

DRAFT

Minutes of the meeting of the
Woking JOINT COMMITTEE
 held at 6.30 pm on 7 March 2018
 at Hoe Valley School, Egley Road, Woking, GU22 0NH.

Surrey County Council Members:

- * Mrs Liz Bowes (Vice-Chairman)
- * Ms Ayesha Azad
- * Mr Ben Carasco
- * Mr Will Forster
- * Mr Saj Hussain
- * Mr Colin Kemp
- * Mr Richard Wilson

Borough / District Members:

- * Cllr David Bittleston (Chairman)
- Cllr Ann-Marie Barker
- Cllr John Bond
- * Cllr Graham Chrystie
- * Cllr Deborah Hughes
- * Cllr Beryl Hunwicks
- * Cllr Melanie Whitehand

* In attendance

OPEN FORUM

Question and responses from the informal open forum session are attached as annex 1.

1/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

Apologies were received from Cllr John Bond and Cllr Ann-Marie Barker.

2/18 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING [Item 2]

The minutes from the previous meeting on 6 December 2017 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

There were no declarations of interest.

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4/18 PETITIONS [Item 4]

There were no petitions received that met the criteria for this committee.

5/18 WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 5]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: None

Petitions, Public Questions, Statements: One written public question was received, the response is included within the supplementary agenda. The questioner is invited to ask one supplementary question on the topic of their original question.

Supplementary from Mr Godfrey Chapples:

Thank you for the answer to my question, what we as residents need to know is how far will the Police go on deciding to prosecute once criminal activity has been logged. We have a big problem in the East of Woking with traveller incursions and need a good strong Police task force to get things implemented.

Response: There is no Police representative here tonight to respond directly to your concerns but we will follow up with the Police for comment. The good work that the Police are already doing should be noted and praised. Changes to the law need to be made and are being looked in to, to make the Police more effective. It's a good idea with such instances to go via David Munro, The Police and Crime Commissioner to keep him aware of what's going on. It should also be noted that in Woking notice can be served very quickly by Woking Borough Council officers and serves as a deterrent to travellers.

6/18 WRITTEN MEMBER QUESTIONS [Item 6]

None were received.

7/18 CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS - UPDATE [Item 7]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Colin Kemp, Surrey County Council Cabinet Member for Highways

Petitions, Public Questions, Statements: None

Colin Kemp attended the meeting to update the committee on his vision for the year ahead in his Cabinet Member role. This update followed his previous visit to the committee back in September 2017.

Key points from the discussion:

The Cabinet Member noted at the beginning of his update that an amended annex 1 had been provided in the supplementary agenda papers that included updates on Horizon 2 schemes from 2017/18.

The Cabinet Member highlighted he would like to continue to inform the committee of the capital schemes in advance of them being delivered. This approach will allow the committee and residents to have their input to ensure localised knowledge is taken in to account and the most appropriate and needed schemes are implemented and local knowledge will be used to develop the 2019/20 schemes.

The committee was asked to note that there would be a £1.4million increase in Highways funding in the next financial year which would equate to an approximate increase of £170,000 for the committee to spend.

In addition to the increase committee funds, each Surrey County Council member will receive a Highways fund of £7,500 to deliver schemes locally. This additional fund will be financed by the council tax increase that will shortly take effect. Colin and his team are currently in the process of putting together a menu of schemes and prices to circulate to members to make the process simple for members, residents and the Area Highways Manager to work together to deliver much needed schemes more effectively.

Members raised concerns that works around the borough were being postponed because of Town Centre works and questioned why this was. They were advised that conversations would take place with the relevant officers involved in the Town Centre development before a definitive answer could be provided.

A query was raised over why lots of money was being spent on traffic signals and whether this was necessary. It was confirmed that many of the traffic signals, whilst still working adequately were old with parts difficult to come by, leading to more disruption when out of action.

The Woking Joint Committee thanked the Cabinet Member for his update and welcomed his approach to keeping the committee informed. They asked that all councillors continue to be informed of planned works prior to the public to allow them to pre-empt communications from residents on the matter.

8/18 HIGHWAYS UPDATE REPORT [Item 8]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Andrew Milne, Area Highways Manager and Louisa Calam, Project Manager, Town Centre Development

Petitions, Public Questions, Statements: None

The Area Highways Manager introduced the report noting the good news that the revenue budget had significantly increased to £168,000 for 2018/19 and this will allow the highways team to respond to the maintenance needs.

The Project Manager for the Town Centre Development noted that great progress had been made in the last year on this project.

Key points from the discussion:

A query over the Vicarage road crossing was raised and when this was likely to be implemented. The Area Highways Manager confirmed that the total cost of the scheme was higher than originally thought and that there were not enough funds available to complete this in 2017/18. The design and preliminary work has been done on this now and is scheduled to be completed in Q1 of 2018/19.

A similar query was raised over when the bollards on Redding Way by The Vyne would be removed. This is happening in collaboration with Woking Borough Council and the changes they are making to the car park and also cost more than originally thought. The design for this is now complete and should be implemented in 2018/19.

Roads requiring resurfacing have fallen down the priority list despite worsening themselves. This is because roads are looked at relative to each other. In the recent bad weather the network has worsened, pushing the priority of some roads down and other ones up.

Improvements to the footways under pavement horizon was raised; noting given the venue of tonight's meeting (the new Hoe Valley School) that these improvements were much needed in order to encourage a larger proportion of children to walk or cycle to school. This didn't seem to be addressed in the travel plan and therefore needs to be added. The Area Highways Manager advised that improvements to the A320 had been made to allow better paths for walking and cycling, but some of the paths for improvement would need to be discussed with the Countryside team due to their nature.

The Woking Joint Committee thanked the Area Highways Manager and Town Centre Development Project Manager for their report and updates and noted another Highways update would be brought to the next meeting in June.

9/18 ARMED FORCES COVENANT ANNUAL REPORT [Item 9]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Sarah Goodman, Community Project Officer (SCC); Canon Peter Bruinvels, Civilian-Military Liaison Adviser (SCC); Zafar Iqbal, Senior Policy Officer (WBC)

Petitions, Public Questions, Statements: None

The officers presented an update on the work being done by the Surrey Civilian Military Partnership Board and the key achievements of the Armed Forces Covenant in Surrey over the past 12 months since last attending the Woking Joint Committee in March 2017.

Key points from the discussion:

Officers commended Woking on being an exemplar authority in terms of the Armed Forces Covenant and achieving the silver award for this.

Surrey are the second best authority in the country for receiving covenant funding. The benefits of which have been seen in Woking in the form of the Peace Garden.

Work of the covenant is focussing on front line staff and ensuring a consistent approach to advise is provided through a training package for elected councillor armed forces champions and armed forces service champions. An e-learning module offering training is also available via the Surrey Skills Academy.

Members asked about the silent soldier statues and how they'd be placed in the borough. The locations of which had been determined, ensuring that the statues were dispersed throughout the whole borough. 600 of these have already been purchased in Surrey.

A query regarding the use of the children's service premium was raised. It was confirmed the premium was £300 per service child and that in bigger schools with many service children this premium is utilised well offering pastoral care and stability but sometimes in the smaller schools this isn't utilised effectively.

The Woking Joint Committee thanked the officers for the thorough and comprehensive report.

10/18 EARLY HELP PRIORITIES FOR WOKING [Item 10]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Anthony Durno, Family Services Manager (SCC); Sue Barham, Strategic Director (WBC)

Petitions, Public Questions, Statements: None

The Family Service Manager introduced the report noting that it was a joint report from both Surrey County Council and Woking Borough Council focussing on the Early Help priorities for Woking borough. Early Help is about providing the right help at the right time when problems are emerging.

Key points from the discussion:

The Family Service Manager asked the Woking Joint Committee to note an amendment to points 11.3 and 11.4 with regards to the timescales of the consultations. These would now take place in Summer 2018 and not February and March as indicated.

An Early Help Advisory Board had been established for partners to look at the local priorities in Woking to ensure they have the right priorities and that work isn't being duplicated by different partners.

Members raised concerns over children's centres as the most prominent public facing branch of Early Help and the impact the re-commissioning process will have on them. The picture nationally is that children's centres are being de-designated and being expected to provide certain services which is becoming more and more unrealistic with the resource allocations that are in

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place. The upcoming consultation will look at a proposal for how this can work better in the future and bring teams for different age groups together to work as one and not as three separate teams delivering three separate plans.

The Woking Joint Committee thanked the Family Services Manager for the report and update provided and noted the report was for information and there were currently no decisions for the committee to make.

11/18 TRADING STANDARDS ANNUAL REPORT [Item 11]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: None

Petitions, Public Questions, Statements: This item was deferred to a future meeting of the Woking Joint Committee.

12/18 DECISION TRACKER [Item 12]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Jess Edmundson, Partnership Committee Officer

Petitions, Public Questions, Statements: None

The Woking Joint Committee noted the decision tracker.

13/18 FORWARD PLAN [Item 13]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Jess Edmundson, Partnership Committee Officer

Petitions, Public Questions, Statements: None

The Committee received a report on the forward plan and was asked to comment on the items that are currently anticipated would be received.

Key points from the discussion:

It was noted that the Annual Parking Review would be coming to the Woking Joint Committee in June 2018 and should therefore be added to the forward plan.

It was requested that an item around flooding and local resilience forums be brought to a meeting later in 2018, perhaps in September.

Meeting ended at: 8.12 pm

Chairman