

DRAFT

Minutes of the meeting of the
Woking JOINT COMMITTEE
 held at 6.00 pm on 24 June 2015
 at Woking Borough Council Civic Offices, Gloucester Square, Woking GU21
 6YL.

Surrey County Council Members:

- * Mrs Liz Bowes (Chairman)
- * Mr Ben Carasco
- Mr Will Forster
- * Mrs Linda Kemeny
- * Mr Saj Hussain
- * Mr Colin Kemp
- * Mr Richard Wilson

Borough / District Members:

- * Cllr Ken Howard
- * Cllr Beryl Hunwicks
- * Cllr John Kingsbury (Vice-Chairman)
- * Cllr Kevin Davis
- Cllr Anne Roberts
- * Cllr Carl Thomson
- * Cllr Graham Chrystie

* In attendance

Notes from Open Public Questions set out in Annex**15/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]**

Cllr Anne Roberts and Mr Will Forster gave apologies for absence.

16/15 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING [Item 2]

The minutes of the last meeting held on 4 March 2015 were agreed and signed.

17/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

Cllr Kingsbury declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item discussed during open public questions due to the fact that he owns garage 8 at Highclere Gardens.

Mr Hussain declared an interest in item 12 as he is landlord of Knaphill Library.

18/15 PETITIONS [Item 4]

There were four petitions received.

Petition A: Mitigate and establish accountability for the Vicarage Road Closure

In accordance with Standing Order 14.1, the committee received this petition. The wording of the petition and the response is annexed to these minutes.

The petitioner was not present, but the following comment was noted:

- There are often good reasons why works cannot be carried out 24/7 including health and safety, environmental health and the need for materials to set etc.

Petition B: Provide a safer way for pedestrians to cross Littlewick Road in Woking

In accordance with Standing Order 14.1 Mrs Kirsty Green presented this petition on behalf of local residents. The petition contained 197 signatures, and the wording and response is annexed to these minutes.

Mrs Green presented the petition and explained that residents on the common have to cross Littlewick Road. Residents feel isolated and at risk of being involved in an accident. There is poor visibility and a narrow pavement, and many people choose to drive short distances rather than risk walking.

The tabled response was noted. The following points were discussed:

- Officers will meet councillors on site to look to see if it is possible to clear back the vegetation from the footpath, look at the old crossing further up and review signage
- There are minimum standards for crossings, and officers will look to see what is possible in the location in terms of a centre island, but funding would need to be made available through committee.
- Horsell Common Preservation Society offered to join the site visit to see how they could assist with clearing undergrowth.

Petition C: Opposing Phase Two: The residential development of Rydens Way

In accordance with Standing Order 14.1 Mrs Alison Tigwell presented this petition on behalf of local residents. The petition contained 502 signatures, and the wording and response is annexed to these minutes.

Mrs Tigwell presented the petition and explained that the middle section of the proposed development would be on a roundabout, and the section in front of the college is regularly used by the college, dog walkers etc. There has been an increase in accidents due to the changed road layout from the previous phase of the development, and residents are concerned that this may be an issue again. Residents feel that as the land is publically owned, it should only be used for highway purposes.

The response was tabled and Cllr Kingsbury explained that there has not yet been a planning application for this development. The committee noted the residents concerns, and confirmed that the residents should ensure that their concerns are fed in to Woking Borough Council Planning Department should a planning application be submitted.

A resident raised a question about the condition of the roads in Rydens Way. It was noted that highway network is regularly inspected. The area near Shackleford Road was highlighted and it was agreed that a response would be given to the petitioner. At the request of Mr Carasco, it was agreed that the response would also include any evidence of an increase in road accidents if possible.

Petition D: Objections to through traffic in Arnold Road, Woking

In accordance with Standing Order 14.1 Cllr Tahir Aziz presented this petition on behalf of local residents. The petition contained 78 signatures, and the wording and response is annexed to these minutes.

Cllr Aziz explained that the petition was a follow up from the one presented last year due to the lack of response to that one. Residents felt that the speed surveys previously done were done at the wrong time, and the passing traffic was resulting in a high level of fumes. Residents would like road humps, red surfacing on the junction of the road, 20mph speed limit and except for access signs.

The committee sought clarification from the petitioner regarding the petition and whether this petition superseded the previous one. It was agreed that a detailed response would be brought to the next meeting of the committee which would address the issues presented in both petitions, and apologies were given to the petitioners on the length of time it has taken to provide a response.

19/15 WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 5]

Two public questions were received and tabled. A copy of the questions and answers are annexed to these minutes. The supplementary questions and responses are recorded below:

Question 1:

Mr Stubbs asked why the footpath could not be opened until the 148th dwelling was completed, and whether it would be possible to open it sooner. A written response would be provided outside the meeting.

Question 2:

Mr Daniell asked whether it would be possible to put in kerbside bollards. A written response would be provided outside the meeting.

20/15 WRITTEN MEMBER QUESTIONS [Item 6]

Four member questions were received and tabled and are annexed to these minutes. The supplementary questions and responses are set out below:

Question 3:

It was noted that Highways are working with Affinity Water to locate the source of the water, but it is difficult to locate. Cllr Kingsbury would be kept up to date with any progress.

Question 4:

Mr Carasco would like to see some action taken.

21/15 WOKING LOCALITY HUB (FOR INFORMATION) [Item 7]

Lisa Compton, Operations Director for Locality Hubs gave a presentation to members of the committee about the Locality Hub proposals and updated members on progress towards the first Locality Hub in Surrey, which will be based in Willow Ward at Woking Community Hospital.

GP-led multi-disciplinary health and social care teams will use Locality Hubs to significantly improve the quality of care in the community for frail and elderly patients.

Locality Hub provision will include a particular focus on early diagnosis and intervention for patients with a wide range of potentially serious conditions, which will reduce complications and help them stay out of acute care.

Locality Hubs will ensure more effective management of the growing number of frail elderly patients in our communities, helping them to stay as healthy and independent as possible.

During Phase One, it is likely that there will be up to 1,000 patients, rising up to 5,000 when fully up and running, with final numbers depending on staffing capacity.

22/15 SURREY HALF MARATHON (SERVICE MONITORING AND ISSUES OF LOCAL CONCERN) [Item 8]

Geoff McManus introduced the report which sought the committees agreement for Woking to host the Surrey Half Marathon in 2016.

Members were supportive of the event taking place again in 2016, but asked for greater engagement with local businesses, as well as residents, likely to be affected.

RESOLVED

Woking Joint Committee agreed that:

The Surrey Half Marathon is supported to take place on Sunday 17 April 2016.

23/15 PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO.4 (WOKING) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2014 (OTHER COUNTY COUNCIL FUNCTION) [Item 9]

Debbie Prismall introduced the report which asked the committee to consider whether to refer the Diversion Order for Public Footpath No 4 (Woking) to the Secretary of State for determination.

For many years, Footpath 4 (Woking) has been off-line. Surrey County Council in agreement with the landowners processed a Diversion Order to divert the footpath onto the route that has been used on the ground.

Officers explained that:

- The definitive line through the field is waterlogged for much of the year.
- The landowner grazes cattle in the field and walkers do not always want to go through fields with livestock in.
- The width of the proposed footpath is 4m. The minimum normally required is 2m.
- There is barbed wire on the path facing side of the proposed route, but as the width of the path is 4m, and there are rails on the fence jutting out further than the wire, officers do not consider this to be a 'nuisance'.
- The proposed route is the path that has been used on the ground by the public for many years and is a wide surfaced track.
- Reinstating the definitive line of the footpath would require the County Council to install a new footbridge at public expense a few metres from the bridge that is currently being used by the public.

Members noted that they had been invited to a site visit and that the Diversion Order made sense.

RESOLVED

Woking Joint Committee agreed that:

The Surrey County Council Footpath 4 (Woking) Public Path Diversion Order 2014 be referred to the Secretary of State for determination and that the Council should support the order.

24/15 HIGHWAYS UPDATE (FOR INFORMATION) [Item 10]

Andrew Milne introduced the report which updated the committee on highways schemes within the borough.

The following points were raised by members and discussed:

- Officers would confirm to Mr Wilson whether funding has been paid to Runnymede Borough Council for Rive Ditch.

ITEM 2

- A request was made to address the issue of vegetation on Heath House Road, Clodd House Hill junction and Robin Hood Road which is affecting sightlines
- A request was made for an update on Operation Horizon both now and at the next meeting
- Officers were asked to work up an estimate of potential costs for a road safety scheme outside Horsell Junior School for consideration in 2016/17
- The Committee requested that their congratulations were passed to Chris Higgs on his promotion. Vacant posts are being filled in Highways. Members were asked to raise non-urgent issues via the website or the councillors email.
- Contingency schemes for 2015/16 would be presented to committee in September 2015.

RESOLVED

Woking Joint Committee agreed to:

- (i) Note the progress with ITS highways and developer funded schemes, and revenue funded works for the 2015/16 financial year
- (ii) Note progress with budget expenditure
- (iii) Note that a further Highways Update will be brought to the next meeting of this Committee.

25/15 UPDATE ON PROPOSED TRAFFIC SIGNALS UPGRADE AT ANCHOR HILL, WOKING TO REMEDY AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA (AQMA) (FOR INFORMATION) [Item 11]

Andrew Milne introduced the report which updated the committee on the upgrade to the traffic signals operation at the junction of Anchor Hill and High Street Knaphill. It was noted that MOVA operation of the Traffic Signals at this junction will better alleviate vehicle congestion and waiting times, hence also improving the air quality at this location.

Public Comments:

- This work was welcomed given the pollution caused by traffic flow, volume and exhaust gases. There was a slight caution that the improved traffic flow may lead to an increase in volume of traffic going through the village, especially with the bollards currently out of action.
- It would be useful if a no waiting box could be added to the junction of Lower Guildford Road and Victoria Road.
- It was noted that the lights at the Garibaldi Crossroads would also have improved detection.

- Regarding pavement parking by the shops in Knaphill, it was noted that if bollards were installed, it would be likely that the issue would be moved further along the road.

Member Comments:

- Members welcomed the updated proposed for Anchor Hill.
- An update was requested on the situation regarding the bollards at the Vyne.
- Officers were asked to see if there were any further projects that could be funded through this budget in Woking.

RESOLVED

Woking Joint Committee agreed to note:

The update on the proposal to upgrade the Traffic Signals operation at the junction of Anchor Hill and High Street, Knaphill to 'MOVA' (Microprocessor Optimised Vehicle Actuation) to mitigate Air Quality issues.

26/15 LIBRARY SERVICE REVIEW 2015 (EXECUTIVE FUNCTION) [Item 12]

Under standing order 26, Cllr Hussain declared an interest in this item due to the fact that he was landlord of the library.

Kelly Saini Badwal introduced the report which set out the revised opening hours for Knaphill and West Byfleet libraries. It was noted that customer feedback showed that it is easier for residents to remember standardised hours across libraries. There was positive feedback after introducing standardisation at Group A and B libraries in 2008. The recommended changes to opening hours reflect how local residents are now using these libraries.

Public Comments:

Concern was expressed that some staff have had to accept reduced hours and others have found new jobs. There was also concern that fewer people will use the branches with changed hours, and this could lead to a lack of footfall and closure. In response it was noted that the objective was to keep all the library network open, and officers would look into the issues raised about effect of staff outside the meeting. The review process allowed staff to express preferences, and there were a number of options for them.

Member Comments:

- The local member welcomed the opening of West Byfleet library on a Monday.
- Officers confirmed that all the changes have been discussed with staff
- It was requested that the sensors at Woking library are checked as the doors open when people walk past outside.

RESOLVED

Woking Joint Committee agreed that:

- (i) the opening hours for Knaphill and West Byfleet libraries as set out in Annexe 2 and paragraphs 3 and 9 of this paper be changed.

27/15 APPOINTMENT TO JOINT COMMITTEE SUB-COMMITTEES AND TASK GROUPS (EXECUTIVE FUNCTION) [Item 13]

Sarah Goodman introduced the report and noted that the terms of reference of the Community Safety Sub Committee had been slightly amended to allow five councillors to be members of the Sub-Committee.

The Sub Committees and Task Groups will enable the Joint Committee to carry out its functions in an efficient and expedient manner.

RESOLVED

Working Joint Committee agreed:

- (i) The terms of reference for the following (as set out in Annex 1):
 - 1. Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee
 - 2. Community Safety Sub-Committee as amended
 - 3. Parking Task Group
 - 4. Youth Task Group
 - 5. Future Transport Planning Task Group
 - 6. Infrastructure Working Group
- (ii) The County Councillor and Borough Councillor appointments to the following:
 - 1. Health and Wellbeing Sub Committee (2 County and 2 Borough)
 - Liz Bowes (C)
 - Ben Carasco (C)
 - Beryl Hunwicks (B)
 - John Kingsbury (B)
 - 2. Community Safety Sub Committee (5 members including at least one Borough Councillor and one County Councillor)
 - Beryl Hunwicks (B)
 - Graham Chrystie (B)
 - John Kingsbury (B)
 - Anne Roberts (B)
 - Will Forster (C)
 - 3. Parking Task Group (2 County and 2 Borough plus Chairman and Vice Chairman)
 - Richard Wilson (C)
 - Colin Kemp (C)
 - Paul Smith (B)
 - Liam Lyons (B)
 - Liz Bowes

- John Kingsbury
- 4. Youth Task Group (2 County and 2 Borough)
 - Saj Hussain (C)
 - Colin Kemp (C)
 - Beryl Hunwicks (B)
 - Kevin Davis (B)
- 5. Future Transport Planning Task Group (2 County and 2 Borough plus Chairman and Leader of Borough Council)
 - Richard Wilson (C)
 - Saj Hussain (C)
 - Kevin Davis (B)
 - Will Forster (B)
 - Liz Bowes
 - John Kingsbury
- 6. Infrastructure Working Group (One County, One Borough)
 - Will Forster (C)
 - John Kingsbury (B)

28/15 MEMBERS' ALLOCATIONS 2014/15 OVERVIEW - ANNUAL SUMMARY (FOR INFORMATION) [Item 14]

Sarah Goodman introduced the report. Members Allocation is intended to enhance the wellbeing of residents and make the best possible use of the funds. Greater transparency in the use of public funds is achieved with the publication of what Members' Allocation funding has been spent on.

RESOLVED

Woking Joint Committee noted:

- (i) The amounts that have been spent from the Members' Allocation and Local Committee capital budgets, as set out in Annex 1 of this report

29/15 FORWARD PROGRAMME (FOR INFORMATION) [Item 15]

RESOLVED

Woking Joint Committee agreed to:

- (i) Note and comment on the forward programme contained in this report. Additional reports on Arnold Road and Project Horizon were requested for the September meeting.

Meeting ended at: 8.55 pm

Chairman

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