

Minutes of the meeting of the
Epsom AND EWELL LOCAL COMMITTEE
held at 3.00 pm on 7 December 2020
at Virtual meeting.

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

Surrey County Council Members:

- * Mrs Tina Mountain (Chairman)
- * Mrs Jan Mason (Vice-Chairman)
- * Mr John Beckett
- * Mr Eber A Kington
- * Mrs Bernie Muir

Borough / District Members:

- * Cllr Steve Bridger
- * Cllr Alex Coley
- * Cllr Nigel Collin
- * Cllr Neil Dallen MBE
- * Cllr Debbie Monksfield

* In attendance

17/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]

Apologies were received from Cllr Coley.

18/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 2]

There were no declarations of interest made.

19/20 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS [Item 3]

The Chairman noted her disappointment that the gate into St Josephs school from the car park, has been reopened.

20/20 WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS [Item 4]

There were three public questions from Cllr Julie Morris who was present at the meeting.

In relation to questions 1 and 2, Cllr Morris expressed concern at the high proportion of parking bays which have been removed in Upper High Street as a result of the new development being built. The Chairman responded that she had had conversations with officers and tried to retain the parking bays and make use of the taxi bays, but had been advised that it was not possible to relocate the bays on safety grounds and that these changes had arisen as a result of the planning permission granted by the Borough Council.

21/20 PETITIONS [Item 5]

There were none.

22/20 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING [Item 6]

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

23/20 MEMBER QUESTION TIME [Item 7]

There were no member questions.

24/20 EPSOM AND EWELL PARKING REVIEW (PHASE 13) [EXECUTIVE FUNCTION - FOR DECISION] [Item 8]

Declarations of Interest: None.

Officers attending: Stephen Clavey, Parking Engineer

Petitions, Public Questions/Statements: None.

Member discussion – key points

Damage to the verge by refuse vehicles as a result of parked vehicles narrowing the road by the island in Gibraltar Crescent has been raised by Borough Council officers. The divisional member asked if it could be included in the current review with a restriction in place for the times during which refuse vehicles need access. The Parking Engineer responded that a timed restriction could not be included in this review due to the cost of installing signs but double yellow lines could be considered. On reflection members considered that this was a complex issue and it would be better to have further discussions with residents and include any proposals in the next parking review if needed.

The divisional member commented that the proposal for Cunliffe Road is for two one hour restrictions daily to make it easier for buses to pass through, but that the residents would have difficulty relocating vehicles during these times. He suggested that the current arrangements where residents park to create a chicane effect could be formalised with yellow lines to prevent these gaps being filled by non-residents. He undertook to discuss this further with residents and to agree a layout for advertisement with the parking engineer is appropriate

The divisional member asked whether it would be possible to designate one of the parking bays in the Kingston Road shopping parade for motorcycles as there is a motorcycle training business in the location. The parking engineer responded that this was not something that the parking team were keen to take forward currently.

Two further locations were raised for inclusion in the review:

Stoneleigh Park Road to extend the double yellow lines from no 25 to no 31 (stopping at no 33).

To add double yellow lines at Amberley Gardens / Thorndon Gardens subject to a site visit to determine the correct location.

On drawing 29 members suggested that this proposal would also make visibility better for vehicle drivers as well as pedestrians.

It was clarified that the loading bay in the High Street, Epsom is already in this location and will not impede traffic flow.

Resolved:

- (i) That the changes to parking restrictions and controls described in annex 1 of the report should be introduced; and to include additional restrictions in Stoneleigh Park Rd, Amberley Gardens and Cunliffe Road subject to further discussions with the divisional member.
- (ii) That the committee contribute £13,000.00 funding towards the introduction of the proposals in Annex 1 of the report from the 2019/2020 parking surplus.
- (iii) That the County Council's intention to make an order under the Road Traffic Regulation act 1984 be advertised and, if no objections are maintained, the order be made;
- (iv) That if objections are received, the Parking Strategy and Implementation Team Manager tries to resolve them.
- (v) If there are unresolved objections, in accordance with the County Council's scheme of delegation, the Parking Strategy and Implementation Team Manager, in consultation with the Chairman/Vice Chairman of this committee and the county councillor for the division, decides whether or not they should be acceded to and therefore whether or not the order should be made, with or without modifications.

Reasons:

The waiting restrictions in this report will help to:

- Improve road safety
- Increase access for emergency vehicles
- improve access to shops, facilities and businesses
- Increase access for refuse vehicles, buses and service vehicles
- Reduce traffic congestion
- Better regulate parking

25/20 HIGHWAYS UPDATE [EXECUTIVE FUNCTION - FOR DECISION] [Item 9]

Declarations of Interest: None.

Officers attending: Nick Healey, Area Highways Manager (AHM)

Petitions, Public Questions/Statements: None.

Member discussion – key points

Members thanked the AHM for his report.

Cllr Eber Kingston tabled a motion as follows, which was seconded by Cllr Dallen:

The Epsom and Ewell Local Committee expresses its concern that the Local Committee Highway allocation is facing a proposed cut from £254,500 in 2019/2020 to £193,100 in 2020/2021. The funding is already inadequate, and the lowest in Surrey, and a budget cut of £61,400 equates to nearly 25%. In addition the current formula for allocating local funding does not reflect road usage, which penalises Epsom and Ewell with its high road usage compared to much of Surrey.

The Local Committee therefore calls upon the Cabinet Member for Highways

To review this proposed cut and restore the funding to at least the allocation figure for 2019/2020

To amend the formulae for allocating Local Highway funding so that it reflects road usage and not the length of road or geographical area.

Some Members commented that this was not a cut to the budget, as this had been the base figure for the budget in the current financial year, but there had been a later addition to the budget which had not been made for next year.

An amendment to the motion was proposed by Cllr Mountain and seconded by Cllr Muir that the word “cut” be replaced with “reduction”. On a vote this amendment was LOST by 3 votes FOR to 6 AGAINST

Resolved: to:

- (i) [by 8 votes FOR and 1 ABSTENTION] Express its concern that the Local Committee Highway allocation is facing a proposed cut from £254,500 in 2020/2021 to £193,100 in 2021/2022. The funding is already inadequate, and the lowest in Surrey, and a budget cut of £61,400 equates to nearly 25%. In addition the current formula for allocating local funding does not reflect road usage, which penalises Epsom and Ewell with its high road usage compared to much of Surrey. The Local Committee therefore calls upon the Cabinet Member for Highways
 - To review this proposed cut and restore the funding to at least the allocation figure for 2020/2021
 - To amend the formulae for allocating Local Highway funding so that it reflects road usage and not the length of road or geographical area.
- (ii) Approve the proposed allocate of the 2021-22 Highways budgets as set out in table 3 of the report;
- (iii) Defer a scheme to improve pedestrian crossing facilities on Cheam Road at its junction with Bramley Road;

- (iv) Approve the commissioning of three new feasibility studies to start in April 2021, as set out in table 4, to be funded from Committee's 2021-22 capital allocation;
- (v) 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.

Reasons for decisions

The Committee wished to draw the attention of the Cabinet member to the level of funding for highways allocated to the Local Committee.

Each Financial Year the Local Committee is allocated budgets for Highway maintenance and improvement schemes – these budgets must be spent within their respective Financial Years. The Committee wished to draw the attention of the Cabinet Member to the level of funding provided for this area and the criteria used. It takes a number of months to work with Committee as a whole and individual members to prioritise individual schemes, and then to make arrangements for schemes to be delivered as part of a countywide programme of work. Therefore it is necessary for Committee to decide high level allocations of its budgets well ahead of the start of the following Financial Year, to enable programmes of work to be developed in good time.

It is anticipated that there will be capacity to commission new feasibility studies from April 2021. Therefore Committee is asked to approve the next round of prioritised schemes for feasibility studies.

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.

26/20 LOCAL COMMITTEE DECISION TRACKER [FOR DECISION] [Item 10]

The Decision Tracker was noted and it was agreed that those items marked as closed should be removed.

Item 4 in the tracker to be updated to ensure that the stretch of pavement from the Station to Horsley Close is included.

Item 6 – Parking at Rosebank - Members and the AHM set a date for this review of the situation (Mon 14th at 2.45pm, outside the school gates).

27/20 FORWARD PLAN [FOR INFORMATION] [Item 11]

The forward plan was noted.

28/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING [Item 12]

The next meeting of the Epsom and Ewell Local Committee was provisionally booked for 22 March 2021 at 2pm – a virtual meeting MS Teams.

Meeting ended at: 4.30 pm

Chairman