



Buckinghamshire County Council

Minutes *CHILTERN LOCAL COMMITTEE*

AGENDA ITEM: 3

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CHILTERN LOCAL COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 18 JULY 2001, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES, COMMENCING AT 6.30 PM
AND CONCLUDING AT 9.30 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Council, Organisation or Society	Representative
Buckinghamshire County Council	Mr H G W Wilson (in the Chair)
	Mrs P M Bacon Mr M Colston Mrs P M Crawford Mr P Lawrence Mrs P Lindsley Mr C F Robinson Mr J S Ryman Mrs P Wilkinson
Amersham Town Council	Mrs D I Allen
Ashley Green Parish Council	Mr B Dale
Bucks Association of Local Councils	Ms A Hooton
Bucks Federation of Women's Institutes	Ms J Lynch
Chalfont St Peter Parish Council	Mr M Barraclough
Chalfont St Giles Parish Council	Mr A Rand
Chartridge Parish Council Chenies Parish Council	Mr K C Baxter Ms D Surey
Chesham Bois Parish Council	Ms E Forster

Chiltern District Council	Mr M Down
Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Parish Council	Mr C Brown
Coleshill Parish Council	Mr J Jefford
Great Missenden Parish Council	Mr G Maher
Little Missenden Parish Council	Mrs M Hamilton
Pedestrians Association	Mr J Whitehead
Penn Parish Council	Mr M J Bayley
Seer Green Parish Council	Mr A Mitra
The Lee Parish Council	Mr B Usborne Ms E Stacey
Thames Valley Police	PC A Baverstock

Officers

Buckinghamshire County Council	Mr P Barnes Miss A Derrick Mr I Duncan Ms A James Mr K Moloughney Mr J Stevens Mr S Pope
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APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Apologies were received from Mr B Allen (BCC) and Ms B Wickham (British Horse Society).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were received.

1 WELCOME TO NEW COUNTY COUNCILLORS/CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

The Chairman welcomed new Members to the meeting. A list was circulated to the Committee confirming the voting members for the ensuing year. It was noted that Mr M Barraclough had replaced Mrs J Priestley as member for Chalfont St. Peter Parish Council.

Buckinghamshire County Council

Mr B G Allen
Mrs P M Bacon
Mr M R Colston
Mrs P M Crawford
Mr D G Meacock
Mr C F Robinson OBE
Mr J S Ryman
Mr H G W Wilson

Chiltern District Council

Mr N L Brown
Mr J F Warder

Parish/Town Councils

Amersham Town Council
Mrs D I Allen

Chalfont St Peter Parish Council
Mr M Barraclough

Chesham Town Council
Mr A W Walters

Cluster 1 (Penn, Little Missenden, Coleshill and Seer Green)
Mr M Bayley

Cluster 2 (Great Missenden, The Lee, Cholesbury, Chartridge, Chesham Bois)
Mr C Brown

Cluster 3 (Chalfont St Giles, Chenies, Latimer, Ashley Green)
Mr A J Rand

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Local Committee held on Wednesday 4 April 2001 were agreed.

3 SUMMARY OF PROGRESS SINCE THE LAST MEETING

Officers made the following progress reports:

- Gravel Hill Service Road, Chalfont St Peter Traffic Calming - It was noted that the planning application for an extension to the shop floor area of the garage at Tesco's had been refused by the District Council

and that an appeal was to be submitted. Progress on traffic calming proposals would be delayed until the outcome was known.

- 30mph Speed Limit – Chenies - Issues resolved.
- Monument Lane, Chalfont St Peter – Problems discussed on site with the local Member and issues resolved, some slight realignment to the kerbing will be carried out
- Work of Statutory Undertakers – It was noted that the issue had been raised at a recent meeting with 15 of the utility companies. The need for good communication and commitment to inform the Area Office prior to work being carried was discussed, in particular for major works.
- Restoration of Verges – It was noted that a new Senior Utilities Technician had been appointed to the Area Office who would undertake to negotiate and oversee restoration works with utility companies following completion of works.

4 SCHOOL TRAVEL – EVERYBODY’S PROBLEM

The Committee received a presentation from Ann James, Senior Road Safety Officer, which outlined the problems of school travel and which set out the strategies in place at a County level and initiatives being undertaken at a local level to help address the issue. The Committee was advised that a number of initiatives were carried out at the school level, which included Footsteps programmes, and School Travel Plans. Members were advised that all new planning applications for schools would now have to be accompanied by a school travel plans.

The committee welcomed the work carried out and applauded all those involved.

During discussion members highlighted the following:

- Bus Travel and the problems that travelling for longer distances raised. It was noted that officers were working on Home to School Transport issues with the bus companies.
- In response to a question from a member it was noted that the independent sector were also provided with School Travel information.
- Problems of walking on dangerous footways was raised. It was noted that each school would be looked at on an individual basis and these problems would come to light and be rectified as part of the programme.

In conclusion the Chairman thanked the Officer for the useful and informative presentation.

5 WASTE STRATEGY FOR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE (WSB): BACKGROUND AND DRAFT PROPOSALS

The Committee received a report from the of the Head of Transportation, which informed members of the content of the draft Waste Strategy for Buckinghamshire and which sought comment upon the content and draft recommendations.

Introducing the report, the Contracts Manager set out the background to the strategy which had been produced by the Bucks Waste Forum and embraced the County Council, the District Councils, the Environment Agency and the waste management industry as partners. Consultation on the strategy will take place for six weeks during September/October and will include all the parishes in the county. It was noted that a householder survey had been carried out during April and the results had been used to inform the strategy.

The Committee was advised that Buckinghamshire was one of the best performing authorities in the UK with regard to its Waste Strategy, highlighting that the County recycled around twenty five percent of its waste and that the cost per tonne of recycling this material was the lowest in the country. New EU Directives and Government proposals however are planned to limit landfill to thirty five percent of all waste by 2020. It was reported that failure to comply with this target would result in financial, and possibly criminal penalties. Members noted the financial incentive for compliance of a significant rise in charges for landfill. The current charge of one pound a tonne would rise via the Landfill Tax Escalator to fifteen pounds per tonne by 2003 with an additional five pounds per tonne each subsequent year.

During discussion a member raised the question of the additional costs that would be generated and how these would be passed on. It was reported that, the Strategy was jointly owned and had implications for all of the District/Unitary Councils who were involved; the charges would eventually be passed on to the community charge payer. It was noted that recognition had been included within the strategy of the fact that both South Bucks and Chiltern District Councils had achieved higher results in meeting their own recycling Best Value targets than the other authorities.

In response to a question raised on packaging it was noted that the Government was putting greater pressure on manufacturers having put packaging legislation in place which involved producers contributing on a sliding scale to fund recycling which was dependent on the amount produced.

RESOLVED

That:

- 1 The principal conclusions and proposals contained in the Draft Waste Strategy for Buckinghamshire be endorsed.**
- 2 The draft recommendations contained in Appendix C of the report -which form the main waste management initiatives to be proposed**

by the Waste Strategy for Buckinghamshire in the period to 2021 be endorsed.

RESOLVED

That members disseminate this information to their representative groups.

6 FLYTIPPING/ABANDONED CARS/LITTER

The Committee received and noted a joint report from Officers from the County and District Councils which set out the responsibilities of the agencies concerned and sought to answer the most frequently asked questions on the subject.

A number of issues were raised during discussion which included:

- Concern over the height of barriers at household waste sites which were perceived to have led to an increase in fly tipping. Members were advised that the objective of the barrier restriction was to impose a control on those operators who should legitimately pay for waste disposal. It was noted that there were facilities for small traders at sites in Amersham, Aylesbury and High Wycombe.
- It was suggested that the community had a responsibility for the disposal of their redundant goods by operators and that individuals should be encouraged to ask the destination of the goods that were being disposed of.
- The time taken between the reporting of an incident of tipping and the resolution of the matter. In response it was noted that for fly tipping matters were dealt with within 2-3 days of reporting on average. It was further noted that it could take some time to remove an abandoned vehicle it was on private land as it would be the landowner's responsibility.
- A member suggested siting a camera at the layby in Botrells Lane which had been identified as a particular problem site. A representative from the Environment Agency agreed to investigate further to assess the possibility.
- It was noted that there were no performance indicators for this issue, the County's indicators related to the quantity of recycling and costs in the main.
- A member referred to the Green Poster scheme and noted that this was a pilot scheme currently operating in the Aylesbury District only. There was a need to evaluate its success before rolling it out to other areas.

RESOLVED

- 1 That a meeting between Chiltern District Council and Buckinghamshire County Council be considered;**
- 2 That the Environment Agency representative consults with colleagues regarding the possibility of installing a camera at Bottrells Lane.**

7 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN – CHILTERN AONB AREA STRATEGY

The Committee received and noted a report from the Head of Transportation which updated Members on the progress with development and implementation of the main elements of the Local Transport Plan – Chilterns AONB Strategy.

It was reported that a sum of £430,000 had been allocated for the implementation of works this year which represented a significant increase over the previous years allocation of £85,000. This would enable many more schemes to be progressed.

RESOLVED

That members disseminate this information to their representative groups.

8 CENTRAL CHILTERN AREA TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PROJECT

The Committee received and noted a report from the Head of Transportation which updated members on the current position of the scheme. The newly appointed Chilterns AONB Transport Officer, Shaun Pope was also introduced to the Committee

Members were reminded that the Central Chilterns project was a pilot scheme and covered an area which was broadly typical of the Chilterns. It was a partnership project between Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire County Councils, Chiltern District Council, the Countryside Agency and the Chilterns Conservation Board. Matters had progressed slowly to this point pending the appointment of the AONB Transport Officer who would now be in a position to progress the scheme which relied on the commitment and support of the local Councils and other stakeholders.

The priorities for the coming months were discussed with the view that implementation of as many innovative measures as possible should be pursued. The importance of looking for sensitive measures rather than urban solutions to traffic problems was emphasised. A member requested consultation on the hierarchy of roads which was to be established and officers reassured the Committee that full consultation would take place prior to any decisions being taken.

RESOLVED

That:

- 1 The immediate priorities for the Chilterns AONB Transport Officer be noted;**
- 2 Members disseminate this information to their representative groups.**

9 LOCAL SAFETY & AREA STRATEGY SCHEMES PROGRAMME 2001/2002 – UPDATE

The Committee received and noted a report for the Head of Transportation which set out progress of schemes contained within the current year of the programme.

10 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT REQUESTS AND PETITIONS

The Committee received a report from the Head of Transportation which advised members of the requests received for traffic management measures of a significant nature received during the period 17 March and 27 June 2001 and the relative priorities for investigation. The report also set out the petitions received during the same period and the action proposed or taken in response.

Chestnut Lane, Amersham

A 24 signature petition had been received from residents from Chestnut Lane which requested

- i) 7.5 tonnes weight restriction
- ii) traffic calming measures

It was noted that a site investigation had revealed that there was not a problem with large volumes of lorry traffic gaining access to the industrial estate on Raans Road from Chestnut Road. It was believed that the concern had arisen from a single recent incident involving a tall vehicle.

Orchard Lane, Prestwood

A 15-signature petition had been received from residents of Orchard Lane suggesting a variety of safety measures, one of which, for the introduction of a one-way system, had been awarded a medium priority.

Members were reminded that all measures for traffic calming would be assessed annually in line with the County Council's agreed policy.

RESOLVED

That:

- 1 The traffic management measures received and priorities allocated be noted**
- 2 The petitions received and the actions to date/proposed be noted**
- 3 The priorities allocated and action proposed be agreed.**

11 STRUCTURAL HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE

- IMPLEMENTATION WITH THIS YEARS PROGRAMME**
- PREPARATION OF NEXT YEARS PROGRAMME**

The Committee received a report which advised members of progress in implementating this years Programme of works and sought initial views about scheme submissions for technical and financial assessment for inclusion in next years programme.

Introducing the report, the Area Manager highlighted the problems that had occurred due to flooding. This had caused funding pressures with the necessity to postpone some of the schemes previously identified in the programme in order to accommodate those areas that had been affected by the flooding. The postponed items would be carried forward into next years programme.

In terms of the Central Fund bid, members were advised that the first bid for the refurbishment of the damaged verges along the A413 Chalfont St Peter had been successful. The second bid for drainage works to the lay-by on the A413 just south of Stanley Hill had not been successful. It was suggested that a site meeting with representatives from the local area to discuss the use and function of the lay-by be arranged as this was a lay-by identified as having a perpetual tipping problem.

With regard to next years Programme, the Area Manager requested that any bids for consideration as part of the Committee's own programme and bids for the Central Fund should be forwarded to Alison Derrick at the Area Office by 7 September. It was also noted that there was no need for councils to resubmit items carried forward from last years programme.

During discussion on the item, a member highlighted Bellingdon Road which was in urgent need of repair. The committee noted that patching work would be carried out this year and also that the road was part of the Chiltern Area Traffic Management project and would need assessing as part of the overall project to ensure consistency.

A member raised the issue of culverts not being cleared which, if it had been carried out, could have alleviated some of the problems of flooding of the highway. The Area Manager explained that this had been done in the past but was one element of work which had suffered due to budget pressures.

The Chairman thanked the Area Manager on behalf of the Committee for the concentrated effort that both he and his team had achieved during the flooding crisis.

RESOLVED

That:

- 1 the report and the proposed amendment/cancellation of certain non-delegated budget structural maintenance programme schemes as set out in the report that are necessary to allow essential highway drainage works to be carried out, be noted;**
- 2 the Chiltern Local Committee delegated budget scheme U247 Bottom Lane, Seer Green be cancelled to allow funding of essential flood prevention work in Longbottom Lane, Seer Green;**
- 3 this years centrally held bids be noted;**
- 4 new structural highway maintenance schemes for both the delegated budget and bids for the centrally held budget be submitted to the Local Area Co-Coordinator by 7 September 2001 for technical and financial assessment.**

12 POTHOLE REPAIRS AND CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING – CHILTERN AREA

The Committee received the report of the Head of Transportation, which advised members about pothole repairs and carriageway resurfacing across the Chiltern area, including methods and costs.

Introducing the report, the Area Manager informed the Committee that such works accounted for around £800,000 or fifty percent of this year's budget for the current financial year for structural highways maintenance.

During discussion members raised the effectiveness of pothole repairs vis a vis structural patching. The Area Manager advised the Committee that the temporary fix was the most cost and safety efficient way of addressing such problems as they were so widespread. These temporary repairs are often followed up by a more permanent fix using structural patching. Resource limitations do however mean that not every temporary repair is repaired again using structural patching.

In response to a question raised it was noted that inspections were routinely made of pothole repairs, roads on a cyclic basis. The Chairman again thanked the Area Manager and his staff for their efforts in dealing with the potholes caused by the abnormal winter weather. The Area Manager requested that members report any problems directly to the Area Office via the blue defect cards, stocks of which were held by each Local Council. Additional defect cards can also be obtained by contacting the Area Office.

13 HIGHWAY APPROVALS FOR MOBILE TELEPHONE MASTS

The Committee received a report from the Head of Transportation which outlined the procedures governing the approval/erection of mobile phone telephone masts within the public highway.

It was reported that mobile phone companies were required, under part 24 of the Town and County Planning General Development Order 1995 to erect a notice on site and inform the District Council in writing with details of their proposals. During this period the District Council can require details of the siting and appearance of equipment and can refuse the same.

During discussion members requested that the Local Councils be informed of all applications in their areas, noting that there was little that could be done if the applications were permitted development.

In conclusion the Area Manager agreed to submit a report to the next meeting following further discussions with District Council colleagues regarding consultation.

14 OPEN FORUM DISCUSSION

A member requested a discussion on the impact of developer's signs placed on road furniture and the Committee agreed to discuss this matter at the next meeting.

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 17 October 2001 commencing at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber, Chiltern District Council, Amersham.

CHAIRMAN