

## FARNHAM TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY, 2007, at 7pm IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SOUTH STREET, FARNHAM

- \* Cllr S Farrow (Chairman)
- \* Cllr S A G Lang (Vice-Chairman)
- \* Cllr D J Attfield (Town Mayor)
- o Cllr P G Burden OBE
- \* Cllr R D Frost
- \* Cllr C G Genziani (Deputy Mayor)
- \* Cllr J M Harris
- \* Cllr J E Maines
- \* Cllr (Mrs) A E Mansell MBE (Chairman of Public Services Committee) *ex officio*
- \* Cllr C H Mansell
- \* Cllr P G Marriott
- \* Cllr M W Norris (Chairman Policy and Resources Committee) *ex officio*
- \* Cllr V K Scrivens
  
- \* Present
- o Apologies for Absence

#### ES APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

224/06

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr P G Burden

#### ES MINUTES

225/06

The minutes of the Environmental Services Committee of 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2006, were approved and signed by the Vice Chairman as a correct record as the Chairman was not at the meeting.

#### ES DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

226/06

<u>Name of Councillor</u>	<u>Agenda No</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Type of Interest</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Cllr V K Scrivens	6	A3 Hindhead Tunnel	Personal	Member of Waverley Borough Council who have expressed their views.
Cllr V K Scrivens	12	WBC Air Quality Action Plan	Personal	Environmental portfolio holder WBC
Cllr S A G Lang	9	Provision of Gateways to Sandy Hill Road	Personal	Lives on Sandy Hill Estate
Cllr C H Mansell	6	Hindhead Tunnel	Personal	Member of Waverley Borough Council
Cllr A Mansell	6	Hindhead Tunnel	Personal	Member of Waverley

				Borough Council which has expressed a view.
Cllr D Attfield	5	Surrey Minerals Plan	Personal	Born at Monkton Lane and lived in Farnham all my life.
Cllr J Maines	5	Surrey Minerals Plan	Personal	Lives 400m from site

ES STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

227/06

Mayor Bryan Sell outlined the role of the proposed Farnham River Management Committee; the intention is that the Farnham River Management Committee would encourage an holistic approach towards the management and maintenance of the River Wey and would comprise representatives of the Environment Agency (South East Area) , Surrey County Council, Waverley Borough Council, Farnham Town Council and Thames Water.

**Part 1 – ITEMS FOR DECISION**

ES SURREY MINERALS PLAN – MINERALS SITE RESTORATION SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

228/06

The Committee received a presentation by Mr Simon Elson, Surrey County Council's Principal Enhancement Officer, on the Surrey Minerals Plan's Mineral Site Restoration Supplementary Planning Document.

The Document is intended to address the restoration of Surrey minerals sites at the plan making stage, and set out indicative restoration schemes for Preferred Areas included in the Surrey Minerals Plan; Monkton Lane, Farnham and Runfold South Extension located at Runfold are included in the list of proposed Preferred Areas. The County Council wishes to engage with local communities at an early stage in order that local views may be considered in the event of sites being included in the emerging Surrey Minerals Plan.

Following his presentation, Mr. Elson responded to questions from members of the Committee on salient points; Mr. Elson encouraged the Committee to keep Surrey County Council informed of local concerns in order that due account of these and/or appropriate action could be taken.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Elson on behalf of the Committee for a most informative and constructive presentation.

**RESOLVED: That the following Farnham Town Council comments and observations in relation to the Surrey Minerals Plan– Minerals Site Restoration Supplementary Planning Document be forwarded to Surrey County Council:**

**Preferred Area M – Monkton Lane, Farnham –**

- **Farnham Town Council is concerned to note previous instances of overfilling at other minerals sites and seeks absolute assurance that in the event of minerals extraction at Monkton Lane overfilling will not be permitted.**
- **Since this site is prone to flooding, Farnham Town Council believes that restoration to wetlands with provision for water sports , nature reserve and public open space should be adopted; this would be in keeping with similar nearby restoration schemes in the Blackwater Valley and retain the site's integrity as a part of the important Farnham-Aldershot Strategic Gap.**

**Preferred Area R – Runfold South Extension, Runfold –**

- **Farnham Town Council strongly regrets that previous over filling of this site has been permitted in the past and seeks absolute assurance that future filling will be closely monitored to ensure that over filling does not re-occur at this location.**

**Farnham Town Council urges Surrey County Council to ensure that the following required actions are addressed:**

- (a) restoration and enhancements of roads and footpaths in vicinity of the site;**
- (b) improvement of the views from the North Downs Way and restoration of original contours;**
- (c) removal of raised verges on Guildford Road;**
- (d) restoration of the area worked to woodland;**
- (e) encouragement of coppicing for biomass energy production.**

ES POTENTIAL TRAFFIC IMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM A3 HINDHEAD TUNNEL  
229/06 PROPOSALS

The Committee received a presentation by Major Jeremy Whitaker MCDS, a resident of Headley, on the potential impact upon Farnham of diverted traffic in the event of emergency closure of the approved A3 Hindhead twin bore tunnel and the case for keeping the existing A3 route for emergency use.

Major Whitaker tabled papers (copy attached to the record minutes) detailing his personal research into the traffic implications in the event of an emergency closure of the approved A3 Hindhead twin bore tunnel including the potential diversion of traffic through the Farnham area to the A31 as an alternative route. Major Whitaker confirmed his role as one of the founders of STOAT (Save the Old A3) and reiterated his strong belief that the Highways Agency and the National Trust should give serious consideration for the retention of the existing A3 and the installation of a barrier to facilitate emergency use in the event of closure of the approved A3 tunnel. However, Major Whitaker recognised the overall need for the A3 tunnel and felt that the issue of retaining the existing A3 and installation of a barrier to facilitate emergency use in event of the closure of the approved tunnel should be reviewed in eighteen months time.

The Chairman thanked Mayor Whitaker on behalf of the Committee for his presentation, hard work and diligence in conducting research into this matter.

**RESOLVED: That**

- (a) Farnham Town Council defers consideration of the case for retaining the existing A3 and installation of a barrier to facilitate emergency use in the event of closure of the approved tunnel for a period of eighteen months pending the imminent construction phase;**
- (b) the Assistant Town Clerk arrange to research and summarise the salient points of interested parties , both for and against, in relation to closure of the existing A3 in order to assist the Committee's future consideration of this matter in eighteen months' time.**

ES  
230/06

PROPOSED FARNHAM RIVER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Committee noted that following recent discussions between the newly formed Farnham River Watch Group, representatives of Surrey County Council, Waverley Borough Council, Farnham Town Council and the Environment Agency concerning the River Wey in the Farnham area, the Environment Agency has suggested that key stakeholders should come together to develop a Management Plan for the River Wey and its tributaries in the Farnham area.

Accordingly, it was proposed that a Farnham River Management Committee be set up to develop and execute a Management Plan for the River Wey and its tributaries in the Farnham area, taking account of flood risk from all sources including the network of drains and sewers.

The proposed membership of the Committee would comprise of representatives from the following organisations and agencies:

- Environment Agency South East Area – Thames Region
- Surrey County Council – Highways representative
- Waverley Borough Council
- Farnham Town Council
- Thames Water
- Farnham River Watch

The Committee welcomed this proposal.

**RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL: That**

- (a) the invitation for Farnham Town Council to join the proposed Farnham River Management Committee be noted with thanks;**
- (b) Councillor D J Attfield (Town Mayor) be nominated as the Farnham Town Council representative on the Farnham River Management Committee.**

ES COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH IN FARNHAM  
231/06

The Committee noted Councillor C Cockburn had advised that a local group of volunteers has been working in partnership with Surrey Police to establish a Community Speedwatch Scheme in the Bourne area. Whilst sufficient numbers of volunteers have been recruited and funds for one mobile speed camera are available, Surrey Police believe that two mobile speed cameras would be preferable to allow an effective Community Speedwatch Scheme to be implemented.

The Committee noted that efforts to implement Community Speedwatch in other areas of Farnham such as Badshot Lea and Weybourne had experienced difficulties in obtaining sufficient volunteers and felt Councillor Cockburn's endeavours should be applauded.

**RESOLVED: That**

- (a) Officers be requested to identify savings in the current 2006/07 financial year's capital programme and that £1,000 be released from the identified savings to facilitate purchase of a mobile speed camera to enable an effective Community Speedwatch scheme in the Bourne area to assist traffic calming in the area; the purchase of the camera was conditional that it would be available for use in other areas of Farnham;**

- (b) **PC Andy Crane , the Surrey Police Casualty Reduction Officer in charge of the Community Speedwatch scheme in the Bourne area, be invited to the next meeting of the Committee.**

**Cllr R D Frost left the meeting at 9.07pm**

## **Part 2 – ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

ES  
232/06 **PROVISION OF GATEWAY FEATURES AT SANDY HILL ROAD, FARNHAM**

The Committee noted that following officer discussions between Farnham Town Council, Surrey County Council and Pavilion Housing Association, the necessary consents have now been obtained to allow the provision of the previously agreed gateway features at either end of Sandy Hill Road, Farnham. These proposals have the support of the local Residents of Sandy Hill Association(RASH) and local members; to complement the gateway features, which will incorporate signage denoting 20mph and “caution children: please drive carefully”, Surrey County Council will be providing coloured road marking adjacent to the gateways and are currently progressing a 20mph traffic order for Sandy Hill Road.

It was anticipated that installation of the gateways will commence during the second week of February 2007.

The Committee thanked the Assistant Town Clerk for expediting this long outstanding matter.

ES  
233/06 **PEDESTRIAN DANGER AT SHORTHEATH ROAD, SANDBROOK HILL/ECHO BARN LANE/SCHOOL HILL, WRECCLESHAM**

The Committee noted that at the Mayor’s coffee morning held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2007 , residents from the Shortheath and Boundstone ward expressed serious concerns about pedestrian safety at Shortheath Road, Sandrock Hill/Echo Barn Lane and School Hill Farnham.

The Chairman confirmed that this matter had been discussed at the Farnham Transportation Task Group meeting held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2007.

ES  
234/06 **FARNHAM TRANSPORTATION TASK GROUP**

The Chairman reported that a meeting of the Farnham Transportation Task Group, which meets in private and is administered by Surrey County Council with the purpose of considering transportation issues in Farnham, was held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2007.

The Assistant Town Clerk circulated a Surrey County Council School Travel Plans and Safe Routes to Schools update report which had been tabled at the Farnham Transportation Task Group meeting for information purposes. Members of the Committee were pleased to note that as a result of the recently introduced School Speed Watch scheme in Hale, speeding motorists had been given the opportunity to accept a fine or be questioned by Hale School's year 6 pupils; during two and a half days seventy drivers were caught. The Committee agreed that either the Mayor should visit the school and speak with the pupils or that the pupils and the School Speedwatch Co-ordinator, PC Gordon Milligan, be invited to a future meeting of the Committee.

Several members of the Committee expressed concern that the Committee was unable to discuss the deliberations of the Farnham Transportation Task Group and that Farnham Town Council members had not received feedback from an earlier request for suggestions for possible minor highway improvement schemes. In response, the Chairman confirmed that due to budgetary constraints, Surrey County Council no longer had staff resources to produce formal minutes of the Task Group meetings. The Assistant Town Clerk undertook to discuss this matter with the Town Clerk and Chairman of the Farnham Transportation Task Group.

ES WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL'S FARNHAM AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN  
235/06

The Committee noted that Waverley Borough Council is responsible for developing an Air Quality Action Plan for the Borough; Farnham which has previously been declared as an "air quality management area" and Waverley Borough Council is keen to engage with Farnham Town Council and other stakeholders to help reduce pollution from vehicles' exhausts in the centre of Farnham.

The Chairman and Assistant Town Clerk are arranging to meet Waverley Borough Council's newly appointed Environmental Health Assistant for Air Quality as soon as possible.

ES ITEMS TO BE TABLED  
236/06

None

ES PUBLICITY  
237/06

The Committee decided the following items needed publicity:

- ❖ Sandy Hill Gateway
- ❖ Community Speedwatch
- ❖ Proposed Farnham River Management Committee

**Part 3 – CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

There were no confidential items.

The Meeting closed at 9.33 pm.

Chairman

Date