



Buckinghamshire County Council

Minutes *CHILTERN LOCAL COMMITTEE*

AGENDA ITEM: 3

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CHILTERN LOCAL COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2001, IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES, COMMENCING
AT 6.30 PM AND CONCLUDING AT 9.20 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Council, Organisation or Society

Buckinghamshire County Council

Representative

Mr H G W Wilson
(in the Chair)

Mr B G Allen
Mr M Colston
Mrs P M Crawford
Mrs P Lindsley
Mr D G Meacock
Mr C F Robinson
Mrs P Wilkinson

Amersham Town Council

Mrs D I Allen

British Horse Society

Ms B Wickham

Bucks Federation of Women's Institutes

Ms J Lynch

Chalfont St Giles Parish Council

Mr A Rand

Chalfont St Peter Parish Council

Mr M Barraclough

Chartridge Parish Council

Mr K C Baxter

Chenies Parish Council

Ms D Surey

Chesham Bois Parish Council

Mr E Newhouse

Chesham Town Council

Mr A Walters

Chiltern District Council	Mr J Warder Mr N Brown Ms G Gowing
Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Parish Council	Mr C Brown
Coleshill Parish Council	Mr J Jefford
Little Missenden Parish Council	Mrs M Hamilton
Great Missenden	Mr G Maher
Penn Parish Council	Mr M J Bayley
Pedestrians Association	Mr W J Whitehead
Seer Green Parish Council	Mr A Mitra

Officers

Buckinghamshire County Council	Mr G Bartlett Mr J Currell Miss A Derrick Mr J Lailey Mr K Moloughney Mr J Stevens Mrs H Wayland
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APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Apologies were received from PC A Baverstock (Thames Valley Police), Mrs P M Bacon and Mr J S Ryman (County Councillors).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were received.

1 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Local Committee held on 18 July 2001 were agreed subject to the inclusion of Mr D G Meacock, BCC under Apologies for Absence and Mr N Brown, Chiltern District Council under Attendance.

2 SUMMARY OF PROGRESS SINCE THE LAST MEETING

The Local Area Co-ordinator introduced the item and explained the new format for the agenda which was split into reports for discussion and reports for information. The reports for information would not be presented and questions would be taken by the officers.

The following reports on progress were received:

- **Height Barrier Meeting.** It was noted that the County Council was in the process of trying to set up a meeting with Chiltern District Council to discuss this issue.
- **Camera Siting – Botterells Lane.** It was noted that a positive response had been received initially from the Environment Agency, however less favourable comments had been received since then.
- **Abandoned Cars.** In response to a query raised by a member regarding the abandoned cars pilot scheme being undertaken in Aylesbury Vale it was noted that Bucks County Council officers would attempt to set up a meeting with the District Council within the next four weeks to discuss the scheme.

An officer from Chiltern District Council explained that this issue had also been investigated by the District Council and a member highlighted a seminar which was taking place on 7 November 2001 at Eton Rowing Club, Boveney on fly-tipping and abandoned cars.

- **Other Issues** – It was agreed that other outstanding issues would be picked up and reported back to the next meeting of the Local Committee in January.

3 **INVOLVEMENT OF PARISH/TOWN/COUNCILS IN LOCAL COMMITTEE PROCESSES**

The Local Area Co-ordinator explained that she had recently attended a number of Parish Council meetings and had formed the view that not all local councils were taking full advantage of the Local Committees. It was acknowledged that the involvement of some Parish Councils was far greater than others. The Local Committees had been running for approximately 18 months and their continued success depended upon the input and participation of Parish/Town and District Councils. It was emphasised that this was one way in which parishes could feed views to Cabinet Members and could also access funding for local schemes. The decisions taken at the meetings, therefore influenced decisions made by the County Council. Members were invited to consider the ways in which information obtained during the meetings was disseminated to their representative groups, noting that whilst items for discussion on the agendas were sometimes suggested by the Local Councils, Parish/Town Councils, representatives tended not to offer to write reports or make presentations.

During discussion the Committee requested that a clear differentiation of the items considered at the Local Committee and those discussed at meetings of County, District, Town and Parish Council representatives, sponsored by Chiltern District Council, to avoid duplication of debate. In response it was noted that the Local Committees advised the Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation and the Head of Transportation directly and that this was not true of either the Chiltern or South Bucks Forums.

4 **PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE NOTE 8:
TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Planning and Environment, Chiltern District Council which advised members of the recent publication of PPG8 and amendments to the prior approval procedures for telecommunications permitted development. Members noted that Guidance Note 8 amended the provisions relating to the prior approval procedures for Telecommunications Permitted Development and came into effect on 22 August 2001. Among the key changes reported was the extension of the consultation period from 28 to 56 days. It was also noted there were few areas where applications under permitted development could be refused and that refusal of planning permission, on the grounds of health considerations would also prove difficult as it was the Government's firm view that the planning system was not the place for determining health safeguards.

During discussion a number of points were raised which included:

- In response to a query over the maximum height for permitted development it was noted that telecommunication masts up to the height of 15 metres fell within permitted development. For any additional height, expressed planning permission would be required, these masts could be refused under prior approval on their siting and appearance.
- A member asked what discussions would take place prior to the permitted developments noting that the pre-application discussions should involve other organisations with an interest in the proposed development including residential groups, Parish Councils or amenity bodies. However, the local authority could not insist that the operator held such discussions.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted

5 **DELEGATED BUDGET AND CENTRAL FUND ("BONUS BALL")
BIDS – 2002/03**

The Local Committee received a report which advised members about the next steps in determining next year's (£100,000) Delegated and Central ("bonus ball") budget works programme. Members were advised that following the last meeting a number of bids had been received. The Area Manager advised members that some of the bids received had not been submitted with sufficient detail and requested that future requests be made as explicit as possible. It was reported that a number of Traffic and Road Safety Scheme applications had also been received and that these had been passed on to the appropriate officers and would be dealt with at the January 2002 meeting. The schemes that had been submitted were now in the process of being assessed and members would be asked at either the January or April 2002 meeting to make

a decision about which schemes went forward for next year's delegated budget Programme of Works.

The Area Manager informed the Local Committee that three schemes had been received for the "bonus ball" from Chesham, Little Missenden and Chalfont St Peter Local Councils. Representatives from these Councils were invited to submit a short presentation:

Chesham Town Council – Repaving of Pedestrian Area, Chesham/ Non-slip Pathway for Pedestrianised Area of Chesham

Mr A Walters from Chesham Town Council presented the submission on behalf of the Town Council to repave the pedestrian area in Chesham or to provide a non-slip pathway down the High Street. He expressed the view that in wet conditions Chesham High Street was very slippery. The County Council had rectified the situation approximately five years ago when the block paving was treated. This had worked for a while but the paving was now back to its original state. An additional problem with the block paving identified was that the blocks used were no longer being produced. Each time the paving was dug up for works it was left looking in a sub standard condition. An alternative suggestion was to repave a relatively narrow width along the High Street and also to create a stockpile of surplus blocks that could be used to repave areas following any work undertaken. Mrs Crawford the Local Member offered full support to the scheme(s).

Little Missenden Parish Council – Restoration of Verges/kerbing, Winters Way and Brays Meadow

Mrs Margaret Hamilton presented the submissions for Little Missenden Parish Council for the restoration of verges and kerbing at Winter's Way and Brays Meadow. Mrs Hamilton explained that these were former Housing Association residential areas and the roads were very narrow. With the increased car ownership, residential parking on grass verges had become a problem. It was felt that if the grass was removed to create lay-bys for the cars, the area would look a lot tidier and this would also alleviate the hazard of driving between closely parked cars. Mr C F Robinson, the Local Member for the area offered his full support for this scheme.

Chalfont St Peter Parish Council – Upgrading of the Greyhound Roundabout

Mr M Barraclough presented a scheme submitted on behalf of Chalfont St Peter Parish Council for the upgrading of the Greyhound roundabout. The upgrading would improve the look of the area and would also encourage a sponsor to take on the future management following the upgrading works. Mr B Allen, local Member for the area offered his full support to the scheme. He also requested officers examine visibility at the roundabout.

Following the presentations, the Area Manager explained that the next step was for officer assessments of all the schemes. Members would be asked to agree which option to submit for central funding at the January meeting.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted

6 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT REQUESTS AND PETITIONS

The Local Committee received a report which informed members of requests received for various traffic management measures of a significant nature during the period 28 June and 26 September 2001 and the relative priorities for investigation allocated and a petition received during the same period. It was noted that an additional petition for a pedestrian crossing at Sycamore Road had just been received. The Town Council offered support to safety schemes in the Sycamore Road area, not necessarily for a pedestrian crossing alone. A member commented that any scheme would affect Chesham Bois and the schools in the area; it should therefore look at the wider safety implications as a whole.

During discussion a number of comments were received which included:

- Austenwood Lane, Chalfont St Peter - The request from the Parish Council and support from Mrs Bacon, the Local Member had been taken into account. Meetings had been held with the Local Member and the requests for a pedestrian facility in Gold Hill and the pedestrian refuge in the vicinity of the Bull Lane/School Lane junction would be considered as part of the annual review with the possibility that they may be progressed.
- Severalls Avenue – It was reported that an 88 signature petition had been received from local residents for traffic calming, the main concern being the speed of vehicles and the route being used as a rat run. It was noted that the request would be forwarded to the annual traffic calming review in January.
- Burton's Lane, Little Chalfont - A representative from Chalfont St Giles Parish Council expressed his and Mr Ryman, the Local Members, concern that a low priority had been allocated to the request for the extension of the 30 mph speed limit.
- Members discussed the Home Zone Project which, it was noted was an initiative which allowed local authorities to identify schemes for residential areas exploring options for the area in a holistic way. This may include looking at on-street parking, speed limits and other community problems not simply road safety schemes. The Area Manager explained that the County Council had made a bid for Home Zone funding for three schemes throughout the County. The bid for the Chiltern Area was in Pond Park area of Chesham. It was noted that no decision had not yet been received but if it were agreed, funding in the region of £ 0.5m would be available.
- Mr Walters from Chesham Town Council explained that the Town Council would be consulting town residents shortly for views on an

increase in the Council Tax to fund traffic calming schemes in the area and commented that his Council would welcome a contribution towards any schemes from the County Council. In response it was noted that the 80/20% partnership funding approach referred to and developed some years ago to initiate predominantly footway schemes is no longer available or required. This is due to increased funding from the Local Transport Plan in recent years particularly for schemes which improve pedestrian facilities. Requests for footways need to be forwarded to the Area Co-ordinator by 14 December to enable them to be considered in the annual reviews. With regard to traffic calming schemes, the County will continue to fund schemes which have a casualty reduction potential. Where there is not, the Forbearance Fund set up by the County is still available. A report on this and the associated protocol has been discussed at previous meetings. The Local Area Co-ordinator offered to copy the report and send out to members with the action sheet from the meeting.

RESOLVED

- 1 That the requests for traffic management measures received and the priorities allocated in Appendix A of the report be noted.**
- 2 That the petition received and action taken to date and/or the action proposed be noted.**

7 LOCAL SAFETY AND AREA STRATEGY SCHEMES PROGRAMME 2002/03 – 2006/07

The Local Committee received a report which updated members on the annual review of the Local Safety and Area Strategy Schemes Programme. If Members of the Committee wished to submit additional schemes which meet Local Transport Plan objectives this should be submitted to the Local Area Co-ordinator by 14 December 2001 to allow officers time to put together a list of schemes for the January meeting. The importance of attendance at this meeting was emphasised.

During discussion a representative from Great Missenden Parish Council thanked officers for the pedestrian crossing in Great Missenden, however, expressed concern that road junctions were too close to the crossing. It was requested that full consultation was carried out prior to the scheme for a crossing in Prestwood being constructed. In response officers assured members that full consultation with the Parish Councils had already taken place. Prior to any scheme being initiated there was also an independent safety audit. A plan showing the line of the crossing at Prestwood would be made available to the Parish Council.

RESOLVED

- 1 That the commencement of the annual review of the programme be noted.**

- 2 That Members forward requests for schemes, which reflect Local Transport Plan (LTP) objectives to the Local Area Co-ordinator by 14 December 2001.**

8 PARKING ON VERGES AND FOOTWAYS

The Local Committee received a report which resulted from a request from Little Missenden Parish Council for information regarding the issue of parking on verges/footways. It was reported that there was no specific offence in law of parking on the pavement and that the Police were keen on any solutions that were self-enforcing, for example posts, barriers, railings and raised kerbs. The Committee's attention was drawn to a scheme in South Bucks which was being run to raise awareness of this issue. The Local Area Co-ordinator explained that a joint press release with the Iver Parish Council had been published and three local newspapers had run stories. A letter had also been put together to target offenders indicating the problems that they caused. The Local Area Co-ordinator offered to extend this scheme to Chiltern District if any member was interested on behalf of their local Council.

A member highlighted particular concern about parking on the kerbs adjacent to school sites and also parents who left car engines running whilst waiting on the pavements. It was noted that the Area Manager would contact the Safer Routes to School Officer for the County Council to take up this point.

The representative from Thames Valley Police was absent from the meeting and the Area Manager explained that the issues raised would be discussed with him with an update report made at the next meeting.

RESOLVED

- 1 That the legal position, as set out in the report, be noted.**
- 2 That an update report be submitted to the next meeting following discussion of the issues raised with the representative from Thames Valley Police.**

9 ADVERTISING SIGNS ON STREET FURNITURE

The Local Committee received and noted a report on fly-posting and other illegal advertising on the public highway which had been prepared in response to a request for information from Mr A Rand representing Chalfont St Giles Parish Council. In response to questions raised the Area Manager informed members that advertising on footway lighting columns was illegal, however, certain signs were allowed, for example neighbourhood watch signs.

10 HIGHWAYS DEVELOPMENT CONTROL: ADVICE TO CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Local Committee received and noted a report which informed members of the role undertaken by the County Council's Highways Development Control staff in dealing with the highway issues associated with planning applications

in the Chiltern District. In response to questions raised the Area Manager explained that any issue arising from unauthorised development or enforcement was firstly a matter for the District Council. The Highways Development Control officers at the County Council gave advice on the highway aspects only. The County Council was also not in a position to adjudicate on any matters other than highway issues.

11 **WINTER MAINTENANCE**

The Local Committee received and noted a report which detailed background information concerning winter maintenance activities carried out by the County Council during the winter period, October 2001 to April 2002. In response to queries raised over salt deposits and bins provided by the local authority, officers explained that new bins were not funded by the County Council but the replenishing of salt supplies would be achieved during the next few weeks. It was further noted that an information pack was available which set out the cost of bins and salt as one-off payments. This publicity would be re-circulated to local councils.

12 **STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2001/02 – UPDATE**

The Local Committee received and noted progress made implementing this year's Structural Highway Maintenance Programme of Works. During discussion the following points were raised:

- A member representing Seer Green Parish Council asked why the U247 Bottom Lane, Seer Green had been included on the table attached to the report highlighting that it had been agreed that Bottom Lane would be cancelled to supplement work in Longbottom Lane. In response the Area Manager agreed that this was a mistake and it would be removed from the plan. The scheme at Longbottom Lane had been deferred pending urgent works resulting from flooding. It would, however be re-submitted in January and a priority accorded.
- A member asked why the scheme at Gravelly Lane, Penn had been cancelled and noted that it had been postponed and would be included in next year's list of schemes. It was part of an ongoing scheme which unfortunately had to be withdrawn because of more pressing drainage sites.
- A representative from Chartridge Parish Council speaking on behalf of residents of Bellingdon thanked officers for the work carried out in Bellingdon Road and made the following points:
 - a The contractors had been observed working in periods of heavy rain and concern had been expressed that the tarmacing laid would crack again as a result of this.
 - b Not all the patching work required was carried out, how was the rationing applied.

In response it was noted that work could be carried out in moderate rain, however, there was clearly was a limit and the work should not undertaken

under water. In respect of the patching/resurfacing it was noted that there was only a limited budget to use and that the worst holes and defects were looked at first.

13 LOCAL SAFETY AND AREA STRATEGY SCHEMES PROGRAMME, UPDATE

The Local Committee received a report which provided an update on the progress of schemes contained within the current year of the Local Safety and Area Strategy Schemes Programme. A number of members raised concern over the bend in the road on the A404 at Holmer Green where it was reported five fatalities had occurred over recent years. The Local Member for the area, Mr Robinson, supported this view highlighting his concern over this stretch of road but expressed a need to wait for police investigations and the Coroner's Inquest in order to fully understand the causation factors involved. Officers agreed with the points that had been raised and advised the Committee that they would be monitoring the situation very closely. Officers reminded the Committee of the review of the performance of all the County's roads that takes place each year with a view to Local Safety Schemes being identified.

RESOLVED

- 1 That the progress to date of the schemes contained within the current year of the Local Safety and Area Strategy Schemes Programme be noted**
- 2 That the Local Councils disseminate the progress of the schemes in their area to their representative groups.**

14 OPEN FORUM DISCUSSION

During discussion the following points were raised:

- The representative from the British Horse Society raised concern over the poor state of a length of verge on Pednor Vale Road along which an anti-camping ditch had been dug. Mrs Crawford, the Local Member supported the comments stating that the work had been completed towards the end of July 2001 and that no consultation had been carried out. It was believed to have been carried out because of a gypsy family who park on the verge approximately twice a year and also the suggestion that it was because of flooding. The Local Member commented that the verge should be reinstated as it was fairly dangerous and also commented that it would now take some time to be restored back to its original state. The Area Manager informed members that he had been advised that the work had been carried out by the landowner who had informed the County Council that they had consulted all interested parties. It was now the time to have further discussions with horse riders and others who were affected and the owner of the land who had requested that the work take place. The Area Manager commented that he would visit the site with the Local Member to examine the area and discuss a way forward.

- A member queried the work identified in Prestwood and asked whether it was subject to the SPA agreement being completed. Officers responded that the County Council carried out and reviewed parking problems in one area at a time. As problems were ongoing in Great Missenden and Prestwood it was agreed to continue with the reviews that were underway until the SPA was nearer completion.
- A member highlighted the problems caused by car dealers displaying cars on the roadside, particularly those which restricted visibility at junctions. The Area Manager responded that trading on highways should not be taking place and that he was not aware of the problems with the suggestion that the representative write to the owner of the business in the first instance. If the vehicles were unlicensed this would be a police matter as it would represent a traffic offence the owners could be liable to prosecution.
- Hedges at the side of the road - A member asked whose responsibility it was to trim hedges at the side of the road, the landowner or the County Council. In response it was noted that it was the owners responsibility, if the problem was significant the County would investigate and serve a notice on the owner of the property. The Area Manager also informed members that the County was looking at devolving the powers to enforce hedge cutting to the Parish Councils and that an item to this effect would be submitted to the Local Committee in due course.

In conclusion, the Chairman mentioned the Waste Strategy leaflet and form which had been sent to all households commenting that if members had not yet responded there may still be time to do so.

15 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 30 January 2002.

CHAIRMAN