

Minutes of the meeting of the
Epsom AND EWELL LOCAL COMMITTEE
 held at 7.00 pm on 25 March 2019
 at Bourne Hall, Spring Street, Ewell KT17 1UF.

These minutes are subject to confirmation by the Committee at its next meeting.

Surrey County Council Members:

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

Borough / District Members:

- * Cllr Michael Arthur MBE
- * Cllr Richard Baker
- * Cllr Kate Chinn
- * Cllr Hannah Dalton
- * Cllr Mike Teasdale

* In attendance

OPEN FORUM

The questions and responses to the matters raised in the open forum are attached to the minutes.

1/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]

There were no apologies for absence.

2/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 2]

There were no declarations of interest.

3/19 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS [Item 3]

The Chairman reported that:

- The County Council is currently consulting on the Making Surrey Safer Plan which proposes changes to the Fire Service Consultation, until 26th May;
- Members have been asked to provide feedback on Priority 2 Salt Routes;
- The Members Community Allowance of £5000 will be open for applications from 1 April until 31 January;
- A new Chief Constable has been appointed, Gavin Stephens;
- Surrey Police have announced that they will be moving to a new headquarters in Leatherhead;

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- Heathrow Airport have announced another round of consultation over the Summer;
- 948 Secondary school places have been allocated in Epsom and Ewell. 12428 places in Surrey up 2% on the previous year. 98% of applications were made on line with 81% getting their first choice and 92% getting a choice of their top three;
- The Chairman had attended the Junior Citizen day at Epsom racecourse on the 14 March. Dan Boneham had asked that his thanks be passed on for the support from Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, Surrey County Council and the three Divisional members who co-sponsored the event.

4/19 WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS [Item 4]

There were no public questions.

5/19 PETITIONS [Item 5]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Nick Healey, Area Highways Manager

Petitions, Public Questions/Statements: 1 petitions was received

The petitioner outlined that the entrance to the car park for the offices where she works is on a bend in Woodcote Road. The car park is well used and it is very difficult to exit safely on a blind bend, where drivers often drive too fast. There is also a well-used public footpath adjacent used by parents with buggies and young children and people visiting the hospital who find it difficult to cross the road.

Member discussion –key points

The Area Highways Officer responded that there are many sites which have a worse accident record and that resources have to be directed to addressing issues at these locations.

The Divisional member indicated that she was aware of issues along the length of the Woodcote Road, which has no pavement in some parts and had asked the local Maintenance Engineer to consider options for improvement. She has prioritised funding from her highways allocation to contribute towards any work recommended.

Members discussed the recommended options in the report. Two members were in favour of adding this area to the Committee's prioritisation list in case the divisional member is not able to proceed with the work required, however seven were in favour of taking no further action. It was therefore:

Resolved:

To take no further action at the current time, as the divisional member is already considering options to address issues in this area.

Reasons: To allow the work in hand to continue.

6/19 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING [Item 6]

Confirmed as a correct record.

7/19 MEMBER QUESTION TIME [Item 7]

One question was received and the response is included in the supplementary agenda. Cllr Mason indicated that she did not feel that her question had been answered adequately and requested a response to all of the four points she had made and that it should be sent to all Committee members. The Edge youth centre should be considered a special case, the only reason it has not been operating satisfactorily and is currently closed, is due to a lack of suitably qualified staff. It is a much needed resource in an area of high deprivation. The officer would be asked to respond further in writing.

8/19 EPSOM & ST HELIER UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS NHS TRUST UPDATE [SERVICE MONITORING AND ISSUES OF LOCAL CONCERN] [Item 8]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Daniel Elkeles, Chief Executive, Epsom & St Helier University Hospital Trust

Petitions, Public Questions/Statements: Not permitted as not an SCC service

The Trust Chief Executive provided an update on the latest news from the Trust. The presentation is attached at Annexe A to these minutes.

The new Surrey Downs Health & Care Service would launch on 1 April and it was hoped that this would provide an improved service for residents.

Epsom Hospital has the best performing stroke service in Surrey after Frimley park hospital.

The programme to look at the long term future of the hospitals is being run by the CCGs who will carry out a public consultation on which site is preferred. Government will need to commit to funding of £100m to build the facility, before the consultation can start. It is clear that it will not be possible or sustainable to continue to run all services from both hospital sites. Both hospitals will continue to provide 85% of the current services and a new acute facility will be built on one of three sites, all of which are in the Trusts current catchment.

By 2025 it is anticipated that there will be 2,500 patients a day seen at each hospital, with about 150 patients from the Epsom area going to the acute facility. There is predicted to be around a 7% increase in the population of the Borough by 2025, which has been modelled into the activity projections..

Member discussion –key points

Members queried whether there is any binding commitment from Legal & General (L&G) to provide accommodation for over 65's on the hospital land sold to them and if there is no requirement why the offer of a sale at a higher

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price was not accepted. Who agreed not to put caveats on the sale or not to accept a better offer? The Trust Chief Executive responded that the land had been offered to other public authorities including the County Council and there had been no credible offers. Social care in Surrey is either funded privately or by the County Council mostly in private accommodation. The land was sold to the company who seemed to best meet the brief to provide facilities for social care or affordable housing as requested by residents at the hospital board meeting, but there is no binding requirement for them to provide this. The highest bids came with lots of caveats and were felt to be unlikely to get planning permission or realise the offer being made. The offer from L&G also includes a subsidised nursery and wellness centre/gym which can be used by hospital staff. Should L&G decide to sell on the land for a higher price overage clauses will come into effect which will require them to pay additional sums to the hospital. Once a planning application is submitted the Borough Council will be able to consider additional conditions on any permission granted. The current proposal is for 150-200 units of accommodation from single rooms to two to three bed flats. The single rooms will be available for step up and down nursing care and the NHS will be able to buy the service as required whilst some will be privately funded.

A members queried the timescales for the provision of additional car parking on site. The Trust Chief Executive responded that it has been agreed that staff parking can remain on the sold land until at least 2020 to give time for the consideration of a planning application for a decked car park.

The Trust Chief Executive was unable to provide the assurance that at any time in the future no more land on the Epsom hospital site will be sold. However, he did confirm that no more land would be sold before a decision has been made on the location for the new acute facility.

A member queried whether the hospital was accepting equipment from the Epsom Medical Equipment Fund. The Trust Chief Executive responded that they are not accepting equipment currently as the terms of the Fund mean that it is only able to loan the equipment and the Trust feel that people donating funding would expect the equipment to be donated to Epsom Hospital. The Trust are quite happy to provide assurances that any equipment donated will remain at Epsom Hospital. Although the Fund has been asked to move their shop from the hospital, they are still able to use the car park for boot sales to raise money.

A member asked whether the Trust was confident that it had sufficient levels of staff particularly in the light of Brexit. The Chief Executive responded that there are a lot of vacancies in the Trust. 15% of staff currently come from the EU and it has become harder to recruit from there. However, the Trust does have ambitious plans for recruitment and has had some success. A&E is a particular challenge, to fully staff both sites 30 middle grade medical staff would be required and there are currently 11 permanent staff with some vacancies filled by temporary staff, but this does affect waiting times.

It was reported that between £7.5-£8m had been secured to move the Cottage Hospital from the Horton site to the Langley Wing at the hospital. It will be a centre of excellence for rehabilitation. The Horton site will be sold by NHS property services but the Trust would like to see a new GP surgery in this area.

9/19 HIGHWAYS UPDATE [EXECUTIVE FUNCTION - FOR DECISION] [Item 9]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Nick Healey, Area Highways Manager

Petitions, Public Questions/Statements: None

Member discussion –key points

The Area Highways Manager reported that since the last meeting the Cabinet member for Highways had decided not to divide the capital funding for Local/Joint Committees equally as in previous years, but to use different criteria. This had resulted in a roughly 20% reduction in the funding available to this Committee. The capital programme can go ahead as planned as the Borough council have given agreement to the release of some s106 funding which can be used to fund some of the work planned on East Street.

Members were unhappy with the reduced level of funding and the criteria used which includes the number of divisions and the length of road in each area. The County Council has challenged Government on using road length rather than usage to determine funding, but is now applying this criteria to its own funding. Epsom & Ewell now have the lowest level of funding anywhere in Surrey despite having some of the most used roads.

Members queried whether if it is not possible to use the CIL funding for tree planting in East Street whether the funding will be returned. The Area Highways Manager confirmed that £1,800 has currently been provided to carry out radar surveys to see if there are any suitable sites for planting. The Borough can ask for the return of any unused funding at any time.

It was reported that the original plans for the Stoneleigh Park Road cycleway had proposed converting the footway outside the shops to shared use, but this was not now suitable on safety grounds. An alternative solution is being sought.

It is not possible to say what level of funding will be available in future years to fund central maintenance schemes via Project Horizon. Noted that the resurfacing in East Street had been postponed as a result of the requirement to replace the gas main for which SGN currently have a tendering process taking place.

Members queried whether High Street East would be resurfaced. It is not currently on any programme, although if the Committee wished to do so it could consider pooling resources to carry out this work.

The Ward member thanked the Area Highways Manager for the work carried out in Noble Park.

The zebra crossing originally proposed in Waterloo Road to use the developer funding from the station had not proved acceptable as a result of the loss of too many parking spaces by the shops. However, it was felt to be important

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that this funding does not have to be returned. The proposal currently under consideration is not to close Horsley Close but to consult more widely to gauge if there is any support for this option.

Noted that the dropped kerbs planned along the Chessington Road are to improve accessibility and won't add any new cycle facilities.

Resolved:

- (i) That the (revised) strategy for allocation of Joint Committee Highways budgets for next Financial Year 2019-20 as set out in Table 4 of the report be agreed.
- (ii) (on a proposal from Cllr Kington seconded by Cllr Mason it was unanimously agreed) To note with concern that, since it last met in December, there has been an additional cut to the proposed Epsom and Ewell local highway budget for 2019/20 based on a criteria that does not take into account road usage and which provides insufficient funding to address locally identified need. The Local Committee therefore calls upon the Cabinet to review both the funding of, and the criteria for, the allocation of the Local Highway budget for 2020/2021.
- (iii) To implement the three options to invest the £50,000 s106 funding in pedestrian, cycle, and public transport improvements in Waterloo Road:
 - a. (6 votes FOR, 1 AGAINST, 1 ABSTENTION) Implement a new shared pedestrian / cycle route connecting Station Approach to the alleyway leading to Pound Lane;
 - b. (ALL in favour) Implement the street lighting improvements underneath the railway bridge in Waterloo Road;
 - c. (8 votes FOR, 1 AGAINST) Consult the local community on an experimental closure of the end of Horsley Close;
- (iv) To approve thirteen new bus stop clearways as detailed in Annex C of the report.
- (v) To authorise the Area Highway Manager in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and relevant Divisional Member(s) to undertake all necessary procedures to deliver the agreed programmes.

Reasons: Recommendations are made to facilitate development of Committee's 2019-20 Highways programmes, while at the same time ensuring that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and relevant Divisional Members are fully and appropriately involved in any detailed considerations. The Committee wished to draw the attention of the Cabinet to the level of funding provided for this area and the criteria used. Specific recommendations are made to facilitate the investment of a £50,000 s106 sum that must be spent on pedestrian, cycle, and public transport improvements in Waterloo Road. Committee is asked to provide the necessary authorisation to deliver its programmes of work in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and relevant Divisional Member without the need to revert to the Committee as a whole.

Members were disappointed that the final yellow lining from the last parking review had still not been completed. The Chairman reported that he had raised the matter with the Cabinet member for Highways as the timings of the past few reviews have all resulted in lines being laid down in the winter, when there are often delays as a result of bad weather. The next review would begin in September which would mean that lines would be painted in spring, so that the work should be completed more quickly.

The Committee noted the progress made with items in the tracker and agreed that those marked as complete could be removed.

11/19 FORWARD PLAN [FOR INFORMATION] [Item 11]

Noted the forward plan.

12/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING [Item 12]

Monday 24 June 2019 at 7pm, Bourne Hall, Ewell.

Meeting ended at: 9.00 pm

Chairman

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