

These are draft minutes and are subject to approval at the next meeting.



HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

8.00 p.m. on Thursday 25 April 2013

Village Hall Committee Room

Minutes

Present: **Councillors** - Ken Huddart (*Chairman*), Nick Hayes, Geoff Herbert, Kate Hallett
 Co-opted members- Caroline Stevenson, David Cowie
 Parish Clerk- Freda Collins
 Cllr Mike Bennison
 3 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Anthony Sheppard who had a business meeting.
Bill Chilcott
These were accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda

Cllr Herbert is also a Borough Councillor.
Cllr Huddart is Acting-Chairman of the Claygate Conservation Area Committee.
Cllr Hallett is an employee of TfL

3. Constitution of the Committee

No changes required

4. Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 28 Feb 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

AP24 *Funding for cycle parking at Claygate Primary School.* David Cowie to report.

AP26 *The double deck cycle stand, for 48 cycles.* This has been installed and is in use.

AP27 *The Rec lights are left on at night and the toilets are not locked.* Cllr Huddart has notified Steve Wells of this (even though the action has no H&T relevance). He is chasing it up. Cllr Hayes spoke to PCSO Read about unauthorised use of the toilets- she is aware of this problem. It is known that EBC is conducting a Borough-wide review of toilet facilities.

AP28 *Excessive parking restriction in Foley Road at The Foley.* .*Post meeting note: reported, but it does seem that the intention was for The Firs residents to have a long vehicle free section of road in order to cross the road safely. The amount of road proposed would seem to be an over reaction*

AP29 *Non functioning crossing spotlight.* Cllr Huddart has again reported that this is out, which is hazardous.

AP30 *Old Claygate Lane wet patch;* see item 10

AP31 *Church Road street nameplates.* Cllr Huddart requested Elmbridge for street nameplates at the junction with The Causeway. The EBC Officer will make a site visit.

6. Public Transport

a. Bus shelters, Bus routes and Bus stops.

A local resident suggested that the K3 route be converted to double-deck operation. This change has been strongly opposed on the grounds that Oaken Lane and Common Road are not suitable. Cllr Huddart is more concerned that such a change could eventually threaten the continuation of the route. The logic is persuasive in that there is undoubtedly over crowding at peak and other times, so that the additional capacity of a double-decker would be useful, without incurring the cost of an extra driver. Unfortunately such a change slows down boarding and alighting, and makes the service less friendly to users, and there are examples of patronage declining so that the route becomes unprofitable and is lost. It was agreed not to pursue this suggestion.

Caroline Stevenson arrived at the meeting.

These are draft minutes and are subject to approval at the next meeting.

b. Trains including the Surrey Rail Strategy.

On 22 Mar, the Clerk notified the Council of the Surrey Rail Strategy, a long document which can be viewed at www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreyrailstrategy

This is the summary, including suggestions for our representations drafted by Cllr Huddart:

1. Issues- Elmbridge population to increase 10% to 2031, main growth from south of Surrey
 - Elmbridge Work travel is 44% to Elmbridge, 38% to London, little else
 - Congestion bottlenecks, M25 (Wisley, Pains Hill), A243, A244 (Hook not mentioned)
 - Rail Claygate not in 20 busiest stations (many of which are part-time)
 - Omits any London issues, Surbiton, Heathrow in London
 - Claygate line 590K entry/exit p.a, Main line >1m, Hinchley Wood 400K
 - Growing Surrey rail use, doubling from 1997 and to 2031
 - Load factors generally, inc. Hampton Court 100%, Claygate 78%
 - Some train lengthening, Gatwick extra platform
 - No additional capacity (seats, standing) of SWML (includes Claygate)
 - Surbiton-Waterloo to be five track
 - Satisfaction, station adequacy data (it is an issue)
2. Issues- Claygate <4 A.M. peak trains (Oxshott 4-8)
 - SWML Shortfall 4900by 2013, operate at 137% capacity
 - Part-time staffing is seen as a station facility gap
3. Option Identification and Analysis
 - Mainly to do with longer trains and stations
 - P13/25 five-track Hampton junction to Waterloo, double-deck &c
 - Improve Clapham Junction interchange Brighton, and WL to 6tph
 - P17 Peak season tickets are too cheap cf. off peak tickets
 - P18 Lengthen and run Guildford via Cobham to 10 cars (semi-fast!)
 - Double-deck trains rejected.
 - Increasing SWML to 28 or 32 tph, requires extra track
 - Crossrail 2, essentially 6-track from Raynes Park; this would join into the tracks at Wimbledon and be underground by Clapham Junction- consulting now
4. Further Options
 - p7 Remodelling Clapham Junction, splitting off Crossrail 2
 - New station at Guildford Park Barn to relieve A3
 - Station at Merrow questionable benefit
 - Car park improvements – where there is a capacity problem
 - Station facilities, mainly to increase accessibility
 - P21 Assessment summary, particularly p24, and then to p30

What we could support or ask for:-

- i. Committed train lengthening (reduces inner zone overcrowding)
- ii. Increased tracks Surbiton to Clapham Junction
- iii. Remodel Clapham Junction as a hub
- iv. Crossrail 2
- v. Car park pricing to encourage use
- vi. Full time staffing to encourage use

All of the above were agreed. Cllr Huddart will respond to the consultation.

AP32 Cllr Huddart to action.

c. Claygate Station

The extra cycle rack has been provided, and Cllr Huddart has thanked SWT for this. It was mentioned in *The Courier*.

It was noted that SW Trains have erected bollards in front of the new cycle stand which is accessed from The Parade. The bollards cut down on the amount of road available to turn at the end of The Parade.

These are draft minutes and are subject to approval at the next meeting.

It has also been noted that the lights at the in the cycle rack are very bright and detract from The Parade. It was agreed to ask SW Trains to blank off The Parade side of the lights. Cllr Huddart will also thank Bill Brittian again for the cycle racks and comment about their utilisation.

AP33 Cllr Huddart to action. *Post meeting note: Bill Brittian notified; reply awaited*

7. Liaison with SCC

It was noted that EBC have produced a Settlement ID Plan for Claygate and this is currently out for consultation. The areas in the Plan which affect this Committee are:-

i. the proposed development of the Telephone Exchange site- the plan seeks to put dwellings to a density of 70dph on this site. The previous maximum density was 36dph and in Claygate is usually 12dph. It was agreed that this is a dangerous junction with a large pedestrian flow past it to the station, but SCC will say that the junction can be made to work. We should comment that the junction is dangerous.

ii. the village green spaces- we are concerned to ensure that all existing green spaces are retained. It is not known if the Hare Lane Green is designated a Village Green. Cllr Hallett will research this.

AP34 Cllr Hallett to action.

iii. infrastructure- with regard to our already over-crowded railways and buses, dentists, doctors etc. There is a need for a more useful bus network, in addition to the excellent K3.

iv. Milbourne lane, the Swan junction and Hare Lane

a. Road maintenance & footpaths

Surrey C.C. has resurfaced part of Claremont Road, and Albany Crescent. A resident complained about the low quality in Albany Crescent; this is slurry seal, which is a cheaper process, and allows more work to be done.

b. Highway Tree Replacement and Maintenance

Two highway trees were recently felled in Trystings Close. Residents were not notified that the work would be carried out and had no idea why the trees were being taken down. Caroline reported this to CPC and protested to SCC. Cllr Mike Bennison has taken up the issue. Cllr Huddart has thanked him. It is understandable if diseased or unstable trees have to come down, but residents' complaints of dropping of a few branches are not an adequate justification. The action by Caroline has resulted in Nick Healy making an undertaking to replace both the felled trees. It was agreed that photographs should be taken of trees about to be felled and warning boards should be placed prior to felling to warn residents why and when it will happen. Cllr Bennison took note of the complaints and suggestions for improvements to the system.

Caroline was thanked for her work.

Our tree planting programme is stalled for this year, because of lack of suitable sites, also shortage of volunteers. In the future we may be looking for projects on which to spend the PC's 25% share of Community Infrastructure Levy, so we may consider replacing some of our cherished avenues, where Surrey C.C. has just reinstated asphalt.

David Cowie arrived at the meeting

c. Street Lighting

Residents of Telegraph Lane and The Avenue have paid for heritage lighting, and are pleased with their installation. Cllr Huddart is concerned at the excessive height (6m) of the Telegraph Lane column adjacent to the path to The Roundway

d. Consultation on Congestion.

This consultation by Surrey C.C. lists various problems within the County and even some in Elmbridge, but none of these relate to Claygate or its approaches; the nearest is Esher town centre. The congestion point of nearest relevance to Claygate is Hook; in the p.m. peak this suffers queues of 15 min., both on the A3, and also the A309 eastbound from Hinchley Wood, and both on the merge to the A3 and approaching the Cap in Hand roundabout. As a consequence there is serious p.m. peak diversionary traffic through Claygate, targeting Clayton Road and A243 northbound to Hook. The A3 bottleneck is probably too difficult to tackle, but there could be scope for alternative controls to Hook roundabout, to reduce delays to A309 eastbound; this could relocate the Claygate rat-running traffic to Esher town centre or to Littleworth Road/Manor Road South.

It was noted that the width restrictors in Clayton Road prevent Claygate being used as a rat-run for lorries, but channels all the heavy traffic from the A309 into Claygate.

These are draft minutes and are subject to approval at the next meeting.

8. Parking

a. Off- Street

Members of CPC met with high-level members of EBC to discuss off street parking in the village. EBC appeared very willing to cooperate; they are willing to work with CPC to try to make the car parks pay. They have issued ten free parking permits to the CRGT for use of users of the ground. Steve Wells will be in charge of distribution.

It was noted that EBC have allowed parents/carers free parking in Hare Lane car park in the afternoon to allow children to be collected from school. As the new charging times begin earlier, the time for free parking will also have to include the school drop-off time. It was agreed that Cllr Huddart will ask EBC for free parking between 9-10 am as well as the free parking now allowed between 3-4pm.

AP35 Cllr Huddart to action. *Post meeting note: EBC request sent, supported by email from Darryl Taylor, Head of CPS*

EBC have also offered concessions to the traders, but these seem not yet to have been taken up.

b. On- Street

It was noted that the double yellow lines requested at the end of Dalmore Avenue have still not been done. It is believed that this proposal has still not yet gone to consultation. Cllr Bension agreed to contact Rikki Hill for a timescale.

Cllr Hayes has contacted all the resident sin Dalmore Avenue to warn them of the changes in charges for the Hare Lane car park and that its future is uncertain. Any change to the car park will impinge on Dalmore Avenue, so no decisions on on-street parking issues can be made until the fate of the car park is decided.

c. Parking Policy

Unchanged from that recorded in the 6 Dec 12 minutes,

9. Traffic Calming

9.1 Caroline Stevenson put a question to the Local Committee, seeking a speed reduction in Woodstock Lane South, past the travellers' site. It was noted that the contact for the Oaks is called Kevin RYAN (not Kevin Judge as recorded in the last minutes). Cllr Huddart will pursue this matter.

AP36 Cllr Huddart to action.

9.2 The suggestion for a pan Claygate 20mph speed limit seems to have faded but has not been dismissed. This Committee seeks a 20mph speed limit from the High Street to the railway bridge. We have made this suggestion to SCC. They do not oppose this, but have no money to implement it. It was suggested that the 20 mph zone be extended to cover the lower end of Hare Lane from the railway bridge to the Swan as the road is very narrow at this section.

It was noted that where 20mph limits have been imposed they were successful in lowering speeds.

It was also noted that there are footpaths which allow access from Aston Road down to Esher School away from the traffic. Cllr Herbert has arranged from the removal of bollards at the entrances to these footpaths so that buggies are able to use them. It was noted that these footpaths are not always easy to find. There was a map of Claygate showing these footpaths. Perhaps we should arrange for a reprint. It was also suggested that footpaths could be a topics for display at the Flower Show.

9.3 It was noted that of the three suggestions put into the Local Committee in the last year, two have been successful.

AP37 Cllr Huddart to action.

10. Bridleway Proposals & Rights of Way

10.1 Cllr Huddart still not received a quote from the Moles for BW32, so we cannot really offer a funding contribution. *Post meeting note: Surrey C.C. has quoted a cost of £6112, including £3000 for materials , which it invited Claygate P.C. to pay; Cllr Huddart has have sent H&T Committee members and email suggesting that £1000 would be an appropriate contribution.*

10.2 Regarding the Old Claygate Lane wet patch, Cllr Huddart is to meet the Gas Engineer on site on Friday 26 Apr. He will be discussing with him how we are to excavate to find the broken pipe or source of water, given the proximity of the high pressure gas main, with a view to bypassing the problem. So far, the surface drainage approach recommended by Dave Page has been beneficial, but there still seems to be an underground source of water towards the east (Golf Course) side of the track. Hand digging to avoid the main may be too expensive, in which we shall have to reconsider other solutions. One partial solution may be to scatter scalpings where the ground is firm and dig a drainage ditch.

Post meeting note from Cllr Huddart: The gas engineer was able to join me on site this morning. He showed me the exact line of the high pressure main, which skirts the really wet area, so there is a chance of excavating to find the problem. He would not be averse to mechanical excavation, provided this was kept 3m

These are draft minutes and are subject to approval at the next meeting.

away from the line, which could be reduced to 1m if he or one of his colleagues was in attendance. So we can clearly use the contractors we have already contacted.

His solution was a transverse French drain comprising porous material, and providing a walking track with suitable material, perhaps finished off with bog boards (he felt these could be cheaply laid direct on unprepared ground (except reasonably levelled). I feel that we should still have to remove the mud from the walking track (probably down the centre) and replace with a considerable amount of suitable material (scalpings). It would still require much work and a load (20T) of scalpings, so we are still looking at a cost of £1500, which is a lot for repairing a wet patch which walkers are managing to get around quite well

11. Cycling

11.1 Re the newly installed bollards at the end of The Parade. David agreed to experiment to see if all the space enclosed by the boards is required to remove a cycle from the rack. If not, we may be able to request that SW Trains reposition the bollards to give motorists more room to turn. *Post meeting note: Cllr Huddart measured the space for lowering the top rack (2m) and the length of a cycle (2m, total 4m), so the space 9m) protected by the bollards is excessive, which he has told Bill Brittan.*

11.2 David noted that 40 out of the 48 racks on the DOWN platform and 2 of the 5 on the UP platform were in use. He did note that there are twice as many racks at Oxshott station.

11.3 David will draft a report on cycle parking at Claygate School.

11.4 RideLondon will take place on Sunday 4 Aug 2013 and the route will go through Esher.

11.5 The cycle Tour of Britain will be taking place later this year. One of the starting points will be Epsom. It is not expected that Claygate will be affected by this.

11.6 It was noted that the Plantlocks on the Rec cannot be seen from the café. This means that cyclists are loath to use them as they do not usually carry their cycle locks with them, so the bikes are left unsecured. It was agreed that Steve Wells be asked to re-position them so that cyclists can see their bikes on the Plantlocks.

AP38 Cllr Huddart to action.

If this is not possible, the owner of the café may supply cycle locks for temporary use of patrons to the cafe.

12. Street Signage

It was noted that a new road will be made off The Roundway; this will require a name. Cllr Herbert is allowed to put forward suggestions. He may consider putting forward Brian Rhodes name.

13. Website & Courier

The next Courier will carry information about the car parks on the front page. Any other items requiring publicity can be advertised at the Flower Show.

14. Matters for Information Only

14.1 JSM Contractors have been laying ducts on behalf of GEO in the village. They have worked along Woodstock Lane South where the footpath was. The footpath, though it was in a state of disrepair, was a solid foundation covered with scalpings. The workmen have cut back the overgrowing vegetation, but have left just earth, as they may not have realised that this was a footpath. Cllr Huddart will tell SCC that the contractors need to reinstate the footpath.

AP39 Cllr Huddart to action.

14.2 The kerb on the front of the green space in The Roundway has been damaged by the construction vehicles. Building works should be finished in about two months. Cllr Herbert will ensure that the contractor makes good any damage. Complaints about the work on a planning application can be made on the website; David Cowie will do this.

AP40 David Cowie to action.

14.3 It was noted that the Hare & Hounds pub sign sited on the Green had fallen over and damage has been caused to the low fence. It is not known what caused this damage. Cllr Huddart will contact Peter Linacre.

AP41 Cllr Huddart to action.

15. Date and place of the next meeting

8.00pm on 27 June 2013 in the Committee Room

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

Date.....