parking restrictions in Spelthorne as shown on the drawings in annexes A - F are advertised and that if no objections are maintained, the orders are made.
- (iii) if there are unresolved objections, they will be dealt with in accordance with the county council's scheme of delegation by the

parking strategy and implementation team manager, in consultation with the chairman/vice chairman of this committee and the appropriate county councillor. An additional member may be invited for comment.

Reasons:

It is recommended that the waiting restrictions are implemented as detailed in Annexes A - F. They will make a positive impact towards:-

- Road safety
- Access for emergency vehicles
- Access for refuse vehicles
- Easing traffic congestion
- Better regulated parking
- Better enforcement

Further review by the Joint Committee of the proposals in Spout Lane (Stanwell Moor) and Horton Road (Stanwell Moor) will allow full consideration to be given to comments received from the local Residents Association.

There are a number of requests for new parking restrictions in Staines South and Ashford West which need to be considered.

69/18 FORWARD PROGRAMME 2019/20 (FOR INFORMATION) [Item 11]

The Committee Officer was asked to invite the Cabinet Member for Children to address the committee, and also the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care. Other contents of the plan were noted.

70/18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING [Item 12]

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 15th July 2019 at 6.30pm.

Meeting ended at: 8.52 pm

Chairman

SPELTHORNE JOINT COMMITTEE 13 MARCH 2019



OPEN FORUM IN ADVANCE OF FORMAL MEETING VERBAL PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Question 1: Mrs Geraldine Lewin

Mrs Lewin – who has volunteered as a Tree Warden for many years – made the point that too many trees were being felled in the borough, including those covered by Tree Preservation Orders; could anything be done to reduce this number? She congratulated the borough on the planting of the Centenary Wood in Laleham.

Response

The Group Head Neighbourhood Services at Spelthorne Borough explained that responsibility for trees varies according to whether they are growing on private, highway or borough land; she offered to liaise with Mrs Lewin over the felling of trees on private land. Over 850 trees would be planted across the borough during this and the next financial year.

The Divisional Member for Staines South & Ashford West congratulated the Tree Wardens for the hard work they do across the borough.

Question 2: Mr Jeremy Spencer and Mr Lee Belston

Can the borough contact the county council to express concerns among local firefighters that proposals for revised levels of night-time cover would mean crews are unable to intervene in incidents at high-rise buildings within their 1-hour fire-rating?

Response

On behalf of the committee members and local residents, the vice-chairman paid tribute to the Spelthorne firefighters and the work they carry out.

The Divisional Member for Staines South and Ashford West who is also Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Fire & Resilience stated that the proposals were designed to help prevent incidents happening rather than concentrating on response times. There were no redundancies being considered as a result of the proposals. Changes to night-time cover had been proposed as a result of scientific examination of risk profile with the aim of releasing capacity and providing prevention and protection.

The vice-chairman asked the borough to draft a letter to the County outlining the committee's concerns about the potential implications of the proposed changes to levels of cover.

The Divisional Member for Sunbury Common & Ashford Common agreed to meet Mr Spencer to hear his concerns and would relay these to the Cabinet Member.

Question 3: Mr John Seaman

Where can information be found giving minimum sizes that potholes have to reach before they will be eligible for repair? Mr Seaman referred to a particular pothole in Sunbury Common.

Response

Information can be found on the County website under 'Highway Safety Inspection Standards and Procedures'. Potholes have to be at least 40mm deep and at least 150mm in diameter to be considered for repair; this meets the national code of practice.

The Divisional Member for Sunbury Common & Ashford Common stated that she had sent a report about the pothole in question to the Cabinet Member for Highways and would if necessary make a contribution from her highways allocation towards its repair.

Question 4: Mr Andrew McLuskey

Will the Joint Committee communicate with Heathrow Airport Ltd (HAL) to the effect that it must withdraw the harassing letters sent to local people demanding details of their property and effectively threatening further harassment in the event people do not comply?

Response:

A number of members confirmed that they too had received the same letter from HAL and described the language in it as bullying and threatening. The vice-chairman asked the borough to draft a response to HAL and agreed to keep Mr McLuskey updated.

Question 5: Mr Robert Clarke

The 'Making Surrey Safer' consultation currently taking place is poorly worded as it mentions neither of the borough's existing fire stations but does include Fordbridge, which has yet to be completed and is not widely known to the public. Can this be rectified?

Response:

The vice-chairman offered to look into this with the County. He thanked those members of the fire service who had attended the meeting.

Question 6: Divisional Member for Staines

A petition had been received asking for the County Council to repair a section of Leacroft, Staines that is currently unsurfaced. This section is not publically maintained and therefore the petition was rejected; the Divisional Member asked the borough if anything could be done to help sort out the situation for the residents.

Response

The borough agreed to carry out some searches to help the residents establish ownership of the land in question.

Question 7: Cllr Leighton

Councillor Leighton asked the committee to introduce new parking restrictions along Ferry Lane, Shepperton as quickly as possible so that they were in place in time for summer river events. A member of the local canoe club reiterated the view that parking was very difficult along the lane and presented problems for club members and competitors.

Response

The vice-chairman referred the councillor to Item 10 on the agenda (Parking review).

Comment from Vice-Chairman

At the end of the meeting the vice-chairman read out a letter from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs concerning the continued closure of footpath 18 where it crosses the Staines to Windsor railway line. He asked the deputy chief-executive to write another letter to DEFRA to reiterate the committee's view that the footpath should be re-opened.