

DRAFT

Minutes of the meeting of the
Surrey HEATH LOCAL COMMITTEE
 held at 6.30 pm on 11 December 2014
 at High Cross Church, Knoll Road, Camberley.

Surrey County Council Members:

- * C.Cllr David Ivison (Chairman)
- * C.Cllr Chris Pitt (Vice-Chairman)
- * C.Cllr Mike Goodman
- * C.Cllr Bill Chapman
- * C.Cllr Adrian Page
- * C.Cllr Denis Fuller

Borough / District Members:

- * Cllr Vivienne Chapman
- * Cllr Rodney Bates
- * Cllr Valerie White
- * Cllr Josephine Hawkins
- * Cllr Paul Innicki
- * Cllr John Winterton

* In attendance

79/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

Apologies were received from Cllr Paul Innicki.

80/14 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING [Item 2]

The Minutes of the last meeting, held on 2 October 2014, were agreed by the Committee and signed by the Chair.

It was noted that although the minutes were accurately recorded with information as known on the evening, it had since been clarified that not all SANGS have been provided within Surrey Heath. Denis Fuller clarified that he objects to SANGS and would like to see the money spent on infrastructure.

81/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

Cllr Rodney Bates declared interests in the following:-

- Item 7 on Cordwalles School as he lives in Berkshire Road (but not near the school).
- Item 8 on Pine Ridge as he is a Member of the Advisory Board of the Children's Centre

82/14 WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 4]

Four written questions were received. The written questions and answers are attached as Annex B.

83/14 WRITTEN MEMBERS QUESTIONS [Item 5]

One written question was received from Cllr Rodney Bates. The written question and answer are attached as Annex B.

84/14 PETITIONS - RECEIVED [Item 6]

Three petitions were presented at the meeting.

RECEIVE PETITION – THE HATCHES BRIDLEWAY PATH IMPROVEMENTS

An online petition of 300 signatures was submitted. The petition stated “The Hatches bridleway between Frimley Green and Farnborough North station is a narrow tarmac path with grass/mud verges. In the winter, the grass/mud takes over making it very difficult, especially for pedestrians who have to negotiate their way across the puddles and mud. The path is narrow so difficult for cyclists to get past pedestrians which sometimes causes conflict. We would kindly request that the council consider upgrading the path in the next budget year, or at least reserve funding for improvement in the near future. An ideal outcome for many people would be a Shared Use route for Pedestrians & Cyclists, perhaps with a simple white line along the centre to segregate the flow of traffic”.

Mr Jon McClelland (petitioner) addressed the meeting. The path upgrade had already been discussed at the previous two meetings and a short report from the Countryside Access Team was available. Mr McClelland praised the work already undertaken by the Countryside Access Team and noted that longer term improvements for the pathway had been included in a LEP funding bid.

RECEIVE PETITION – REMOVE THE BUS LANE IN LONDON ROAD, CAMBERLEY

An online petition of 251 signatures was submitted. The petition stated “I have lived and worked in Surrey Heath for most of my life, both as a police officer, and now currently a chauffeur, and the bus lane in the London Road, applicable 7am to 9.30am, and 4pm to 7pm causes much confusion and is the cause of accidents, as well as near misses. Regardless of the time the majority of motorists do not drive in it, and thus one third of the road is not used. This results in long queues of traffic, adding to an increase in pollution. At the present time Farnborough are removing their bus lane and one of the reasons given was that it holds up buses, which was the very opposite reason for having it in the first place. Removing the bus lane would be safer and less dangerous for all road users. Currently it is used by some 6 or so buses an hour”.

Mr Ken Clarke (petitioner) addressed the meeting and invited Members to meet with him and observe the bus lane in operation.

The Chair noted that Officers had been tasked with producing a report to be discussed at the next public meeting on 12 March. Members were planning to hold a public debate on the issue, which linked in with Town Centre Plans and Transport Studies.

RECEIVE PETITION – REVERSE THE UNACCEPTABLE DETERIORATION OF THE CAMBERLEY ROUTE 2 BUS SERVICE

An online petition of 95 signatures was submitted. The petition stated “We the residents of the communities through which the Camberley Route 2 bus service passes require Surrey County Council to negotiate with the bus company that runs this service - Stagecoach - an improvement to this service, which has deteriorated beyond any level of acceptability over many years. Specifically we require that: a) the service be returned to a frequency of every 15 minutes, Monday to Saturday. b) the service be extended in the evening such that the final bus leaves Camberley and Farnborough no earlier than 10.30pm, especially on a Friday and Saturday evening”.

Mr Graham Tapper (petitioner) addressed the meeting. He stated that the route had been run every 15 minutes, but was now operating every half an hour, which was unacceptable to residents.

The Chair referred to the County Council review of Local Transport Services. The County Council was looking at whether savings could be made and he urged all residents to comment on the consultation. The route in question would be reviewed as part of the consultation.

85/14 PETITION RESPONSE - CORDWALLES SCHOOL [Item 7]

The Local Committee received a report in answer to the petition presented at the March Committee. It was clarified that the situation at the school was observed on three separate occasions for a maximum of 4 hours. Rebecca Harrison was thanked for an excellent report.

The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) agree that:

- (i) Cordwalles Junior School be asked to undertake additional school travel plan and road safety education activities. This will include take up of Teaching Assistant Pedestrian Awareness Skills courses, Park SMART and the setting up of a Walking Bus. The school will be supported in these activities by the County Council’s Sustainable Travel Team.
- (ii) Timing plate signs be installed to ensure that the existing school keep clear markings are enforceable if necessary.
- (iii) The Local Committee will decide whether to include the suggestion for two raised road tables on Berkshire Road within their forward programme for highway improvements. The committee will then be able to decide whether to allocate funding to these in future years depending upon prioritisation against other schemes throughout Surrey Heath.

86/14 PETITION RESPONSE - PINE RIDGE SCHOOL [Item 8]

A petition was presented at the October Committee. The petition stated: "We, the parents, residents and concerned members of this community are urging the council to assess the lack of road safety measures outside Pine Ridge Infant & Nursery School, Esher Road, Camberley. It is becoming increasingly dangerous for our children making their daily journeys to & from school. It is indeed an accident waiting to happen. 4yr old Finley Fitzpatrick was involved in an RTA on the 1st May 2014 while crossing Mitcham Rd due to instruction from the school to only use the entrance from Mitcham Rd & the lack of school warning signs. Therefore we would like the council to implement improved road safety to provide our children with the safer environment they deserve.

A report was not presented to the meeting as the school had not yet responded to requests for a meeting due to a leadership change. It was noted that Officers would meet with the school in the New Year with a report to the March meeting.

87/14 PETITION RESPONSE - THE AVENUE AND HEATHERLEY ROAD [Item 9]

The Committee received a report in answer to the petition presented at the October Committee. The petition stated "There is an urgent need for traffic reduction and calming methods to be employed in these residential roads."

The petitioner had posed a number of questions to the Committee: "18 months on from our first petition, was The Avenue added and ranked within the ITS works program as per item 4 of agenda to meeting 5th December 2013? Could we please have an update, are the ITS works program tables published? Do the Council accept that while increasing visitor numbers and revenues in to Camberley, they also have a duty to protect the amenity of residents and rate payers living near to what is already a choked town centre? How is this to be delivered, other than the A30 plan?"

The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) noted the contents of the report **and residents concerns that new developments in the Town would increase traffic – it was therefore also agreed that this issue would be raised with the planning department at the Borough Council.**

88/14 ROAD SAFETY - RAVENSCOTE SCHOOL [Item 10]

The Local Committee received a report from the Road Safety team regarding safety outside Ravenscote school. The major concern was that there had been 3 child incidents around the school. The school had been active in trying to address the issues.

The Chair stated that since the production of the report, the Frimley Fuel Allotments charity had leased a sizeable plot of woodland to act as a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) in respect of the 120 home development by Linden Homes about 300 – 400 meters from Ravenscote

School along the Old Bisley Road. The SANG had been established to encourage ramblers, dog walkers etc to exercise in the woodland which stretched westward past Ravenscote School. It was not known whether the Frimley Fuel Allotment Charity (or Linden Homes) would re-open the two previously established car parks in the woodland to encourage and assist the anticipated visitors to the newly established SANG. Should they do so, the Chair felt it would open up the welcome opportunity for parents to drop off and collect their children from Ravenscote School in safety and mitigate the present congestion caused by cars parking along the narrow Old Bisley Road and on the pavements of Upper Chobham Road. If the two car parks were to be re-established, the safety aspects of children and parents crossing the Old Bisley Road would have to be considered as mentioned in para 3.14 of the report.

The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) agree that

- (i) Ravenscote Junior School has completed Teaching Assistant Pedestrian Awareness Skills courses which have been well received. The school will be supported by the county council's Sustainable Travel Team in the creation of a Walking Bus, and Park SMART initiatives.
- (ii) The highway improvement proposals presented (**parking restrictions at Upper Chobham Road, a raised road table and speed cushions**) be added to the list of possible future highway improvements for Surrey Heath. The local committee will then decide whether to allocate funding from their future annual budget for highway improvements. This will depend upon the extent of the problem and the estimated costs compared with other schemes, and the funds made available to the local committee.

89/14 HIGHWAYS UPDATE [Item 11]

The Committee received a report on the progress made with the delivery of proposed highways schemes, developer funded schemes, and revenue funded works for the 2014/15 financial year. The report also provided an update on the latest budgetary position for highway schemes, revenue maintenance and Community Enhancement expenditure.

It was noted that 13 of the 16 contingency schemes had already been delivered. Some of the schemes included on table 5 of the report were believed to also be in the Operation Horizon long term programme and the Highways Manager agreed to clarify this outside the meeting. The Highways Team were commended for their work on the programme and also with keeping ditches and drainage clear so that Surrey Heath avoided flooding issues.

The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) agreed to:

- (i) Note the progress with the ITS highways and developer funded schemes, and revenue funded works for the 2014/15 financial year.
- (ii) Note the budgetary position.

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- (iii) The proposed capital works programme for 2015/16.
- (iv) Note that a further Highways Update will be brought to the next meeting of this Committee.

90/14 LOCAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY AND FORWARD PROGRAMME [Item 12]

The County Council was producing Local Transport Strategies and Forward Programmes for each district and borough in the county. The purpose of these strategies was to support the objectives set out within the boroughs Local Plan and Town Centre Area Action Plan and provide a programme of transport infrastructure required to deliver the objectives set out in the SCC E&I Directorate Priorities and SHBC Local Plan. They also provided an evidence base for future funding bids.

The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) agreed to:

- (i) Approve the Surrey Heath Local Transport Strategy and its suggested objectives
- (ii) Approve the list of schemes provided in the Forward Programme (Annex of the Local Transport Strategy)

91/14 LOCAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FUND [Item 13]

In March 2014 Surrey County Council made a successful bid to the Department for Transport's Local Sustainable Travel Fund (LSTF) revenue programme for 2015/16. The Committee received a report highlighting the initiatives that would be undertaken in Surrey Heath as a result of receiving this funding.

It was noted that Surrey Heath do not have a cycling strategy and would benefit from this with regard to priority of funding. It was hoped that all areas would have cycling strategies by next year.

The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) noted the report, outlining the activities that would be undertaken in Surrey Heath as a result of receiving funding from the Department for Transport's Local Sustainable Transport Fund revenue programme for 2015/16.

92/14 SURREY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE ANNUAL BOROUGH REPORT [Item 14]

The Committee received a report and a presentation from Borough Commander Ian Ray, outlining the major strands of activity being undertaken within the area by the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) teams based at Camberley and Chobham Fire Stations.

It was noted that all appliances, cars and stations now had defibrulators and that personnel had been trained in basic first aid at scene. Members thanked the service for the fantastic job that they do.

The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) agreed to:

- (i) Recognise the achievements of the borough teams within the Surrey Heath Borough and support their commitment to improve initiatives to reduce risk and make the Surrey Heath Borough safer through the delivery of the borough/station plan.
- (ii) Note the targets and initiatives set within the Camberley Station Plan (Annex 1) and the Chobham Station Plan (Annex 3) for 2014/15 and Targetted Activity Plans for Camberley (Annex 2) and Chobham (Annex 4).

93/14 LOCAL COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS ALLOCATIONS FUNDING UPDATE [Item 15]

Surrey County Council Councillors receive funding to spend on local projects that help to promote social, economic or environmental well-being in the neighbourhoods and communities of Surrey. This funding is known as Members' Allocation.

For the financial year 2014/15 the County Council has allocated £10,300 revenue funding to each County Councillor and £35,000 capital funding to each Local Committee. The Committee received a report updating on the projects that have been funded since April 2014 to date.

The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) noted the amounts that had been spent from the Members' Allocation and Local Committee capital budgets, as set out in Annex 1 of the report.

94/14 FORWARD PLAN [Item 16]

The Committee received a report on future items for the Local Committee so that members could review the forward plan.

The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) noted the forward plan.

Meeting ended at: 9pm

Chairman

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