

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)

DATE: 8 June 2015



LEAD OFFICER: Cheryl Poole, Community Partnership & Committee Officer

SUBJECT: Local Committee Annual Report

DIVISION: All Elmbridge divisions

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

This report provides a short summary of the work of the Elmbridge Local Committee for the year 2014/15.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Committee (Elmbridge) is asked to note this for information only report.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

1.1 There were 4 formal meetings held during the year, taking place in June, September, December 2014 and February 2015. In addition 7 Informal meetings were held. These varied in format from workshop type sessions to training meetings to widen Members' knowledge on particular services, to meetings to give Members greater opportunities to learn about issues on which they were to make decisions.

2. ANALYSIS:

2.1 Over the 4 formal meetings 12 petitions, 4 public questions and 1 Member question were received. All, but one of these were highways related. More specifically they covered parking, speeding traffic and resurfacing of roads.

2.2 The majority of the decisions made at the formal meetings were on highways projects including the introduction of 30 mph on a section of Stoke Rd in Cobham and also decisions on a new Parking Strategy and a new Cycling Plan for the borough. The Committee agreed to award funding for youth work to new providers, approved the applications to be put forward to the Elmbridge BC Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Strategic Spending Board and commented on the Local Transport Strategy and the Local Transport Review.

2.3 The Local Committee was represented throughout the year by Members on the Elmbridge Community & Safety Partnership and the Elmbridge Business Network.

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2.4 Members, agreed by the Local Committee, sit on three task groups, which make recommendations to the Local Committee. They are for Youth, Parking and Cycling. The Cycling Task Group is recently established and will meet for the first time in June 2015.

2.5 The content of the seven informal meetings, which were held in 2014/15, varied considerably and included:

- Surrey Fire & Rescue
- Highways session which included budget setting and an update on the Speed Limit Policy and the Road Safety Outside Schools policy.
- Cycling Plan Workshop
- A presentation on the Local Transport Review was given, which subsequently went out to public consultation. The results of which fed into the current second consultation.
- A training session on Rights of Way issues
- Presentation on a proposed new Parking Strategy
- Early Years & Childcare and Education session including attainment in schools and school place planning.

2.6 Parking Strategy

At the meeting of the Local Committee in February 2015 it was agreed to develop an Elmbridge Parking Strategy. The idea of a different approach to parking in the borough came from the Parking Task group. Following discussions at two meetings of the task group, a meeting to present the proposal was held in January 2015, to which all Members of the Local Committee and additionally the relevant Elmbridge Borough Council Portfolio holders and Elmbridge Borough Council officers were invited.

2.7 Cycling Plan

It was agreed at the February 2015 Local Committee to develop a Cycling Plan for Elmbridge. As part of the Surrey Transport Plan, a Surrey Cycling Strategy was approved by Cabinet in December 2013. The Strategy set out a role for Local Committees to oversee the development of Local Cycling Plans. A workshop to explore ideas was held in September 2014, at which all Local Committee Members, relevant portfolio holders from Elmbridge BC and officers from Surrey CC, Elmbridge BC and Active Surrey were present. The draft proposal was then presented to an Informal meeting of the Local Committee in January 2015 before its formal approval in February.

2.8 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Community Infrastructure Levy was introduced at Elmbridge BC in April 2013 and the first funds for allocation were available a year later. The CIL Strategic board sat for the first time in September 2014. The SCC applications which went to this first board were initially discussed at a private meeting of the Local Committee, before being considered at the public meeting in June 2014.

2.9 Youth Work

The Youth Task Group along with some invited young people met in June to discuss the youth priorities for the borough, which scope the local specification. The local specification details the areas and the type of service which is required in Elmbridge from the providers who wish to apply to carry out 'prevention' work. The short listed organisations which had applied to carry out prevention youth work in the borough from September 2015 presented their proposals to the Youth Task Group in January 2015. The Task Group's recommendations to the Local Committee were agreed in February 2015 and the agreements with the new providers start from September 2015.

2.10 Funding

In 2014-15 each of the nine SCC Members had £10,300 Member allocation to spend on community projects plus £35,000 Local Committee capital budget.

The revenue funding was spent on a wide range of projects varying in value from £200 to £6,000. Many funding applications can fall into more than one category, but approximately two thirds went directly to community groups, of which over £9,000 was to sports clubs or for sporting activities. Community events in Molesey, Walton and Thames Ditton benefited from £4,800 and £6,000 was provided towards set up costs for the new Chatterbus. Some Surrey CC services also benefited with £3,500 been given to the 'Looked after Children' fund, £5,000 provided for school projects, £18,000 for Highways and £4,600 for the Youth Service bike project.

The Local Committee capital budget was split equally among the nine SCC Members so each had £3,888 available. The majority of the capital budget was spent on Highways projects, but almost £8,000, in addition to over £2,000 revenue, funded the refurbishment of the organ console at St Paul's Church in Molesey.

2.11 Community Improvements Fund

The Community Partnership and Committee Officer, who supports the Local Committee, as part of her role, advises organisations and community groups who wish to apply for the SCC Community Improvements Fund. In 2014 two local groups were successful with their applications. Cobham Village Hall was awarded £19,000 to replace old heating boilers and carry out remedial acoustic works. Sunbury and Walton Sea cadets received £30,000 towards a £175,000 project to build a new boating facility on the Thames.

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

9.1 The Committee is asked to note the content of the report.

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Consulted: n/a