

Minutes of the meeting of the
Waverley LOCAL COMMITTEE
 held at 10.00 am on 13 December 2019
 at Waverley Borough Council Chamber, The Burys, Godalming GU7 1HR.

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

Surrey County Council Members:

- * Mrs Victoria Young (Chairman)
- * Mr David Harmer (Vice-Chairman)
- Mrs Nikki Barton
- * Mr Andy MacLeod
- * Mr Peter Martin
- * Dr Andrew Povey
- * Mr Wyatt Ramsdale
- * Mrs Penny Rivers
- * Mr Stephen Spence

Borough / District Members:

- * Cllr Christine Baker
- * Cllr Peter Clark
- * Cllr Carole Cockburn
- * Cllr Steve Cosser
- * Cllr John Gray
- * Cllr Jerry Hyman
- Cllr Mark Merryweather
- * Cllr Trevor Sadler
- Cllr George Wilson

* In attendance

OPEN FORUM - INFORMAL PUBLIC QUESTIONS

42/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

Apologies were received from Mrs Nikki Barton, Cllr Mark Merryweather and Cllr George Wilson.

43/19 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING [Item 2]

Minutes of the Waverley Local Committee on 27 September 2019 were agreed and approved as an accurate record.

44/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

There were no declarations of interest.

45/19 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS [Item 4]

There were no Chairman's announcements.

46/19 PETITIONS & PETITION RESPONSES [Item 5]

Declarations of Interest: None.

Officer in attendance: Frank Apicella, Area Highway Manager (South West).

Petitions, Public Questions/Statements: One petition.

A petition was received from Beth Pinkerton-Smith which contained 28 signatures and read:

“This petition is to gain support from the residents living on and around PORTSMOUTH ROAD (between Milford and Godalming) to present before the Waverley Local Committee, with the request to assess and introduce traffic calming measures to reduce the speed and improve the safety of the road.”

The petitioner spoke for the allotted three minutes and included the following points:

- This morning at 7.25am while opening her car door, the number 71 bus, on its way to Milford, did considerable damage to the petitioner’s open car door on the Portsmouth Road, but failed to stop. The petitioner said that this highlights the daily dangers residents face.
- Portsmouth Road is a very dangerous road, particularly from Flat 1A up to Primrose Ridge. This is a residential stretch of road, where over half of cars and motorbikes exceed the 30mph speed limit. Drivers seem unaware of the speed limit. The petitioner has reported dangerous incidents over the past few years, but the issue has not been resolved.
- Another resident helped to gain nearly 200 signatures of support and there was an overwhelming response from her community. Another resident in Croft Road, which is parallel to Portsmouth Road, has just started a petition as Croft Road residents find it dangerous to pull out onto Portsmouth Road.
- Portsmouth Road is an integral route for Godalming and its economy. Two big developments are going to be built nearby and more people will use the Portsmouth Road. A speeding road and narrow pavement does not encourage people to walk to use the local facilities.

The petition response report was presented by the Area Highway Manager.

Member discussion – key points:

Members acknowledged that the issue of high volume traffic is a problem on the Portsmouth Road and also on most of the roads in and out of Godalming. There was a request for a general 20 mph discussion for some Waverley roads at a future local committee meeting, as indicated in the minutes of the meeting on 27 September 2019.

The Area Highway Officer stated that 30 mph signs do not need to be placed where there are street lights, as written in the Highway Code. The issue of speeding is a police enforcement matter. The Portsmouth Road could be

made a priority for consideration of further action, if Committee members decide to add it to the Committee's priority list.

SCC Members asked if they could move divisional Highways monies between members to help fund a vehicle activated sign (VAS). The Chairman supported this and Mr Martin, who's division the Portsmouth Road is in, will discuss it with the Area Highway Manager.

The Local Committee (Waverley) resolved to AGREE to:

Note the officer response and the suggestion for the introduction of a Vehicle Activated Sign, to be funded from the Divisional member Mr Peter Martin's committee allocation for 2020/21.

47/19 WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 6]

Two Written Public Questions were received from:

1) Waverley Borough Councillors for Bramley, Busbridge and Hascome, Richard Seaborne and Martin D'Arcy;

2) Witley Parish Council.

The questions and answers were published on the SCC Waverley Local Committee web pages before the 13 December Local Committee and were available at the meeting. The following supplementary questions were asked:

Question 1 – Supplementary Question – Cllr Seaborne

"Cllr D'Arcy and I welcome the thorough response. The officer section addresses the symptoms by neatly describing that traffic on the A281 in our area is disrupted for emergency repairs by either Thames Water or SGN approximately once every six weeks. And your response shows a will to try and start work on a solution.

We have a supplementary question to add to what has been covered, based on the relative ease with which some useful data to categorise the scale of the problem has been supplied. Can we ask that before Thames Water and SGN appear before this committee, should they choose to accept your invitation, officers provide us, and members of the Committee, with the following additional background data:

- Firstly, it seems to us that the frequency of emergency repairs has increased over the past 12 months. Do the data support this perception ?
- Secondly, exactly what length of the A281 is covered by the data supplied for SGN and Thames Water, and thirdly
- For completeness can we also know the comparable emergency repair figures for BT and for UK Power Networks. Two weeks ago, BT had two sets of traffic lights disrupting traffic in Bramley at the same time for emergency works, so Thames Water and SGN, while probably having the greater scale of infrastructure renewal to address, are by no means alone.

Thank you for the opportunity to bring this significant issue to your committee."

ITEM 2

Response to supplementary question:

The Chairman said that the committee officer will seek an answer and contact Cllr Seaborne after the meeting.

Question 2 – Supplementary Question – Witley Parish Council

“We understand that preventing traffic collisions gives the highest weighting for schemes, but we are surprised that none of the other categories mentioned in the integrated transport scheme assessment list give this scheme a positive score. Particularly under “Accessibility” (which includes promoting public transport, encouraging walking and encouraging cycling). This is the route to Milford station and currently pedestrians and cyclists are unable / too frightened to use it in wet weather. Witley Parish Council would therefore respectfully ask for this assessment to be completed again.

SCC Officers advised that this site forms part of the wetspot programme and we note that it scored a medium score of 107. Witley Parish Council would like to request an explanation of how this score was calculated please.

We note that the structures team have recommended preliminary work on drainage around the bridge. Would you expect this to be scheduled for completion under the maintenance budget as soon as the ground dries out or will we have to wait for funding to become available, and for us to reach the top of the priority list, for this maintenance work to be undertaken?”

Response to supplementary question:

The Area Highway Officer replied that the ITS list is assessed annually with the latest accident data and costs. The SCC flood resilience team score any identified wet spot schemes directly and they are then prioritised and programmed for works based upon their available budget allocations.

The Chairman said that the SCC Cabinet decides on the method of scoring. This year each SCC Member has £7,500 to spend on Highways in their division.

Mr Peter Martin, whose division includes Witley, said that there is so little money to spend, but plans could be made for if/when more money becomes available.

48/19 WRITTEN MEMBER QUESTIONS [Item 7]

Two Written Member Questions were received from Cllr Carole Cockburn and Cllr Jerry Hyman.

The questions and answers were published on the SCC Waverley Local Committee web pages before the 13 December Local Committee and were available at the meeting.

Question 1 – Supplementary Question

Cllr Cockburn asked: “I chaired a group who produced the Farnham Design Statement and Neighbourhood Plan, so I understand the issues. Has Farnham Town Council been invited to a specific meeting on Hickleys Corner? Who attended the meeting mentioned in the Written Answer?”

Response to supplementary question:

Mr Andy MacLeod replied that he was unable to attend the meeting but he believed it was attended by the Leader of the Town Council and the Farnham Town Clerk. The meeting was more about the Farnham Strategic Plan but he welcomes a possible Hickleys Corner Scheme revival which would require extensive public consultation.

Question 2 – Supplementary Question

Cllr Hyman asked: “I have been asking for 15 years for Farnham Town Centre modelling. SCC officers and Waverley BC officers say that the modelling has been done, but I don’t believe this. Assessment of impact is required by law. How do we move forward?”

Response to supplementary question:

The Area Highway Officer replied: “Many issues are related to planning, which this Committee cannot comment on.”

49/19 RIGHT OF WAY: PROPOSED CYCLE TRACK ORDER FOR FP 19 HASLEMERE (OTHER COUNTY COUNCIL FUNCTIONS) [Item 8]

Declarations of Interest: Mr Stephen Spence declared that he is a member of the Ramblers Association.

Officer in attendance: Debbie Jones, SCC Senior Countryside Access Officer.

Petitions, Public Questions/Statements: None.

The Chairman reminded those present that there can be no public questions or petitions on the rights of way matters under discussion and that no new evidence can be presented at this stage.

No one registered to speak against the proposal in advance of the meeting.

Mr Alistair Bayliss registered to speak in support of the proposal and he spoke for the allotted three minutes which included the following points:

- Along with friends who were all frustrated at not being able to cycle in Haslemere town centre, Mr Bayliss issued a flyer which resulted in around 100 people of all ages cycling the one and a half miles in Haslemere town as a group, without oppressive road noise.
- Mr Bayliss does not think that the introduction of cycle path No. 19 will deliver this type of cycling activity permanently, but he feels there has to be a start somewhere if cycling is to increase.
- Investment in infrastructure is required. He believes that the proposed changes will make it safer for all and that this small change is symbolic and represents the future of the town. Support for this would be energizing. The public want to cycle.

Member discussion – key points:

ITEM 2

The Chairman read a statement from Mrs Nikki Barton, the divisional member for Haslemere, as she was unable to attend the meeting:

“The proposed Cycle Tracks Order on a section of Footpath 19 is an initiative that has support from Haslemere Town Council, Haslemere Vision, Haslemere Community Rail Partnership (in partnership with the Surrey Hills and Cycling UK) and Transition Haslemere. It is identified as one of the “opportunities” in the submission draft Neighbourhood Plan.

There is a growing community desire to improve the conditions for cycling in Haslemere and this is borne out in some specific ways:

1. Haslemere Vision, the town’s neighbourhood plan steering group (www.haslemerevision.org.uk), carried out an extensive public consultation in 2016 that identified very strong public support for better walking and cycling provision in the town. The public opinion was strongly in favour of improvements being introduced to encourage more “active travel” to access Haslemere train station.
2. Haslemere Community Rail Partnership commissioned a Station Travel Plan in 2016 that also identified a public desire for safer routes to and from the station in order to reduce the dependency on the private car.
3. Transition Haslemere partnered with a local cycling group in the summer of this year to organise several mass bike rides, involving a wide cross-section of cyclists, including families with younger children; associated press releases called for improvements to Haslemere’s cycling infrastructure.
4. Haslemere Town Council has recently declared a Climate Change Emergency and one of its stated aims is to promote more sustainable transport modes.

Cycling in Haslemere is extremely challenging for all but the experienced, confident cyclist. The main routes through the town are in many places narrow, with no space to accommodate a separate cycle lane. Key pinch points include: Fosters Bridge near the station; the Wey Hill shopping area; and the high pavement section of Lower Street. These are all particularly hazardous for cyclists. Very significant funding would be required to address these challenges – funds that are currently not available to members of this committee.

A creative approach is therefore needed if we are to improve cycling in Haslemere within the existing physical and financial constraints, to encourage wider and safer participation. An opportunity does exist in the form of the network of paths – both formal and informal – that criss-cross the town. The strategic vision of the groups supporting the proposal today is to use these paths, linking up with some quieter roads where gaps exist, to create a safer, integrated network of cycle and walking paths. This network would provide links between and among residential zones and key community assets, including our schools, health centre, sports centre, library and shopping areas. The plan is to work with the Surrey Highways and Countryside teams to direct funds, as they become available, to upgrade sections of path and the linkages to create this network.

The proposal for consideration today and set out in the committee papers, is to upgrade a section of Footpath 19 via a Cycle Tracks Order. This marks the first piece, so to speak, in this 'jigsaw' of a town-wide cycle and pedestrian network. The route is already used by cyclists informally as it provides a back-route link from Lower Street near the station, through to both Lion Lane Green and Shottermill Infant and Primary school, and up to the National Trust Devil's Punch Bowl where cyclists can connect to the extensive Cycle Surrey Hills cycle network, with 90km of off-road tracks.

A criticism of the proposal that has been received by Officers is that the Cycle Tracks Order creates a small isolated section of cycle route. As explained above, this is intended to mark the first section of a wider strategic network of interlinking paths, which will be improved and upgraded as and when funding amounts become available. The vision would then be to upgrade the next section of route from the end of the proposed length of path, to link it with both Shottermill Infant and Junior schools as the next piece in the 'jigsaw' once funding is secured. Both Heads are working hard to promote 'Safer Routes to School' and more active travel by pupils and parents so as to reduce parking and congestion as well as to improve air quality and safety issues around their schools.

The scheme's cost (£7,000) represents good value for money as it improves the off-road path for current users of the path, be they pedestrians, disability scooter users or cyclists. The scheme will upgrade the path surface, widen the existing path and replace a rotten wooden barrier over the small stream which the path crosses.

The Surrey Highways and Countryside teams have assessed the scheme thoroughly and confirm that when upgraded the path will accommodate both cyclists and pedestrians, with signage to encourage mutual respect by all path users and "cyclists dismount" signs will be installed in front of the bridge over the stream. The path will remain on the definitive map retaining footpath status, and the proposal is not opposed by the local rambler group.

Looking ahead, Waverley have plans for a housing development on the current Youth Campus site adjacent to this proposed upgraded section of path, which would therefore be directly accessible to residents in the new homes."

Members supported the proposal in general, although some had reservations. There was concern regarding the impact on pedestrians. The officer confirmed that cyclists cannot go fast due to the nature of the path and that new signage will be erected. There were queries regarding new housing referred to by Mrs Barton in her statement. The proposed location was indicated on the map and the Chairman stated that as far as she was aware, no planning application had been made and therefore the matter was not relevant to the discussion.

The Chairman asked Members to vote on the recommendations:

- 1) 14 for
- 2) 0 against
- 3) 1 abstained

The Local Committee (Waverley) resolved to Agree that:

ITEM 2

- (i) a Cycle Tracks Order is made and advertised under the Cycle Tracks Act 1984 over the route of Public Footpath No. 19 (Town Path No. T11102) Haslemere as shown on Drg. No. 3/1/20/H54 (Annex 1)
- (ii) if no objections are received it shall be confirmed. If objections are received it will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Transport for confirmation.

50/19 WAVERLEY ON-STREET PARKING ENFORCEMENT UPDATE 2018-19 (EXECUTIVE FUNCTION) [Item 9]

Declarations of Interest: None.

Officer in attendance: David Curl, SCC Parking Team Manager. Andy Harkin, Guildford Borough Council Parking Manager.

Petitions, Public Questions/Statements: None.

Member discussion – key points:

The officers confirmed that there are now four on-street enforcement officers in Waverley and visits to rural areas can be made more regularly. Members felt that although they recognised that the parking team does not offer an emergency service, some parking issues in villages were not being dealt with. The officer said he would take that feedback to his team. If the Local Committee felt that they wanted to recruit another enforcement officer, they could take that decision, but would have to consider the costs.

The introduction of online applications for parking permits means that residents no longer have to visit Guildford Borough Council or the Farnham Locality office to make an application.

If Members wish to view data on the location of penalty notices issued, the Chairman said they should contact her for the information.

There was Member support for the 'school watch' initiative as parking outside schools is an issue.

There was a query regarding figures in a table on page 39 (Annex 4 PCN summary – lines 02, 27 and 48) and the officer said he would seek clarification on figures for Members.

A Member said that the purpose of on-street charges was not to run a business but to keep the roads safe; it was co-incidental that there happens to be a profit.

Members asked for it to be recorded in the minutes regarding how to report an enforcement issue:

email: parking@guildford.gov.uk

Tel: 01483 444544

The Local Committee (Waverley) resolved to AGREE to:

- i) Continue to support the enforcement of waiting and parking bay restrictions in the borough.
- ii) Make permanent the School Watch initiative, in part using the additional enforcement resources now available, which were agreed by the Committee at its September 2018 meeting.

51/19 HIGHWAYS UPDATE (EXECUTIVE FUNCTION) [Item 10]

Declarations of Interest: None.

Officer in attendance: Frank Apicella, Area Highway Manager (South West).

Petitions, Public Questions/Statements: None.

Member discussion – key points:

The ‘unallocated’ figure of £41,049 in Annex 2 at the bottom of page 51 was queried. The Area Highway Officer said that the figure was a mistake and he would re-circulate the correct figures.

There was a discussion regarding grit bins in an area of Farnham which will be taken outside of the meeting.

The Local Committee (Waverley) resolved to AGREE:

- (i) To note the committee approved allocations and works being progressed during 2019/20.

52/19 LOCAL COMMITTEE DECISION TRACKER (FOR INFORMATION) [Item 11]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officer in attendance: Yvette Ortel, Partnership Committee Officer

Petitions, Public Questions/Statements: None.

The Local Committee (Waverley) resolved to AGREE that:

Decision tracker items shall remain ‘open’.

53/19 LOCAL COMMITTEE FORWARD PROGRAMME 2019-20 [Item 12]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officer in attendance: Yvette Ortel, Partnership Committee Officer

Petitions, Public Questions/Statements: None.

The forward programme was agreed.

ITEM 2

The following items were suggested for an Informal meeting:

- SGN and Thames Water to be invited to discuss their works in Waverley and in particular their plans for the A281, regarding closures.
- SCC Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families, Mary Lewis, to be invited to the 31 January 2020 Informal, to discuss the new family centre model and the implications for Waverley Borough Council. Waverley Borough Members will also be invited.

The Chairman confirmed that other items on the Informal forward plan include:

- Waverley Economic Strategy - to explore opportunities for joint working with Waverley Borough Council.
- Background information for Members regarding Local Committee / Joint Committee / Partnership Board.

Members discussed Farnham Highway issues which could be included in the forward programme, such as lorries and HGV sat navs. The Chairman said she would arrange a separate private meeting for Farnham Local Committee members.

54/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING [Item 13]

To be held on Friday 13th March 2020 at 10am in the Waverley Borough Council Chamber, The Burys, Godalming GU7 1HR.

(10am – 10.30am: Open Public Questions Forum)

Meeting ended at: 12.23 pm

Chairman