

DRAFT

Minutes of the meeting of the
Epsom AND EWELL LOCAL COMMITTEE
 held at 7.00 pm on 23 June 2014
 at Bourne Hall, Spring Street, Ewell KT17 1UF.

Surrey County Council Members:

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

Borough / District Members:

- Cllr Paul Ardern-Jones
- * Cllr Michael Arthur
- * Cllr Neil Dallen
- * Cllr Colin Taylor
- * Cllr Mike Teasdale

* In attendance

1/14 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR 2014/15 [Item 1]

The appointment by Council of Eber Kington as Chairman and John Beckett as Vice-Chairman of the Local Committee for the current municipal year was noted.

2/14 APPOINTMENT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL MEMBERS [Item 2]**Resolved:**

That, Borough Council members be co-opted as substitutes for the municipal year 2014/15.

The Local Committee noted that at the Epsom & Ewell Borough Council's first meeting of this municipal year, 5 Borough Councillors and 5 substitutes were appointed to serve on the Local Committee for the municipal year 2014-2015, the substitute members being appointed subject to the decision above:

Appointed Members [5]

Cllr Paul Ardern-Jones [Stamford]
 Cllr Michael Arthur [Ewell]
 Cllr Neil Dallen [Town]
 Cllr Colin Taylor [Stamford]
 Cllr Mike Teasdale [Stoneleigh]

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Substitutes [5]

Cllr Ian Booker [Town]
Cllr Pamela Bradley [Stoneleigh]
Cllr Julie Morris [College]
Cllr Humphrey Reynolds [Ewell]
Cllr Jean Steer [West Ewell]

3/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 3]

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Ardern-Jones, following the Committee's decision to accept substitutes for this municipal year, Cllr Jean Steer joined the Committee as substitute.

4/14 WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS [Item 4]

There were no public questions or statements.

5/14 ADJOURNMENT [Item 5]

14 members of the public were present. 3 informal questions were asked (including one asked under Item 11) and answers were provided at the meeting or will be sent in writing at a later date.

6/14 PETITIONS [Item 6]

There were no petitions.

7/14 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING [Item 7]

Confirmed as a correct record.

8/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 8]

There were no declarations of interest.

9/14 MEMBER QUESTION TIME [Item 9]

15 questions were received, the questions and answers are set out in Annex A.

The following supplementary questions were asked:

Question 2: Members felt that Plan E was unlikely to have any significant impact on the crossing point and asked whether the work could take place sooner. The Area Highways Team Manager replied that further investigation to see if the appropriate planning permission is in place, would be required. It was agreed that if planning permission is not in place this would be sought and that the loading restrictions previously agreed that had lapsed would be included in the next parking review. The Committee were made aware that the cost of constructing the crossover would probably have to be from its budget.

Question 3: Members requested that action is taken to prevent drivers from parking on the areas of verge that have not been hardened.

Question 11: Neil Dallen stated that shop keepers had previously been informed by the County Council that shops could use the parking bays for loading and unloading and that the “no return within 2 hours” restrictions did not apply. The Area Highways Team Manager agreed to clarify the restrictions and update the Committee after the meeting.

Question 12: The Area Highways Team Manager agreed to see whether it would be possible for notifications that go to divisional members to be sent to all county members so that they can alert divisional colleagues. It would not be possible for members to be consulted before the notices are published due to the number of requests processed. The Area Highways Team Manager would provide a briefing on the process for the informal Local Committee on 16 July which would include details of key contacts.

Question 13: The Community Partnership & Committee Officer would follow up with the appropriate officers whether the information promised at the last Task Group meeting was ready to be sent to members. Noted that if the scheme is funded and proceeds the Committee will have to agree statutory notices which will have to follow the usual statutory consultation process.

Question 15: The Chairman agreed to raise at his regular liaison meetings with the Borough whether it would be possible for the Borough to clean bollards and road signs when they are carrying out other street cleaning operations in the area.

10/14 PARKING IN HIGH STREET EWELL [Item 10]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Nick Healey, Area Highways Team Manager, Alan Flaherty, Engineer

Petitions, Public Questions/ Statements: A representative of a business in the village reported that he had monitored the use of the parking spaces during a working day and there had been 45 cars using the spaces between 11.30am and the end of the day, so it would appear that they are being used for the purpose for which they are intended and not for long term parking. He also felt that by using the spaces shoppers were being made better aware of other businesses in the vicinity.

A resident reported that he felt that the congestion problems are caused by the lights in Spring Street and not by the parking bays. He felt that it is important to retain the bank to maintain the economic wellbeing of the High Street and the parking spaces are key to allowing residents to make visits to the bank.

There was no indication of any further public questions or statements so the Committee moved to debate the options presented in the report.

Member discussion – key points

The Area Highways Team Manager clarified that during the 18 month experimental period, the first 6 months is usually used to gather opinions,

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following that the Committee will have a year to either make the order permanent or agree to remove it. If no decision is made within 18 months, the situation will revert to that which was there previously, before the order was made.

Members reported that the road was uneven where the work had taken place to remove the mini roundabout. It was noted that the road is due to be resurfaced shortly and these defects will be removed at that time.

Some members were concerned that it could be difficult to enforce a 30 minute parking restriction and others felt that the parking bays should be removed to allow the free flow of traffic, in particular buses, at all times to help to improve the air quality in the area. However, others felt that it was important not to do anything which may damage traders.

Noted that the no waiting restrictions proposed had been agreed with the traders and are proposed to start at 3.00pm when the traffic increases as pupils leave schools in the area.

Resolved: [by 7 votes FOR to 2 AGAINST]

To implement Option B in the report on an experimental basis, including waiting restrictions during peak hours and time limited parking off-peak, as detailed in Table 1 and authorise the Area Team Manager to modify the experimental Traffic Regulation order to facilitate this alternative scheme.

Reasons for decision: With effective enforcement, this should result in reduced congestion during peak hours whilst providing short term parking for customers and businesses in the High Street in the off-peak period and therefore meet the key objective of improving air quality in Ewell Village.

11/14 HIGHWAYS UPDATE [Item 11]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Nick Healey, Area Highways Team Manager, Alan Flaherty, Engineer

Petitions, Public Questions/ Statements: A local resident queried the success of the new drain installed in the vicinity of Ashmore Insurance to drain the pavement as it appeared to be too high. The Area Highways Manager agreed to review the work.

There was no indication of any further public questions or statements so the Committee moved to debate the report.

Member discussion – key points

Noted in paragraph 1.3 “2013-14” should read “2014-15”

Members were keen to progress the proposed work to the traffic signals at the Spring Street junction in Ewell as soon as possible. The Area Highways Manager advised that it would be advisable to wait for drainage and resurfacing work to be completed to avoid the sensors being damaged. Members felt that if the work was inexpensive it should be done despite the

risks and the Chairman asked to be put in touch with the relevant officer in traffic signals.

It was noted that initial tests on the skid resistant surfacing in Ruxley Lane had indicated that it was not performing satisfactorily although it was not dangerous. This is a new type of surfacing which has the potential to be longer lasting and better value for money than the conventional anti skid surface and therefore the test would be repeated to see if the performance improves. If not, redress will be sought from the contractor. The Area Highways Team Manager undertook to check on progress and report back to the divisional member.

Noted the recent issues associated with the proposed surfacing of Willows Path. The divisional member indicated that she would be considering alternative solutions possibly funded from her members allocation.

In relation to the proposed safety improvements at the Tesco store on Ruxley Lane there was a query on how delivery lorries will safely get in and out of the site. The Area Highways Manager indicated that the situation will be kept under review and officers will work with Tesco to ensure an effective solution.

Noted, that Ardrossan Gardens and Stoneleigh Park Road will be included in the 2014/15 Operation Horizon Programme. The work has been delayed for further assessment but should be completed in this financial year.

The divisional member queried whether Nightingale Drive and Jasmin Road which are marked as complete in the programme had been surfaced. Officers agreed to check.

Officers agreed to investigate an area of Christ Church Mount where the road crosses a bridge that drains the common and where flooding has occurred to see who is responsible for the drainage channel if the divisional member supplies further details of the issue.

The divisional member was unhappy with the proposal for footway work in Chessington Road as she felt that some of this footway was in good condition having been surfaced fairly recently and that there were more heavily used footpaths in her division that are in a worse condition. She queried how the condition is assessed and priorities decided on. The Area Highways Manager indicated that this is a centrally funded programme and is technically driven. He agreed to put the member in touch with the appropriate team to discuss whether modifications to the scheme would be possible.

Resolved: To:

- (i) continue to keep the two pedestrian crossing improvement schemes at the Spread Eagle and at the junction of South Street with Ashley Avenue on hold pending the outcome of the Plan E Major Scheme bid;
- (ii) authorise the Area Team Manager to advertise Traffic Regulation Orders for a No-Entry and waiting restrictions near the entrance to the new Tesco store in Ruxley Lane, and to consider any objections in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Divisional

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Member;

- (iii) authorise the Area Team Manager in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and relevant Divisional Member(s) to undertake all necessary procedures to deliver the agreed programmes.
- (iv) consider the strategy for allocation of the Committee's 2015/16 highways budget at its September meeting and agree the programme of works in December 2014.

Reasons for recommendation: To facilitate delivery of the 2014/15 Highways programmes funded by the Local Committee, while at the same time ensuring that the Chairman, Vice-chairman and relevant Divisional Members are fully and appropriately involved in any detailed considerations.

12/14 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT FROM SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE [Item 12]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Jeremy Crouch, Lead Youth Officer East Surrey, Richard Leary, YSS Team Manager

Petitions, Public Questions/ Statements: None.

Member discussion – key points

Members queried why the number of young people who are unknown had not reduced significantly. The YSS Team Manager reported that the numbers are very small and it is therefore difficult to make a big improvement. There is a team who track young people from year 11 to their next choice by contacting them directly and also through education providers. However, there is always a small number who leave the area or don't want to engage and it is more difficult to track those in private education.

Noted, that the agreed performance shown is that which was submitted by the provider as part of their bid. The managing agent is being asked to address areas where they are underperforming, but some of this can be attributed to problems with under reporting, staff shortages and the relocation of one of the centres.

Noted, that it had proved difficult to fill the youth centre manager role at the Edge Youth Centre with a suitable candidate, which may be in part due to the cost of housing in the area relative to other areas of the Country. It was suggested that perhaps a housing association could be asked to consider offering a property in the area for rent.

Noted, that officers are considering potential venues in the Longmead area for a Youth Centre to replace the Yo-Yo. In the meantime workers are being recruited to work in this area linked to the Focus Youth Centre.

The Committee noted the progress Services for Young People has made during 2013/14 to increase participation for young people in education, training or employment, as set out in the report.

13/14 CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE: LOCAL RE-COMMISSIONING FOR 2015 - 2020 [Item 13]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Jeremy Crouch, Lead Youth Officer East Surrey, Richard Leary, YSS Team Manager

Petitions, Public Questions/ Statements: None.

Member discussion – key points

It is hoped that by changing the way services are commissioned that it may be possible to secure additional funding from other sources and also to provide income from trading services.

Noted, that as the Committee had not previously been able to participate in the commissioning process as a result of a conflict of interest arising from the Borough Council bidding for services, they would receive appropriate training and support if there was to be a role for them in the process this time.

Resolved:

- (i) to support increased delegation of decision-making to include the current Centre Based Youth Work so that it can be re-commissioned alongside the current Local Prevention Framework;
- (ii) that, if possible, local priorities for the newly delegated commissions within Services for Young People will be decided by the Epsom & Ewell Local Committee, informed by the work of the constituted Youth Task Group and after appropriate training for members.

14/14 LOCAL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS TO LOCAL GROUPS, THE YOUTH AND ON STREET THE PARKING TASK GROUPS [Item 14]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: None

Petitions, Public Questions/ Statements: None.

Member discussion – key points

None

Resolved to:

- (i) make the following appointments from the Local Committee for 2014/15 municipal year:

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- a) Community Safety Partnership - John Beckett
- b) Youth Task Group - County Councillors Jan Mason and Tina Mountain and Borough Councillors Neil Dallen and Lucie Dallen.
- c) On Street Parking Task Group - County Councillors Eber Kington, John Beckett, substitute Stella Lallement, Borough Councillors Neil Dallen, Colin Taylor, substitute Michael Arthur
- d) Major Schemes (Epsom & Ewell) Task Group – County Councillors Stella Lallement, Jan Mason and Tina Mountain, Borough Councillors – Michael Arthur, Neil Dallen and John Beckett

(ii) Note the requirement that Members appointed to outside bodies should update the Local Committee on the group/service they are appointed to/represent on a six monthly basis or as appropriate.

15/14 COMMUNITY SAFETY FUNDING [Item 15]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: None

Petitions, Public Questions/ Statements: None.

Member discussion – key points

None

Resolved:

That the Local Committee wishes to transfer its budget of £3,294 to the Epsom and Ewell Community Safety Partnership and to delegate authority to the Community Partnership Manager to oversee expenditure of this budget.

16/14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING [Item]

Monday 15 September 2014, 7.00pm Epsom Town Hall

Meeting ended at: 9.50 pm

Chairman