

Minutes of the meeting of the
Epsom AND EWELL LOCAL COMMITTEE
held at 7.00 pm on 8 November 2021
at Main Hall, Bourne Hall, Spring Street, Ewell KT17 1UF.

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

Surrey County Council Members:

- * John Beckett (Chairman)
- * Steven McCormick (Vice-Chairman)
- * Jan Mason
- * Eber Kington
- * Bernie Muir

Borough / District Members:

- * Cllr Nigel Collin
- * Cllr Neil Dallen MBE
- * Cllr Debbie Monksfield
- * Cllr Phil Neale
- * Cllr Humphrey Reynolds

* In attendance

27/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]

Apologies were received from Cllr Mason (who joined the meeting later during Item 8).

28/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 2]

Cllr Neale stated in relation to Item 5 that he had participated in the 'Walk for Safety' on Old Malden Lane on 28 September 2021.

29/21 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS [Item 3]

The chairman thanked the SCC Highways team and Epsom & Ewell Borough Council for their swift action to repair the sink hole that appeared in Ewell village in October. Cllr Kington also thanked the Works Communications team for the updates they had provided on the repair work.

The chairman drew member's attention to the current Parking Review and the need to submit all requests for new parking restrictions by the end of November. He noted that, following last year's review, signs were now being installed, although there might be a slight delay in the lining work.

30/21 WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS [Item 4]

No public questions had been received.

31/21 PETITIONS [Item 5]

Declarations of Interest: Cllr Neale stated that he had taken part in the 'Walk for Safety' on Old Malden Lane in September.

Officers attending: Nick Healey, formerly Area Highways Manager

Petitions, Public Questions, Statements:

One petition had been received, from Cllr Jones (Cuddington ward), requesting a feasibility study of options relating to pedestrian safety on Old Malden Lane. The petition and officer's response are included in the main agenda pack.

Cllr Jones addressed the meeting. He stressed the increase in the number of houses that has occurred since he moved to the road and developments which are still planned. The northern side of the Lane will be full, with 110 properties, bringing a consequent rise in the number of vehicle movements and pedestrians; although SCC officers had offered some suggestions of work to improve the situation Cllr Jones felt these were inadequate in relation to pedestrian safety. He noted that on completion of the final proposed development, which included provision of a footway, there would be a gap of 80m with no footway; the landowners along this stretch have said they would be happy for a path to be constructed.

Member Discussion – key points:

The officer outlined the issue as being one of limited available space. It was encouraging to hear that the landowners with the 80m frontage where the gap would be were happy to allow a path; this is something that could be covered by the local committee's budget. Traffic calming measures would be expensive, at approximately £25,000 per speed cushion, plus upgraded street lighting. It was noted that any footway installed would be fully accessible and include features such as tactile surfaces.

The feasibility study would cover the design and cost of a scheme. It would not take place before the start of the next financial year at the earliest, by which time the outcome of the planning application would be known. It was suggested that building work could be done in advance of knowing when this final housing development would be built.

With the housing developments taking place and planned, it was suggested that CIL funding might be available. While this could be applied for, it was noted that the allocation of CIL is a decision for the Borough Council and not the local committee.

The Divisional member for Ewell Court, Auriol & Cuddington thanked the officer for the suggestions of works to improve the lane such as cutting back vegetation and cleaning the road markings and installing signs but he stressed the need for further action to allow for the scale of development that is taking place.

In the light of the importance of the road as a main route through the area, the expectation of an increase in the number of vehicles and pedestrians, and the recorded history of accidents along the road, members agreed there was a need to address the situation.

Resolution:

Using the text of the petition as a recommendation, the Local Committee (Epsom & Ewell) AGREED:

To fund a feasibility study to assess options for improving the safety of pedestrians using Old Malden Lane, including a 20mph speed limit, physical speed reduction measures, improved signage and the potential for extending the existing footway.

Members voted by a show of hands:
In favour – nine
Against – zero

Reasons: To take forward this study in response to the petition.

32/21 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING [Item 6]

Cllr Dallen asked for an update on the Epsom High Street bus stand for route 467 - this would be provided outside the meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2021 were agreed as an accurate record.

33/21 WRITTEN MEMBER QUESTIONS [Item 7]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Zena Curry, Highways Engagement and Commissioning Manager

Petitions, Public Questions/Statements: None

Member discussion – key points

The chairman accepted a late question from the vice-chairman, who asked if there was a way in which the large and apparently increasing number of HGV journeys in the borough can be monitored.

The officer explained that there is a Cabinet-approved process to do this and local communities will have the ability to set up monitoring in their areas – the information would be circulated to committee members and the officer offered to continue discussion of the issue with the vice-chairman outside the meeting.

34/21 LOCAL COMMITTEE DECISION TRACKER [FOR DECISION] [Item 8]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Zena Curry, Highways Engagement and Commissioning Manager

Petitions, Public Questions/Statements: None

Member discussion – key points

Cllr Mason joined the meeting during this item.

Cllr Kington asked for an update on Item 3 (road safety around St Joseph's school) – this would be provided outside the meeting.

Referring to three separate Items that included the making of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) Cllr Kington asked if it were possible to add something to an existing TRO, or to combine a number of separate TROs, to help reduce the administration and advertising costs. The officer explained that it is more cost-effective to make combined TROs, and stressed the need for members to submit requests to the Parking Review on time to make sure that this process was as efficient as possible. A commitment was given to look into the case of the planned TRO relating to installation of parking restrictions outside Auriol School and report back to Cllr Kington.

Cllr Mason asked to be included in consideration of any responses relating to Item 6 (Scotts Farm Road).

The Committee agreed to remove closed items from the tracker, except the following, which would remain 'open':

Item 2 (puddles on Waterloo Road) – puddles still collect. The local member was asked to provide photos to show the extent of the problem.

Item 7 (evaluation of a trial booking system at Epsom CRC). There was a range of views among members on whether the booking system had been a success or not, and a suggestion that with covid restrictions at the CRC lifted it would be possible to have more booking slots available. The post-trial report was requested, to help inform any decision on whether to reinstate the booking system or not.

35/21 FORWARD PLAN [FOR INFORMATION] [Item 9]

Members expressed the view that they would like updates on services as before. County Councillors receive weekly member briefings on a wide range of topics and these could provide a useful way of highlighting which topics would be useful to bring to the local committee informal meeting. The chairman stated that he is discussing the local and joint committee operations with Cllr Hall, and he invited members to suggest any areas of interest on which they would like a briefing.

The contents of the forward plan were noted.

36/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING [Item 10]

The next meeting is scheduled for 28th March 2022.

Meeting ended at: 8.06 pm

Chairman