



Buckinghamshire County Council

Minutes *CHILTERN LOCAL COMMITTEE*

AGENDA ITEM 3

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CHILTERN LOCAL COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 4 APRIL 2001, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES, COMMENCING AT 6.30 PM
AND CONCLUDING AT 9.14 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

| Council, Organisation or Society | Representative |
|---|--|
| Buckinghamshire County Council | Mr H G W Wilson (in the Chair) |
| | Mrs P M Bacon Mr N L Brown Mrs P M Crawford Mrs S D Hodgkinson Mr C F Robinson Mr J S Ryman |
| Amersham Town Council | Mrs D I Allen |
| Ashley Green Parish Council | Mr B Dale Mr J Toovey Mr C Edenborough |
| British Horse Society | Ms B Wickham |
| Bucks Federation of Women's Institutes | Ms J Lynch |
| Chalfont St Peter Parish Council | Mrs J Priestley |
| Chartridge Parish Council | Mr K C Baxter |

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| Chenies Parish Council | Mr N Ince |
| Chesham Bois Parish Council | Mr D Bracey |
| Chesham Town Council | Ms S Jordan |
| Chiltern District Council | Mr N Rose Ms E Stacey |
| Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Parish Council | Mr C Brown |
| Great Missenden Parish Council | Mr G Maher |
| Penn Parish Council | Mr M J Bayley |
| Seer Green Parish Council | Mr A Mitra |
| The Lee Parish Council | Mr B Usborne |
| Thames Valley Police | PC A Baverstock |

Officers

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| Buckinghamshire County Council | Mr G Bartlett Mr J Currell Miss A Derrick Mr I McGowan Mr K Moloughney Mr J Stevens Mrs C Gray Ms A Smith |
| Chiltern District Council | Mr M Down |

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Apologies were received from Mr A J Rand (Chalfont St Giles Parish Council) and Mr J Whitehead (Pedestrians Association) and Mrs D Howard (Chenies Parish Council).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were received.

1 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Local Committee held on Tuesday, 30 January 2001, copies of which had been previously circulated, were agreed subject to the following amendment:-

Item 8 – Structural Maintenance Programme 2001/2002

The second sentence should read 'It was noted that the programme for 2000/2001 was now substantially complete and that the programme for 2001/02 needed to be established'.

2 LOCAL SAFETY AND AREA STRATEGY SCHEMES PROGRAMME

The Local Committee received and noted a report on the progress of schemes contained within the current year of the above Programme 2000/01 and the approved programme for 2001/02 – 2005/06. The Group Manager (Traffic Management) thanked Members for their comments on the draft Programme which had been approved by the Cabinet Member on 21 March 2001. During discussion the following points were noted:-

- Germain Street, Chesham – Pavement Improvements and Access for Disabled – The Area Manager reported that this was being discussed with Chiltern Hundreds Housing Association.
- Longbottom Lane, Seer Green – This item had been withdrawn from the programme as it was not supported locally and the number of injury accidents had fallen in recent times. The Group Manager reported that this site would be kept under review.
- Gravel Hill Service Road Traffic Calming – Members noted that this had been delayed until the planning application for Tesco's was made available. A representative from the Town Council suggested that a letter should be sent to residents to obtain their views on whether speed humps should be installed.
- Central Chilterns Traffic Management – A representative expressed concern about the lack of progress in relation to this scheme. The Group Manager reported that a Project Officer had recently been appointed for this scheme and he hoped he would start work in a month's time.
- The Group Manager agreed to ascertain progress on resolving the outstanding issues associated with the 30mph speed limit pilot scheme in Chenies.
- In relation to traffic calming in Seer Green village, the Area Manager reported that if the Parish Council discussed the Scheme with a consultant it was important to involve the County Council in order to provide information on the Council's traffic management policies.
- Market Place, Chalfont St Peter – A representative expressed concern regarding the work carried out on the relocation of the existing zebra crossing towards Budgens. It was noted that a letter had been sent from the Chamber of Trade asking for a site meeting. The Area Manager reported that the contractor had been taken away from scheduled work to deal with emergency repairs as a result of the recent flooding.

RESOLVED

That Local Councils inform their representative groups of:

- 1 The progress of the current Traffic Management schemes in their area and**
- 2 The approved Local Safety and Area Strategy Schemes Programme for 2001/02-2005/6.**

3 SAFER ROADS CAMPAIGN

The Local Committee received and noted a report from the Head of Transportation on the hypothecation pilot project currently being undertaken in the Thames Valley Region. Members noted the encouraging early results with a reduction in injury accidents.

During discussion the representative from the British Horse Society commented that a 'quiet lanes' project should be considered for horseriders. It was noted that there were 2000 horse-riders in the Chiltern District. The Group Manager made reference to the Central Chilterns Project - one of the aims of this project was to protect vulnerable road users including horse-riders. He would also pass this comment to the Senior Road Safety Officer who was compiling the County's Road Safety Plan, which is to be published later this year.

The representative from Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Parish Council asked for some information on where accidents were occurring for children and young people. The Group Manager reported that computer systems were available to the Police and the County Council to monitor, locate and interpret the causes of injury accidents.

RESOLVED

That Local Councils inform their representative groups of the details of the pilot Safer Roads project and of the encouraging early results.

4 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT REQUESTS AND PETITIONS

The Local Committee received a report from the Head of Transportation, which set out the requests received for various traffic management measures, of a significant nature, during the period 23 December to 16 March 2001 and the petitions received during the same period, with the action proposed or taken in response.

High Street, Prestwood

A letter containing 15 signatures had been received from residents of the High Street (A4128) requesting the introduction of traffic calming measures to control vehicle speeds along this road. Members were informed that requests for traffic calming were assessed at the end of each year, and therefore this

particular length of road would be added to the list of sites to be considered in the Annual Traffic Calming Review.

Chalfont St Peter – Gold Hill West/Gold Hill East/Austenwood Lane

The Senior Area Traffic Management Technician referred to the request from local residents for the installation of a mini-roundabout at the junction to improve road safety. Members agreed that as there had only been 1 personal injury accident it would not be possible to support the proposal to change the type of control at this junction.

RESOLVED

3 That the traffic management measures received and priorities allocated be noted.

4 That the petitions received and the actions to date/proposed be noted.

3 That the priorities allocated and action proposed be agreed.

5 STRUCTURAL HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2001/02

The Local Committee received and noted the report of the Head of Transportation, on the finalised main programme of works and the Local Committees own programme of works for 2001/02.

In relation to the 120% increase in the money secured for capital schemes with regard to the Local Transport Plan, a representative queried whether there had been a 120% increase in the spending on structural maintenance. The Area Manager reported that the money secured for the LTP was not just for structural maintenance but for other areas of work such as bridge and road maintenance and local safety schemes. There was also additional finance to assist with the backlog of structural maintenance works due to the damage caused by flooding.

The Local Committee discussed the allocation of funding of £100,000. A representative queried the value of the Committee agreeing to a 'mix' of submissions and suggested that this money should be allocated on a technical basis to ensure that best value was obtained. However, members re-confirmed their decision that option c should be agreed to fund a mixture of last year's and this year's submissions with the following amendment from Amersham Town Council:-

The scheme relating to Lane Wood Close should be replaced with the scheme for Chequers Hill, as there was a safety issue where pedestrians had limited protection from vehicles near Tesco's because the kerb was flattened.

A member congratulated the Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation and officers of the Council for prioritising work on the damage caused by flooding.

RESOLVED

- 1 That option c) as outlined above, be reconfirmed with the amendment proposed by Amersham Town Council, for funding from the £100,000 locally determined budget;**
- 2 That the central fund bid be submitted to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation and that the decision taken be reported to the next Local Committee meeting in July.**

6 STATUTORY UNDERTAKER WORKS

The Local Committee received the report of the Head of Transportation on the major Statutory Undertaker activity within Chiltern and South Bucks. Some of this work had been ongoing for many months and had caused a lot of concern locally.

The Area Manager reported that new legislation had been introduced on 1 April 2000 which would enable Street Works Authorities to charge statutory undertakers for overstaying agreed working durations for their works on the highway. Because of the extreme workload pressures over recent months associated with statutory undertaker works the Council will be employing one additional full time Public Utility Inspector in each of the three Area Offices.

During discussion the following points were noted:-

- A representative expressed concern that if statutory undertakers were penalised for overstaying their time, this could mean that the quality of reinstatement would be affected.
- Representatives from Parish Councils commented that they should be notified of major works in the District. The Area Manager reported that statutory undertakers should inform Parish Councils and he would raise this at the next liaison meeting with them (HAVC) and report back to the next Committee.
- It was noted that the money raised by fining statutory undertakers would be retained by the Council.
- The New Roads and Street Works Act only requires inspection of 6% of all works per year. This equates to 12,000 inspections. Therefore, it was essential that if there were any problems with the work undertaken that any Member inform the Area Office immediately, as it was difficult to provide evidence after the works had been carried out. It was noted that all trenches were guaranteed for 2 years and after this time, responsibility lay with the Council.
- A Member commented that some statutory undertakers did not put up signs with their company name and contact number. The Area Manager asked Members to inform him of this when it occurred.

- Statutory undertakers were also responsible for damage to verges and the Area Office should be informed immediately if additional work needed to be carried out. If damage had been caused by residential parking then Members would need to take a note of the car registration number and inform the Area Office.

7 FLYTIPPING AND ABANDONED CARS

The Local Committee received the report of the Head of Transportation which asked for Member's feedback on the issues which they wanted to discuss in relation to flytipping and abandoned cars. Members asked that the following areas be included in the report which would be submitted to the next Local Committee:-

- Litter – rubbish on the side of the road and who was responsible for clearing the rubbish.
- Who was responsible for abandoned cars and who should be contacted in the first instance.
- It was noted that the Environment Agency was the Prosecuting Authority for flytipping and that this information should be provided in a fact sheet.
- The length of time allocated between the time that abandoned cars were reported and when they should be collected. It was noted that some police checks could take some time to complete.
- The effect on flytipping on lowering barrier heights at household waste disposal sites and when this policy would be reviewed.
- The cost to the District Council for the collection of flytipping.
- Ways in which the Council could assist farmers where cars have been abandoned on their land.
- To investigate the issue that some people were paying low prices for their rubbish to be collected, which was dumped on public land.
- The dumping of tyres on the Hertfordshire/Buckinghamshire border.

The Area Manager reported that if any Members had any further information they would like added to the report, to contact the Area Manager.

8 REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FACT FILE

The Local Committee received the report of the Head of Transportation, which sought input into the review of the Environmental Services Fact File. A Member suggested inserting some information on the contact details of the officer responsible for litter. The Local Area Co-ordinator asked for any additional comments to be sent to her at the Area Office.

RESOLVED

That Members send feedback to the Local Area Co-ordinator on the existing contents of the Fact File and identify any amendments or additions they would like to see made.

9 LANDFILL TAX CREDIT SCHEME: OPPORTUNITIES IN SOUTH BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

The Local Committee received a report from the Head of Transportation, on the opportunities and successes to date arising from the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme in South Buckinghamshire. The County Council's External Funding Officer had been actively promoting the scheme at County, District and Parish level and was encouraging project bids from Councils on community related projects. Members were asked to contact Bill Richards (External Funding Officer, Environmental Services [Telephone No 01296 383371]) to obtain information about the Scheme. A Member suggested more parks for young people.

10 REVIEW OF LOCAL COMMITTEES

The Local Committee received a report from the Head of Transportation on the results of the questionnaire which was sent to Local Committee Members and stakeholders and the review process. The Performance and Initiatives Group Manager reported that 122 responses had now been received which had been mainly positive about the process of Local Committees. It was reported that the Select Committee on Buckinghamshire Environment had now finalised the report on the review of Local Committees, which would be submitted to the next County Council meeting on 26 April 2001. A copy of this report would be sent to all Members of the Local Committee for information with the minutes of this meeting.

- Members commented on the £100,000 delegated to the Local Committee and whether this funding increased year on year with inflation. It was agreed that this would be raised at the next County Council. A Member expressed concern about the process of delegation and the fact that funding was allocated according to preference rather than technical merit.
- Some Members expressed concern about widening the remit of Local Committees across other areas of the Council.
- Some Members felt that clusters should be reviewed as some clusters had a mixture of urban and rural Councils, which could lead to a different viewpoint on priorities.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meetings would be held on:-

Wednesday 18 July 2001 at 6.30pm

Wednesday 17 October 2001 at 6.30pm

**MR H G W WILSON
CHAIRMAN**