

DRAFT

Minutes of the meeting of the
Tandridge LOCAL COMMITTEE
 held at 10.15 am on 23 September 2016
 at Tandridge District Council Offices, Station Road East, Oxted, Surrey, RH8
 0BT.

Surrey County Council Members:

- * Mr Nick Skellett CBE (Chairman)
- * Mr Michael Sydney (Vice-Chairman)
- Mr David Hodge
- * Mrs Sally Ann B Marks
- Mr John Orrick
- * Mrs Helena Windsor

* In attendance

71/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

Apologies were received from Mr David Hodge and Mr John Orrick, both due to illness.

72/16 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING [Item 2]

The minutes from the previous meeting on 24 June 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

73/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

None received.

74/16 PETITIONS [Item 4]

One petition, containing 399 signatures, was received from Mrs Rachel Turk. The petition, response from the Local Committee, and the comments made by the signatories, were all tabled at the meeting.

Mrs Turk set out the reasons for her petition. She called for improvements to the junction of Ray Lane with the A22 at Blindley Heath, following a fatal accident there on 17 August 2016.

Mrs Turk expressed concerns that the junction was dangerous, and stated that there had been multiple accidents at the site, including one where two people suffered serious neck injuries. Mrs Turk said that the junction is poorly signed, one of the signs is dirty and therefore fails to show up clearly, and the phasing of the traffic lights needs reviewing. Mrs Turk suggested introducing yellow lines at the junction, as well as more signage to warn drivers of the junction and encourage them to drive safely. Mrs Turk read out a selection of

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comments made by people who had signed the petition, which corroborated her concerns.

Zena Curry, Area Highway Manager, acknowledged the concerns of local residents, as expressed in the petition, but stated that there were no records of an accident involving serious neck injury at this location. She advised that she was unable to comment on the circumstances of the accident until the legal process had concluded.

Chris Cannon, Road Safety and Traffic Management Officer with Surrey Police, stated that while there have been accidents recorded to the north, south and east of the junction, no accidents have been recorded at the lights themselves. Therefore Surrey Police currently have no concerns about the safety of the traffic lights at the junction. A speed survey was conducted to the north of the junction in 2013, which showed average speeds were within the limit.

Mrs Helena Windsor, divisional member for Godstone, reminded the committee that residents in Blindley Heath had requested a 30mph speed limit at the Local Committee meeting on 24 June 2016, and asked when the speed survey would be undertaken. She questioned the phasing of the lights and whether this had been changed since the incident, as people had been seen working on it. She concurred that the phasing of the lights felt unsafe, and highlighted that this was a concern echoed within many of the comments made through the petition.

The Area Highway Manager confirmed that the speed survey would be undertaken before, or closely after, October half term, so that there are typical traffic conditions. Highways Officers have visited the site, and this is probably what was observed by residents locally.

Mr Michael Sydney, divisional member for Lingfield, asked why Highways couldn't provide the committee with timescales for when the investigation would be completed. He stated that it was clear from the comments on the petition what residents think of the junction, and wanted reassurance that the results of the investigation would be brought back to the Local Committee. The Road Safety and Traffic Management Officer confirmed that a file is being prepared for the Crown Prosecution Service, who will decide whether any one will be charged or not.

Mr Sydney expressed concern about the accuracy of the accident statistics, given that people do not always report accidents to the Police. The Road Safety and Traffic Management Officer advised that the statistics are compiled using a nationally agreed methodology, with data provided by hospitals and doctors, not just through the attendance of the Police.

Chairman Mr Nick Skellett proposed that the Local Committee add this junction to its list of improvement schemes for 2017-18. He stated that the Local Committee will act on the concerns of residents, and referred to a fatal accident on Titsey Hill, following which the committee had been able to implement new signage and a reduced speed limit. The Area Highway Manager agreed to add the junction to the forward programme, to see if it would be prioritised for future funding.

Mrs Sally Marks, divisional member for Caterham Valley, suggested Parish Councils were well placed to help, by reminding residents to report accidents, and by keeping a database of accident hotspots locally.

75/16 FORMAL PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 5]

6 formal public questions were received. Questions and responses were tabled at the meeting.

The Chairman permitted District Councillor Mr Pat Cannon to ask a question informally at the meeting.

1) Parish Councillor Stephen Blunden – pedestrian safety on Wolf's Hill

The Chairman referred Mr Blunden to the response, and to the drawing of the proposed scheme that was tabled at the meeting. The Chairman acknowledged that the road was narrow and on a bend.

Mr Blunden was pleased to see that the council had proposed a scheme. He stated that as a daily user of the road, he has serious concerns about pedestrian safety, and while the proposed scheme is a welcome development, he would like to see additional measures to slow the traffic down, and asked why a 20mph limit could not be put in place. Anita Guy, Principal Highway Maintenance Engineer stated that in order to comply with Surrey's speed limit policy, average speeds would need to be 24mph or less for a signed only 20mph speed limit to be effective. Therefore traffic calming measures would need to be installed to ensure drivers complied with a 20mph speed limit. However, the narrow road and lack of street lighting mean it is not possible to put in traffic calming measures.

Parish and District Councillor Mrs Liz Parker stated that there is a light, but it is covered with foliage, and that with a new development of 172 homes in Hurst Green, improvements to this road are necessary. Mrs Parker had concerns that the proposed hatching could make the road narrower, and potentially add to the risks.

The Chairman acknowledged the complexities around making improvements for pedestrians on this road, but agreed that it does need looking at. He proposed to discuss with the district and parish councils once the results of the road safety audit are known. The scheme will be put onto the ITS list, for review with the Parish Council.

2) Mr Mike Clark – congestion on Croydon Road Caterham

The Chairman referred Mr Clark to the written response.

Mr Clark asked whether there would be any funding for a review of the road design next year. He stated that, in his view, the road is unsafe. The parking issues and the road design itself results in the road becoming effectively a single lane, and that as a result it is unacceptable as a main road into Caterham. He argued that what was needed was more than a look at parking.

Mrs Marks acknowledged Mr Clark's concerns. For residents along this road, having somewhere to park is a key concern. Drivers need to drive carefully

and safely. Given that the road is the main route into Caterham, Mrs Marks agreed that the road does need looking at.

The Area Highway Manager stated that no complaints had been received from bus operators about congestion in the area, and invited Mr Clark to offer his support through the Parish Council, who would welcome his suggestions, particularly if they are applying for funds from the District Council through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

The committee agreed to highlight this road when assessing schemes for future years at the next informal meeting of the committee.

3) Chairman of Dormansland Parish Council, Peter Holgate – redirecting HGVs away from unsuitable roads

Chairman of the Parish Council Peter Holgate was unable to attend. The Chairman confirmed that the written response had been sent to him. Mr Sydney requested an update from the Transport Planning Engineer on progress since the Parish Council brought the petition in 2013.

4) Nutfield Parish Council – Mid Street speed limit

The Parish Council were unable to attend the meeting. The Chairman confirmed that the written response had been sent to them.

Mrs Windsor was very disappointed that the results of the speed survey were so close to meeting the policy threshold, and said that it seems to be cars travelling outside of school drop-off and pick-up times that have increased the average speeds.

The Road Safety and Traffic Management Officer, Surrey Police, agreed to meet with Mrs Windsor and the Parish Council to discuss the results.

5) Woldingham Parish Councillor Mr Rodney Fuller – Titsey Hill, hedges and road sweeping in Woldingham

Mr Fuller was unable to attend. The Chairman confirmed that the written response had been sent.

Mrs Marks stated that residents can view the road sweeping timetable on the District Council's website.

6) Whyteleafe Village Council – Gully clearance

The Village Council were unable to attend. The Chairman confirmed that the written response had been sent to them.

Mrs Marks stated that the gullies on Godstone Road, Whyteleafe need to be categorised as high risk. The road has suffered horrendous flooding, and yet adjacent gullies have been designated as medium risk. Mrs Marks has previously been assured by Highways that gullies had been cleared, only to find that the contractor had not actually done the work. The gully categorisation for this area needs looking at again – the response to the Village Council is inadequate.

The Chairman proposed to write to the county council's Cabinet to complain about the local prioritisation of gullies, express unhappiness with the centralisation of this service and request that the Committee look for a local contractor for additional gully clearing. Mrs Windsor seconded this proposal. In previous years, the Local Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman had flexible use of funds and had been able to bring in contractors to do additional clearance. The Chairman acknowledged the awful ramifications for residents, of being flooded, and was clear that the issue of gully clearance in this area needed to be resolved urgently.

The Area Highway Manager acknowledged the committee's frustrations. There had been issues with the contract for gully clearing in the past. A new gully cleansing auditing process has been brought in to try and address this. The categorisation process was approved by Cabinet as part of the asset strategy, and there is the ability to promote local roads within this.

7) District Councillor Mr Pat Cannon - Rook Lane, Chaldon

The Chairman invited District Councillor Mr Pat Cannon to ask a question informally.

Mr Cannon requested measures to reduce speed and provide a crossing on Rook Lane, Chaldon, where he said there have been several near misses and minor accidents. The Senior Traffic Engineer, stated that the road was too narrow for a pedestrian island, but agreed to undertake a speed survey. She noted that there was no funding at present for a pedestrian crossing. She confirmed the speed survey will show the volumes of traffic as well, and agreed to share the full results with Mr Cannon.

76/16 MEMBERS QUESTIONS [Item 6]

Questions 1 and 2 and the responses were tabled at the meeting. Questions 3 and 4 were asked informally at the meeting.

1) Mr Nick Skellett - Pavement outside Moor House School

The Chairman proposed a meeting with the school and district council to discuss. District Councillor Mr Pat Cannon endorsed this.

2) Mr Nick Skellett – Use of Oxted pavements

The Chairman accepted the response.

3) Mr Nick Skellett – Woodhurst Lane

The Chairman asked that Woodhurst Lane be assessed when the committee prioritises schemes for 2017-18.

4) Mrs Helena Windsor – Blocked footpath

Mrs Windsor reported that footpath FP269 was blocked but that progress was now being made, and she has been told it is the next one on the list to be resolved.

77/16 DECISION TRACKER (FOR INFORMATION) [Item 7]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officer attending: Vicki Eade, Community Partnership and Committee Officer

Petitions, Public Question, Statements: None

The Chairman referred members to the tracker.

78/16 MEMBERS ALLOCATIONS SUMMARY (FOR INFORMATION) [Item 8]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officer attending: Sandra Brown, Community Partnership Team Leader – East

Petitions, Public Question, Statements: None

Member Discussion – Key Points:

The Chairman referred members to the report.

Members were pleased to note the ‘Singing for the Brain’ sessions were soon to start, and were keen to attend the group’s Christmas session.

Resolution:

The Local Committee (Tandridge) agreed to note:

(i) The Members’ Allocation applications received and amounts spent, where indicated, as set out in **Annex 1** of the report.

79/16 COMMUNITY SAFETY FUNDING (EXECUTIVE FUNCTION) [Item 9]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officer attending: Vicki Eade, Community Partnership and Committee Officer

Petitions, Public Question, Statements: None

The officer introduced the report. The proposals aimed to ensure better value for money and greater transparency.

Member Discussion – Key Points:

The Committee agreed to the proposals.

Resolution:

The Local Committee (Tandridge) RESOLVED to agree that:

(i) The delegated Community Safety budget of £3,000 per Local Committee for 2016/17 is to be retained by the Community Partnership Team, on behalf of the Local Committee, and that the Community Safety Partnership is invited to submit proposals that meet the criteria and principles for funding, as defined at paragraph 2.6 of this report.

(ii) Authority is delegated to the Community Partnership Manager, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Local Committee, to authorise the expenditure of the Community Safety budget in accordance with the criteria and principles stated at paragraph 2.6 of this report.

(iii) The Committee receives a report detailing the projects that were successful in being awarded the local community safety funding and the outcomes and impact they have achieved.

Reasons for decision:

A recent analysis of how the local committees' community safety funds were spent in 2015-16 revealed a mixed picture. While there were some notable examples of good practice, much of the funding was spent on activities that could have otherwise been delivered either through existing partnership work or by closer synergy with Surrey's established, strategic community safety projects. This report makes recommendations that are intended to secure greater oversight of the committee's expenditure and better value for money for projects that help to achieve the County's community safety priorities.

**80/16 PRESENTATION FROM GOVIA THAMESLINK (FOR INFORMATION)
[Item 10]**

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Phil Hutchinson, Head of Strategic Planning, Jane Cobb, 2018 Timetable Consultation Project Manager, Govia Thameslink

Petitions, Public Question, Statements: None

The officers presented the consultation just launched on the 2018 timetable.

The Head of Strategic Planning apologised to those present for the ongoing disruption affecting services locally and stated that the company is working hard to restore service levels. He told the committee about the 'step change' in infrastructure, capacity and connections that will come following the completion of the London Bridge project. It will be the biggest change to railway timetables in a generation. The consultation closes on 8 December 2016, and he asked for the committee's support in publicising the consultation locally. Following the consultation, a full timetable will be produced for Spring 2017.

There are changes proposed for the Tandridge area – these can be viewed online and in the consultation documents that the Head of Timetabling agreed to send to the committee. There will be positive changes for train users locally, where connections to London and the north will improve, as will capacity, through the introduction of longer trains, and increased frequency.

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For example, Caterham will see faster journeys into London, as the train will combine at Purley and continue as a fast train to London Bridge. The frequency is also proposed to increase to 4 per hour during the evenings.

Member Discussion – Key Points:

The Chairman agreed to help publicise the consultation, by sharing with District and Parish Councils. He asked that the committee be sent the consultation documents, so that they are clear what they are being asked to comment upon, and will seek to provide a response from the Local Committee. He invited the Govia representatives to attend the next informal meeting of the committee to discuss the proposals in more detail.

Members raised concerns about the impact of the changes on the number of cars parked on local roads, which is already a key frustration for her residents, and called for more parking to be provided. Mr Hutchinson said there were no plans for increasing car parking within this consultation. He agreed to take the concerns back to the Local Development Manager for Govia Thameslink, who had been unable to attend the meeting.

In response to a question from Mr Sydney, Mr Hutchinson said there were no plans for double decker trains in the near future.

In response to a question from Mrs Windsor, Mr Hutchinson said there were no proposed changes to the frequency of trains on the Tonbridge line, but a new evening service running directly to London was being proposed.

The Area Highway Manager asked that Govia link with Surrey Highways and Transport, who look at bus links with railway timetables. The Head of Timetabling confirmed they were planning to meet with local bus operators as part of the consultation.

The officers said there is a Local Development Fund for integration of services locally, and the committee were keen to know more about this fund.

81/16 MILITARY COVENANT UPDATE (FOR INFORMATION) [Item 11]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officer attending: Canon Peter Bruinvels, Civilian – Military Liaison Adviser to Surrey County Council,

Petitions, Public Question, Statements: None

Canon Peter Bruinvels outlined the achievements of both the County Council and Tandridge District Council in offering support to the military community.

The Surrey Civilian-Military Partnership Board (SCMPB) is now chaired by Mrs Marks. Every department within the county council now has an armed forces officer champion, and Surrey has secured the second highest amount of funding in the UK amounting to £500,000 through Covenant Grants in England. District Councillor Pat Cannon, is the first serving Council Chairman to also be the Armed Forces Champion. The SCMPB job description for

armed forces champions as developed by Surrey is now being used UK wide by the MoD as an exemplar.

Surrey's contact centre staff have received training so they now ask residents calling whether they have served in the armed forces, so that they can be referred to service charity 'ssafa' if appropriate. Work is underway with Kent and surrounding authorities now to share best practice and coordinate information.

Surrey County Council has been awarded the Employers Recognition Scheme 'Gold Award', which recognises them as a military friendly employer. Among a very limited number of high profile blue chip companies (22), Surrey was one of only two county councils to secure this award.

The next steps will be to encourage businesses to adopt the community covenant, and encourage them to take on reservists. The Civilian-Military Liaison Officer referred the committee to a directory of information, advice and guidance put together for military families to help them access public services.

Member discussion – key points:

Members offered their thanks to the Civilian-Military Liaison Officer, for his enthusiasm and determination in working so hard to represent the military.

District Councillor Mr Pat Cannon endorsed this, and expressed his gratitude to Mrs Marks for her help as Chairman of the SCMPB.

The Chairman announced that he was in discussions with the district council to secure the return of district councillors to the Local Committee, and was keen to look at a joint committee going forwards. Mr Cannon stated that he would be writing to the Leader of the district council to endorse this, as he sees the value of the Local Committee.

82/16 SPEED LIMIT - GODSTONE ROAD BLETCHINGLEY (EXECUTIVE FUNCTION) [Item 12]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Zena Curry, Area Highway Manager

Petitions, Public Question, Statements: None

To accommodate the residents who had come to the meeting for this item, the Chairman amended the agenda to take this item after Item 7.

Member Discussion – Key Points:

The Chairman reported that he had spoken with Chris Cannon, Road Safety and Traffic Management Officer with Surrey Police ahead of the meeting, and that due to a lack of prior consultation with the Parish and District Councils, he was minded to defer the item until the committee's December meeting.

Divisional Members Mrs Windsor said residents had not had time to comment on the proposals.

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A number of local residents spoke in favour of deferring the decision. Residents of Sunnybanks Villas addressed the committee, and asked for the decision to be postponed. Resident Mrs Janine Marks said that the Parish Council needed to be consulted, and that the existing 30mph limit was needed, particularly in light of new housing developments and proposed car park which should be taken into consideration. Another resident called for greater enforcement of the existing 30mph speed limit, and was frustrated that residents had not been permitted to conduct any Speedwatch activity in this area. Resident Mr Blackwell spoke of his experience seeing people speeding in this area.

The Area Highway Manager agreed to the consultation proposed, prior to consultation as part of the traffic order process, but stated that the report would still come back in December with the same recommendation for decision. Surrey Police's Road Safety and Traffic Management Officer agreed to meet with the residents.

Mrs Windsor proposed to defer the decision. Mrs Marks seconded the proposal.

The Local Committee (Tandridge) RESOLVED to defer this item until the 9 December 2016 meeting

Reason for decision:

To allow for consultation with Parish and District Councils

83/16 HIGHWAYS SCHEMES 2016-17 UPDATE (SERVICE MONITORING AND ISSUES OF LOCAL CONCERN) [Item 13]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Zena Curry, Area Highway Manager

Petitions, Public Question, Statements: None

The Chairman Mr Nick Skellett left the meeting at this point at 12:30pm. Mr Sydney, Vice-Chairman of the Local Committee, took over as Chairman for this item.

Member Discussion – Key Points

Mrs Windsor asked about Green Lane, Outwood, which had been on the original list for resurfacing but nothing has happened. The Principal Highway Maintenance Engineer, agreed to look into this and respond to Mrs Windsor.

Mrs Marks asked about High Lane, Warlingham, where the farmer is concerned for safety. The Principal Highway Maintenance Engineer responded that Highways are about to issue a traffic order that does not allow motor vehicle access, which will enable lockable bollards to be put up. Officers agreed to send Mrs Marks a copy of the letter that is being sent to residents there to advise them.

Mr Sydney asked about progress on dropped kerbs for Dormans Road, Dormansland. Officers confirmed that this will be done this financial year if sufficient funds are available, or during 2017-18.

Mrs Marks confirmed with the Area Highway Manager that she had asked for the following issues in Caterham to be looked into: i) speeding on Burntwood Lane, ii) inconsiderate parking at the Mercedes-Benz garage on Croydon Road by the roundabout, iii) parking at Waitrose, (iv) the exit from Morrisons supermarket onto Harestone Valley Road, v) dates for completion of the yellow lines on Croydon Road, and vi) a speed survey for Stafford Road. The Area Highway Manager acknowledged receipt of these issues, and agreed to look into them and report back to Mrs Marks.

Mr Sydney asked why Reigate and Banstead parking enforcement officers had not been undertaking enforcement activity in Dormansland and Lingfield as agreed with the Parking Strategy and Implementation Manager. The Area Highway Manager agreed to look into this and respond to Mr Sydney.

The Area Highway Manager invited members to submit their comments on structures and drainage in a report that would be circulated to them shortly. She confirmed that the Winter Service report did not come to this Local Committee this year, as it would be taken to Cabinet.

Meeting ended at: 12.45 pm

Chairman

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