

Minutes of the meeting of the
Elmbridge LOCAL COMMITTEE
 held at 4.00 pm on 29 November 2021
 at Council Chamber, Elmbridge Civic Centre, High Street, Esher KT10 9SD.

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

Surrey County Council Members:

- * Rachael Lake (Chairman)
- * Steve Bax (Vice-Chairman)
- * David Lewis
- * Nick Darby
- * Tim Oliver
- * John O'Reilly
- * Mark Sugden
- * Ernest Mallett MBE
- * Tony Samuels

Borough / District Members:

- * Cllr Andrew P Burley
- Cllr John Cope
- Cllr Peter Harman
- * Cllr Neil Houston
- * Cllr Alistair Mann
- * Cllr Mike Rollings
- * Cllr Mrs Mary Sheldon
- Cllr Ashley Tilling
- * Cllr Graham Woolgar

* In attendance

27/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]

Apologies were received from Cllr Cope and Cllr Harman. Cllr Sood substituted for Cllr Cope.

28/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 2]

Cllr Sugden declared his role as a Claygate Parish Councillor in relation to Item 9.

29/21 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING [Item 3]

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2021 were agreed with an amendment to the record of the discussion of the Highways Update report. Cllr Lewis proposed adding the following wording to the paragraph relating to recommendation (viii) and the proposed overnight weight restriction in Oxshott Village: "the A245 and roads in and around Cobham"; Cllr Burley seconded and committee agreed the amendment.

30/21 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS [Item 4]

ITEM 3

The Chairman announced that on Friday 26th November the ground breaking ceremony had taken place at the site of the new Walton Heathside Free School.

31/21 WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS [Item 5]

No questions were received.

32/21 PETITIONS [Item 6]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers Attending: Zena Curry, Engagement and Commissioning Manager

Petitions, Public Questions and Statements:

Two petitions were received. The petitions and officer responses were available to view within the agenda and supplementary agenda.

Petition 1 – to introduce a 20mph limit in Long Ditton. The lead petitioner did not attend the meeting and there was no other public spokesperson.

Petition 2 – to provide a pedestrian crossing outside Walton Oak primary school. The lead petitioner, Ms Hollie Park, addressed the meeting and made the following points:

- Pupils as young as three attended the school, and they needed parents to travel with them.
- The school had been advertising for a crossing patrol for some time through a wide variety of channels and it was felt that the county council was not being as supportive as it could be.
- Officers visited the school on 6th October but there had been no contact since then.
- The school has been paying for its own caretaker to fulfil the role of crossing patrol since March, but his rates were double what SCC would pay for an official patrol; in addition, he did not work every day.
- The school has been using its own resources and finances – for example to finance Bikeability and Pedals courses - with no support from SCC and this is not sustainable.

Key points from discussion:

Petition 1 – Long Ditton

Local member Cllr Darby supported the petition. He acknowledged the traffic calming measures that had been put in over the last few years and felt that introducing a 20mph limit would be the culmination of this process. The roads in question had seen traffic accidents and near misses that would not result in personal injuries, so they would not be included in the relevant statistics but nonetheless should be taken into consideration. Traffic speeds down Ditton Hill Road and the layout of roads such as Sugden Road that encourage speeding were also highlighted, along with the volume of traffic coming off the A309.

Community Speed Watch groups or police patrols with handheld cameras could be encouraged, to carry out more monitoring of average speeds.

Members agreed with the Chairman's recommendation to add the proposal to introduce a 20mph limit in Long Ditton to the highways schemes prioritisation list.

Petition 2 – Walton Oak

The Chairman stated that SCC had been working to resolve the lack of a crossing patrol but that these were difficult vacancies to fill because of the limited working hours involved. She acknowledged the situation that existed outside the school, and how it had changed since the school had been built.

There was a feeling among members that SCC was paying below the market rate for the work.

Committee was reminded that the petition was for the installation of a pedestrian crossing rather than funding a permanent crossing patrol. The Chairman recommended adding the proposal to the highways schemes prioritisation list for review and members agreed.

Cllr Samuels left the meeting.

33/21 MEMBER QUESTION TIME [Item 7]

No questions were received.

34/21 HIGHWAYS REPORT (EXECUTIVE FUNCTION FOR DECISION) [Item 8]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers Attending: Nick Healey, Highway Scheme Design Manager; Zena Curry, Engagement and Commissioning Manager

Petitions, Public Questions and Statements: None

Key points from discussion:

The officer introduced his report, which covered three separate issues:

- a request by residents of the private New Road in Esher to install measures to slow traffic.
- progress with the Oxshott Village 20mph limit
- the impacts of recently introduced speed-reducing measures on the approaches to Esher Green.

The Vice-Chairman outlined the situation that residents of New Road find themselves in, where they are liable for the maintenance of the road but have no say over who can drive along it (the road has full access to the public since rights were acquired after 1945). He and the officer had visited the road and spoken to residents, and he supported the recommendation as it would provide the fastest way to introduce changes.

Cllr Sugden welcomed the results of the Oxshott speed surveys and the conclusion that it would appear to be possible to introduce a 20mph limit on the village high street without the need for engineering interventions. He added that there were other sections further out along the A244 that would need expensive work and suggested the use of average speed cameras especially in the areas leading to a new 20mph stretch. He also mentioned the need for measures to be taken on Steel's Lane.

ITEM 3

Esher Green had been the county's second-worst accident location; following works such as the installation of raised pedestrian crossings this situation had improved. Members recognised that while the junction has not been completely sorted out there is little more that can realistically be done to it (for example, installation of a roundabout would not be feasible because of constraints to do with the nearby common land).

Resolved:

The Local Committee (Elmbridge):

- (i) Delegated authority to the Engagement and Commissioning Team Manager, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Divisional Member and residents of New Road Esher, to agree a scheme of traffic calming for New Road, to include a reduction in speed limit to 20mph, and to undertake any necessary legal procedures for the implementation of the agreed scheme, and to facilitate implementation of the scheme at the expense of the residents of New Road (paragraphs 2.1 to 2.3 and Annex A refer);
- (ii) Delegated authority to the Engagement and Commissioning Team Manager, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Divisional Member and local stakeholders, to agree the extent of a new 20mph limit for Oxshott Village centre, and subject to funding being identified for implementation promote the necessary legal order for the new limit, and implement the scheme (paragraphs 2.4 to 2.6 and Annex B refer);
- (iii) Authorised the Engagement and Commissioning Team Manager in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and relevant Divisional Member(s) to undertake all necessary procedures to deliver the agreed programmes.

Reasons for recommendations:

New Road, Esher, is a privately owned and maintained road, which has a full Public Highway right. This means that while the residents, who are also the owners of this road, are responsible for the upkeep and any improvements to the road, only Surrey County Council as Highway Authority can approve changes that require a traffic regulation order to be made.

Traffic survey results from Oxshott indicate that a 20mph limit may be feasible in the centre of the village with signs alone – without any supporting engineering measures. Authorisation is sought to move forwards with this in consultation with relevant members and local stakeholders.

35/21 LOCAL COMMITTEE DECISION TRACKER [FOR DECISION] [Item 9]

The Committee noted the contents of the tracker and agreed to remove the closed items, with the following comments:

Item 1 – Cllr Sugden asked for this to be kept on the list and would have further discussions with highways officers outside the meeting.

Item 13 – Cllr Lewis asked for the wording relating to the proposed overnight weight restriction in Oxshott to reflect the amendment to the previous meeting's minutes as noted under agenda item 3 above.

36/21 FORWARD PLAN [FOR INFORMATION] [Item 10]

The forward plan was noted.

37/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING [FOR INFORMATION] [Item 11]

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 7th March 2022 at 4pm.

Meeting ended at: 4.55 pm

Chairman

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