

Minutes of the meeting of the
Mole VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE
 held at 2.00 pm on 4 September 2019
 at Council Chamber, Pippbrook, Reigate Road, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1SJ.

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

Surrey County Council Members:

- * Mr Tim Hall (Chairman)
- Mr Chris Townsend
- Mrs Clare Curran
- * Mrs Helyn Clack
- * Mr Stephen Cooksey (Vice-Chairman)
- * Mrs Hazel Watson

Borough / District Members:

- * Cllr Nancy Goodacre
- Cllr Rosemary Dickson
- * Cllr Raj Haque
- * Cllr Mary Huggins
- * Cllr David Hawksworth
- Cllr Claire Malcomson

* In attendance

OPEN FORUM SESSION

The questions and responses from the open forum session are included as annex A to these minutes.

24/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]

Apologies were received from Mr Chris Townsend, Mrs Clare Curran, Cllr Rosemary Dickson (Cllr Tim Ashton attended as a substitute) and Cllr Claire Malcomson (Cllr Caroline Salmon attended as a substitute).

25/19 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING [Item 2]

The minutes of the previous meeting on 12 June 2019 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

26/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

There were no declarations of interest.

26/19A PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 4a]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Zena Curry, Area Highways Manager (AHM), SCC

Petitions, Public Statements, Questions: The questions and officer responses were provided within the supplementary agenda.

[14.19 Mrs Helyn Clack arrived]

Question 1 was submitted by Cllr Caroline Salmon who attended the meeting and asked the following supplementary question:

I acknowledge there isn't the money for an average speed camera on this stretch of the A24 but my question asked for an officer opinion on a 'paint job' to help improve safety. The figures quoted from crashmap.co.uk are somewhat skewed as for a period of time during the quoted period there were roadworks on the A24 which reduced the road down to one lane, and slowed the traffic. I understand that a cycle route has been commissioned through Beare Green. My question is why has this been done and has the work started on this yet? If not, I would ask the committee to consider reallocating the funds towards some hatching work at this location as the proposed spend on the cycle path seems a lot for something that won't be used.

The AHM acknowledged that Cllr Salmon's proposal did have merit but funding couldn't just be transferred from one scheme to another in such a way as suggested. She added that the local committee could ask that the proposed scheme be added to the Integrated Transport Schemes (ITS) list to see if any future funding could be identified. She added that whilst adding the scheme to the list was the first step, it could still take a long time to progress and be implemented.

The divisional member noted there had always been many concerns over the safety at the Beare Green roundabout and whilst there seemed to be lots of ideas about what could be done, there had never been much discussion.

The Chairman therefore suggested that a site visit was arranged to discuss the possible options. Invitees were to include; Divisional Member, Ward Member, Road Safety Officers, Parish Council Clerk, Representative from the Cycle Forum and an Officer from the SE Area Highways Team.

Question 2 was submitted by Mr Andrew Matthews who attended the meeting and asked the following supplementary question:

Since submitting my question I have this week witnessed two cars jumping the red lights at this junction. Is someone able to monitor the situation and enforce if necessary so we can build up a case to get the junction improved?

The AHM stated that enforcement was a matter for the Police and that adding cameras to monitor was not something the highways team were able to do in Surrey.

Question 3 was submitted by Mr Tim Waller. A revised response from officers had been provided and was tabled at the meeting. This revised response is attached as Annex B to these minutes.

Mr Waller attend the meeting and made the following comment:

This is a long standing issue where so far no credible action has taken place. This is a real hazard that needs to be addressed urgently.

Question 4 was submitted by Mr Roy Welch who attended the meeting and asked the following supplementary question:

There is no signage for people exiting the 50mph A24 to tell them to slow down. What can be done about this?

The AHM responded, saying that as Mr Welch's road was private it wasn't possible for Surrey Highways to put any signs up and the sign requested by Mr Welch wasn't possible to install in this location anyway. She noted that previously there had been a keep left sign at this location that had been vandalised and removed. The Traffic Engineer had noted this and had added to the system that a replacement should be ordered.

Question 5 was submitted by Cllr Paul Kennedy who attended the meeting and asked the following supplementary question:

I had hoped for a response along the lines of monitoring the performance at the Leatherhead Recycling Centre but in paragraph two the response offers examples of what measures could be taken to minimise delays. Are these suggestions ones that have been implemented?

No officer was present at the meeting to respond directly to this question. A written response would be provided to Cllr Kennedy outside the meeting.

Question 6 was submitted by Paula Dale, Capel Parish Council who did not attend the meeting nor submit a supplementary question.

26/19B MEMBER QUESTIONS [Item 4b]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Zena Curry, Area Highways Manager (AHM), SCC

Petitions, Public Statements, Questions: The questions and officer responses were provided within the supplementary agenda.

Cllr Raj Haque submitted three questions and asked the following supplementary questions for question 1 and 2 respectfully.

1. Having not prioritised this scheme for works to be done is there anything that can be done in the meantime before things get worse?

The AHM noted that members had recently received a presentation from the Asset Management Team that had included information about prioritisation of schemes but acknowledged that Cllr Haque had been unable to attend the meeting. She added the divisional member had a small amount of money to fund local schemes but noted it was unlikely to be allocated for this work and unfortunately hadn't been prioritised as part of the severe weather programme.

ITEM 2

2. Is there an alternative method for safer crossing by the chemist, such as signage that could be used in order to warn drivers to slow down?

The AHM said that the informal crossing that had been installed had undergone a safety audit and that drivers did need to drive with caution when in an area where pedestrians could be present and crossing the road. She suggested that one option would be to remove all the parking outside the shops but this wouldn't be popular with the shop owners and would therefore not be a likely solution.

Cllr Claire Malcomson submitted two questions and Cllr Caroline Salmon, as Cllr Malcomson's substitute asked the following supplementary question:

I'm pleased to see a map is being drawn up. When is the current contractors contract up? Can we see if a new contractor will pick up this other part of the contract?

With regards to the orchids the stick in Beare Green is in the wrong place. Who has been consulted on this?

There was no officer present to answer the supplementary questions. A written response would therefore be provided after the meeting.

Cllr Nancy Goodacre submitted three questions. She noted she had no supplementary question to ask but that it was good to see a date in relation to the Bookham Youth Centre.

27/19 PETITIONS [Item 5]

Two petitions were received before the deadline.

27/19A PETITION TO: MAKE IT SAFER FOR OUR CHILDREN TO CROSS THE GUILDFORD ROAD IN BOOKHAM BETWEEN GROVESIDE AND HAWKWOOD RISE [Item 5a]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Zena Curry, Area Highways Manager (AHM), SCC

Petitions, Public Questions, Statements: The full wording of the petition and officer response was provided within the supplementary agenda.

The lead petitioner, Mrs Kate Harper was unable to attend the meeting.

Key points from discussion:

- Members suggested that the officer response wasn't actually in relation to what the lead petitioner had requested. The response was in relation to installing a new crossing on the road whereas the petition had referenced making the road safer to cross.
- Members queried about a safe cycle route for pupils to use, which was noted by the AHM who added this was to be taken in to consideration. She added that cost did also need to be considered for such things.

Resolution:

The Local Committee noted:

- i. The petition for a pedestrian crossing to be provided on the A246 Guildford Road between the junctions of Groveside and Hawkwood Rise.
- ii. That Initial design work to establish the feasibility of a proposed crossing on the A246 Guildford Road, between the junction of Groveside and Hawkwood Rise had been added to the Integrated Transport Schemes List for consideration for future funding.
- iii. That officers could work with the divisional Member and Bookhams Residents Association to explore whether the Residents Association were in support of this request. If supported, then the Residents Association could support any work to assess the feasibility of this request, for example funding a feasibility study or identifying match funding.

Reason for decisions:

The above decisions were made in order to enable further investigative work to take place and for the Residents' Association to offer to help fund said works if they were supportive of the request.

27/19B PETITION TO: INTRODUCE A 20MPH SPEED LIMIT ON ALL RESIDENTIAL STREETS IN ASHTEAD WITH THE EXCLUSION OF THE A24 [Item 5b]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Zena Curry, Area Highways Manager (AHM), SCC

Petitions, Public Questions, Statements: The full wording of the petition and officer response was provided within the supplementary agenda.

The lead petitioner, Dr Rita Antonelli attended the meeting and addressed the committee with her concerns. She stated she was concerned about the speeds that vehicles were travelling around Ashtead. She showed concern for the safety of the children, especially as there were many schools in the area. She argued that the SCC speed policy was outdated as it was written in 2014.

Key points from the discussion:

- It was noted that the divisional member, who was not present at the meeting, had been keen to pursue the introduction of 20 mph speed limits outside schools. There were a number of schools in the district that had already had 20 mph speed limits piloted outside them.
- It was acknowledged that the idea was a good one but it was noted that on some of the roads in Ashtead it would not be possible to reach 30mph anyway. Members therefore may not be supportive of the 20mph introduction across the whole of Ashtead.

ITEM 2

- The cost for such changes needed to be considered. It wasn't as simple as erected some signs. In certain areas, where speed was excessive, additional measures would be required that could be unpopular with residents and lead to traffic seeking an alternative route.
- It was queried when the Cabinet 'Setting Speed Limit Policy' was last reviewed. The AHM confirmed the last review was about 6 months ago and therefore it was unlikely it would be reviewed again so soon.
- Members noted that other areas, such as Kingston, which was outside surrey, had 20 mph speed limits in residential areas. They queried what the difference was here and whether anything like that had been done within Surrey. They asked whether they needed to do more work or ask the Cabinet Member to look at what could be possible, for example a zoned area rather than individual roads to help with costs.
- The AHM confirmed it wouldn't be possible to have blanket zoned area as the roads with the 20 mph limit needed to be connected. As the A24 ran through the middle, all roads being considered would need to be looked at separately. She added that London Boroughs received more funding for such things but officers could look at the locations that would make the biggest difference. This was outside schools.
- Members noted that there appeared to be strong support in Ashted for the 20 mph speed limit. They acknowledged however that if an area such as Ashted had this implemented there would likely be pressure from other areas such as Dorking to do the same.
- The recommendations in the report mentioned involvement from Ashted Residents' Association. Whilst the Residents' Association might have had funding available they had yet to be party to any conversations on the matter.
- Mrs Helyn Clack seconded by Mr Tim Hall proposed an amendment to the third recommendation as felt it should appear more urgent as opposed to a suggestion and should also include the petitioner. The proposed amendment read:

The Mole Valley Local Committee are asked to agree:

- i) That officers should work with the divisional member, the petitioner and Ashted Residents' Association to explore whether the Residents' Association are in support of this request. If supported then the Residents' Association could support any work to assess the feasibility of this request, for example funding a feasibility study or identifying match funding.

Resolution:

The Local Committee noted:

- i) That the petition to introduce a 20mph speed limit on all of the requested roads in Ashted and response.

- ii) To continue to support the introduction of self-enforcing 20mph speed limits outside schools in Ashtead.

The Local Committee agreed:

- i) That officers ~~could~~ should work with the divisional member, the petitioner and Ashtead Residents' Association to explore whether the Residents' Association were in support of this request. If supported then the Residents' Association could support any work to assess the feasibility of this request, for example funding a feasibility study or identifying match funding.

Reason for decision:

The above decision was made to enable the exploration of introducing a 20 mph speed limit in Ashtead if this was in agreement with what the Residents' Association and divisional member wanted.

29/19 HEALTH AND WELLBEING UPDATE [AGENDA ITEM ONLY] [Item 6]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Dr Russell Hills, Surrey Downs CCG

Petitions, Public Questions, Statements: The PowerPoint presentation given at the meeting is attached as annex C to these minutes.

[16.05 Cllr Ashton left the meeting]

Key points from the discussion:

- Members thanked Dr Hills for the presentation, noting that it seemed like there was a lot of high level work going on. They welcomed this disseminating down to a local level and front line delivery.
- A concern was raised over the recent closures of some Children's Centres and the work they had been doing to help mothers in isolation. It was acknowledged that although some Children's Centres had closed, Early Help had just relaunched itself with a new model.
- Members queried whether there was the possibility for the health services to work more closely with schools to encourage healthy eating and tackle obesity. Dr Hills confirmed that Public Health attends the CCG Partnerships Board and there had been partnership work going on to tackle such problems.
- It was acknowledged that there was sometimes difficulties in working in partnership, noting that in the preparation of the Mole Valley Local Plan, questions might need to be asked about whether proper provision for healthcare had been discussed. Dr Hills couldn't comment on the local plan but noted he knew the Molebridge Practice had been of concern locally and confirmed that a new contractor would be taking over the practice from October 2019.

30/19 HIGHWAYS UPDATE REPORT [EXECUTIVE FUNCTION] [Item 7]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Zena Curry, Area Highways Manager (AHM), SCC

Petitions, Public Questions, Statements: none

Members of the local committee noted the contents of the report.

31/19 VERBAL UPDATE FROM MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS [AGENDA ITEM ONLY] [Item 8]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Zena Curry, Area Highways Manager (AHM), SCC

Petitions, Public Questions, Statements: none

The SCC Cabinet Member The County Council Cabinet member for Highways, Matt Furniss introduced himself to members and outlined his role in overseeing infrastructure delivery.

- He reported that there had been an investment of £20 million in the last 2 years as part of the Severe Weather Recovery Programme.
- In July the Cabinet approved the Town Centre Agreement Policy which would allow Districts and Boroughs to be more involved in managing highway assets in town centres.
- The roll out of LED street lights would begin in September/October and would follow the usual maintenance cycle to avoid additional costs. This would involve the replacement of bulbs only. It would save money on electricity and reduce carbon emissions.
- Highways focus for next year would be on pavement maintenance to encourage their use and to boost sustainable travel options.
- The Surrey Infrastructure Academy had been launched with courses beginning in September 2019. The Academy would be working with local higher education colleges to promote highways related degrees to address a skills shortage.
- A paper would be coming to Cabinet in the next few months to revise the Parking Policy. Districts and Boroughs would be encouraged to charge for on-street car parking.

Key points from the discussion:

- Members raised concerns over the introduction of on-street car parking charges, stating that it would put people off. The Cabinet Member confirmed that the charges in other locations had encouraged the turnover of parking and had increased the footfall for the businesses.

32/19 RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER [FOR INFORMATION] [Item 9]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Jess Edmundson, Partnership Committee Officer, SCC

Petitions, Public Questions, Statements: none

The local committee noted the decision tracker.

33/19 FORWARD PLAN [FOR INFORMATION] [Item 10]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Jess Edmundson, Partnership Committee Officer, SCC

Petitions, Public Questions, Statements: none

The local committee noted the forward plan.

Meeting ended at: 4.25 pm

Chairman

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