

**HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE MEETING
8.00 p.m. on Thursday 26 February 2015
Village Hall Committee Room
*Minutes***

Present: **Councillors** - Ken Huddart (*Chairman*), Kate Hallett, Anthony Sheppard, Helen Maguire, Mark Sugden (*ex-officio*)
Co-opted members- Bill Chilcott, Caroline Stevenson,
Parish Clerk- Freda Collins
2 members of the public
Cllr Mary Marshall

1. Apologies for absence

David Cowie

Cllr Hallett sent apologies as she would be late for the start of the meeting.

Cllr Sugden apologised as he would only be able to attend part of the meeting.

Cllr Herbert with reason.

These were accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda

Cllr Huddart declared that he is Chairman of the Trustees of Claygate Village Hall Association, President of the CVA and Acting-Chairman of the Claygate Conservation Areas Advisory Committee.

3. Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of 11 Dec 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. To report on the actioning of items from previous minutes.

AP9 Travel Plan for Rowans School. This has been produced and accepted by SCC. This has deprived EBC of the opportunity of validating it which was one of the planning conditions imposed. The plan itself is unspecific and factually inaccurate. Cllr Coomes has the plan and will give a copy to Cllr Huddart.

AP10. Woodstock Lane horse crossing Cllr Marshall continues to progress this project and is liaising with SCC to provide the necessary Road Safety Audit.

AP11 Highway Ownership Cllr Huddart has yet to check whether maintaining a highway creates ownership.

AP12 Glaring light at station Cllr Huddart has yet to action.

5. Bridleway Proposals & Rights of Way

a) Woodstock Lane South Horse Ride.

Cllr Huddart has continued to contact Kingston without success. We would like Kingston to refurbish the route between Mansfield Road southwards to the bridleway under the A3 and then to BW32 to Claygate (Bridle Road/Lower Wood Road) and also to allow horses on the footpath to connect this route through Barwell Lane to the A3 bridge to Claygate.

Secondly, we need the Corporate Landlord's permission to be able to maintain the section of Woodstock Lane South's horse ride north of where it ceases to be part of FP31. If we get this authority we have to decide how we will maintain it. The horse riding fraternity are still offering to help.

b) Woodstock Lane South Horse Crossing

Cllr Marshall continues to progress this project and is liaising with SCC to provide the necessary Road Safety Audit. Drawings of the proposed crossing are awaited.

It was noted that, this year, EBC will be doing a great deal of work on paths throughout the Borough, so may help with the work required on Woodstock Lane South.

Cllr Sugden joined the meeting so the Chairman then changed the order of the agenda in order to take Item 9 On-Street Parking.

9. Parking

a. On-street parking.

Cllr Huddart attended the recent Surrey (Elmbridge) Local Committee on 23 Feb 2015 and put the public question;

'Claygate Parish Council recognises the desirability of a more strategic, holistic approach to parking across Elmbridge. What reassurances can the Local Committee give that, after considerable input from Claygate residents to a recent parking survey and to SCC's own current consultation on specific local proposals, identifying on-street commuter parking as a major issue, Claygate residents will not have to wait years for a review that leads to action to address this matter?'

The answer was:-

'Unfortunately Claygate is not alone in feeling the effects of parking by commuters; it is a common and often increasing issue for residents across many parts of the borough of Elmbridge, not to mention elsewhere in the country. Indeed, it is an issue commonly highlighted in all the locations mentioned in the Elmbridge Parking Strategy report, at item 10 of today's agenda. However if the new approach is adopted; we aim to have completed a review of the whole borough and implemented any appropriate changes to parking controls within three years.

Although it is to be expected that each town and village would like to be subject to a review as soon as possible, it is not realistic to look at the whole borough at the same time. As mentioned in the report, we considered the number of requests for changes to parking controls that had been made in the areas that we will be looking at, as an aid to deciding the order of the reviews. On the current programme we expect issues in Claygate to be addressed in the second year of the three year cycle'

Unfortunately, Cllr Huddart did not see the reply prior to the meeting as it was added to the agenda papers when they were moved to another table before the meeting. When it was given to him he had to make a supplementary question under extreme time pressure from the Committee Chair. The question was:-

'Claygate has undertaken a substantial survey and presented the results to Surrey representatives here present (Margaret Hicks, Rikki Hill, Mike Bennison) before Christmas'.

Cllr Sugden was not happy at the treatment accorded to Cllr Huddart and intends to write a letter of complaint. Cllr Huddart submitted his question well in advance, so the answer should have been available in advance in order for him to submit a follow-up question.

The item 10 report, which was approved, showed the existing system of responding to individual requests is to be replaced by holistic reviews calling off work from existing consultants. In discussion, it was noted that this could lead to the removal of some parking controls as well as their current proliferation. Although Members presents warned that this would be difficult to achieve as members of the public always asked for new yellow lines and never wanted any removed.

Obviously, going on the recent survey, Claygate residents want more parking controls. CPC has already asked SCC to react to the survey by providing limited controls in four roads so as to prevent gridlock in two-way traffic. Cllr Huddart has identified that some controls under consultation would be counterproductive in road safety terms. SCC have decided that the proposals in the Hare Lane bend under the railway bridge, and opposite Foley Road will be implemented, but that the yellow lines on the corners of Foley Road/Claremont will not.

It was agreed that the Claygate review being in the second year of the review means that we are being side-lined. Even if the review is carried out, how long will it be to the implementation of any controls? SCC is not reacting to short-term needs. We need an immediate solution to our four key roads. It may be that our CIL money could be used to pay for controls which may make SCC react in a shorter time.

It was agreed that this could be the major topic at the village meeting and that we will invite Margaret Hicks to explain the SCC policy. If she declines the invitation we will go public on this. Anger for lack of action should be turned towards SCC and not at CPC. It was agreed to invite Margaret Hicks and Rikki Hill to walk round the village to see the problems and then to attend the village meeting. Cllr Huddart will consult with Cllr Bennison on how best to achieve this.

AP13 Cllr Huddart to action. *Post meeting note: Cllr Bennison has forwarded the invitation to Cllr Hicks, twice.*

Cllr Sugden then left the meeting and Cllr Hallett arrived at the meeting.

6. Cycling

Kingston intends to make 'mini Holland' segregated cycle ways from the centre of the town to the boundary. They should be installed within a year largely funded by a Government/TfL grant. A segregated cycle way and more pedestrian crossings will be provided from Kingston town centre southwards to the Kingston boundary. SCC is keen to join the scheme and provide similar facilities further south down the Portsmouth Road. It was noted at the Local Committee that funding for this could be by use of EBC or local CIL monies.

Cllr Marshall then joined the meeting to give an update on Item 5(a) Woodstock Lane Horse crossing.

The current proposed horse crossing will not be on Kingston's land. If it has to be moved once the audit is complete then it may move onto Kingston's land. Currently the proposal is to use land which belongs to the Environment Agency but which is maintained by SCC. Cllr Marshall is currently trying to arrange a drawing of the proposal. She hopes to arrange a meeting with Margaret Hicks and a representative from Kingston.

7. Public Transport

a. Bus shelters, Routes & Bus Stops

Nothing to report

b. Trains

TfL is known to be championing Crossrail 2, which would provide an extra track between Wimbledon and Clapham Junction via Tooting Bec and then underground through the centre of London to the north east. The line will run about 20m lower than Crossrail 1 and will increase the travel capacity by 20%. The issue is the location of the South Western terminal. An earlier suggestion was Effingham, but TfL is now considering Surbiton, Kingston and Epsom, but this may be subject to change. . As Government funding is decreasing, CIL money is being considered as a source of funding.

A fence has been erected on the railway embankment facing Norfolk Road, probably to protect maintenance workers from falling into the Rythe culvert which flowed under the tracks. A resident has express concerns about the fence, which Cllr Huddart has passed onto SW Trains, suggesting the fence be reduced in height or painted dark green. The suggestions have been sympathetically received and are being considered.

c. Claygate Station

Nothing to report

8. Liaison with SCC

a. Road Maintenance and Footpaths

For the past year, SCC has participated in the SE Permit Scheme for managing roadworks. A modest fee is charged to developers and statutory undertakers for each compulsory notified road works, which accumulates some £1.4 m pa. This is sufficient to retain staff to manage the programme and inspect all the sites.

This means that deficiencies such as not providing adequate pedestrian routes can be reported and dealt with. It was noted that many road signs regarding road works are not removed after completion of the work. Bill will make a list of redundant signs and pass onto Cllrs Marshall & Huddart. All three of them will report the matter.

AP14 Bill Chilcott and Cllrs Huddart & Marshall to action.

There are experimental schemes in London and Kent where lane rentals are charged for street works, but only 10% of the previously estimated lane rentals are paid since the undertakers now arrange the works to be outside critical traffic periods.

SCC at Council has decided that a proportion of the general road maintenance capital budget should be diverted to drainage work. There may be a problem identifying sufficient capital schemes to use this money- so this could be an opportunity for CPC to put forward suggestions. The provisions of new gullies and soakaways would qualify as capital expenditure, whereas local re-profiling of a road would be regarded as revenue expenditure and so would not qualify. We have problems which may qualify:-

- i. new drain connections at Church Road by the recreation Ground
- ii. High Street/ Hare Lane/Oaken Lane junction
- iii. Raleigh Drive –a new gully at the lowest point of the road.

It was noted that the work required at Hare Lane railway bridge is re-profiling and so would not qualify. Cllr Huddart will forward the CPC suggestions.

b. Highway Trees

The Tree Wardens and others have completed this year's planting programme. These have been funded by donations, the CPC and SCC in respect of the Foley Road replacements. One outstanding is for 22 Claremont Road. A donor is available but a tree pit has to be cut in the asphalt. We have asked SCC to carry out this work or, at least to recommend a contractor licensed to work on the highway. It is probable that CPC will have to pay for this work. We hope that the work can be completed in time to pay it from this year's budget. SCC recently felled a large tree in Holroyd Road. We hope that a replacement can be planted next season- hopefully funded by SCC, but there are local donors willing to pay.

c. Street Lighting

The lights on and around The Green now seem to have been repaired as they now come on at the correct time. The lights in the alleyway from Elm Road to the Roundway have been mended or replaced without change of style. There are still oddities, as in the lights in Coverts Road which are of different colours and heights. This is because they were replaced like for like despite the undertaking that all the lights in a street are supposed to be the same. Cllr Sugden continues to seek a common style.

9. Parking

a. On-street parking

Already dealt with

b. Off-street parking

At the last EBC/CPC liaison meeting, Claygate asked for information on the costs and revenues applicable for short-term parking periods- up to one hour. EBC has provided some figures. They stated that the first half-hour parking fee was important in revenue terms, but the information they have sent to us shows that this is incorrect. The largest block of revenue for Claygate is from all-day parking. The revenue from the first half-hour is £2,500 pa for both car parks. It was suggested that traders could refund drivers for these charges. The recent shop survey showed that most shoppers use the Co-op. The Co-op is keen to take part in local initiatives, so we could ask for it to refund the parking ticket money provided a shopper spent more than an agreed amount. CPC could provide half of the cost and ask if the Co-op would be willing to provide the other half. This initiative would be affordable and good PR.

10. Traffic Calming

Nothing to report

11. Street Signage

The sign for 'Stevens Lane' which is situated on the Woodstock triangle was so dirty as to be virtually unreadable. Cllr Marshall reported this and it has been cleaned.

12. Website & Courier

Cllr Maguire has quotes for a new website, but this will be dealt with after the election.

13. Matters for Information Only

It was noted that damage has been caused to the base of the CCTV camera in Hare Lane. Police are aware of this and the camera is still working.

14. Date and place of the next meeting

8.00pm on 30 Apr 2015 in the Committee Room

Signed.....as a true and fair record of the meeting.

Date.....