

ST. HELIER, THE WRYTHE AND WANDLE VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE

5 July 2011 at 7.00 pm

MEMBERS: Councillor Anisha Callaghan (Chair), Councillor Colin Stears (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Sheila Andrews, Dave Callaghan, Margaret Court, John Drage, Paddy Kane and Roger Thistle

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES: Jane Hodson and Patrick Murphy

ABSENT: Councillors Sue Stears

653. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Apologies were received from Councillor Sue Stears.

The Committee thanked Ben Unsworth for his work on this committee as this was his last meeting before leaving the London Borough of Sutton.

654. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2011 were agreed as a correct record (subject to matters arising dealt with later) and signed by the Chair.

655. ST HELIER HOSPITAL AND NHS FOUNDATION TRUST UPDATE

The Committee received a PowerPoint presentation from Jon Sargeant, Project Director for the Foundation Trust Programme, on St Helier Hospital redevelopment and the move towards Foundation Trust status.

It was explained that it was necessary for the NHS Trust to become a Foundation Trust by March 2014 and that certain criteria need to be met first. St Helier and Epsom's financial deficits were explained to the Committee along with the need for Epsom and St Helier to find partners to enable the transaction to take place. A Transaction Board had been established for this purpose and expressions of interest were being taken from other NHS bodies wanting to run Epsom or St Helier. Potential partners had been shortlisted and the Transaction Board was asking for more detailed bids. Only one bid had been received for St Helier.

A number of questions were taken from residents and in response, Mr Sargeant confirmed that:

- The process does not mean that one of Epsom or St Helier hospitals will close.
- The process will only allow a transfer of assets to another NHS Trust or Foundation Trust – both hospitals will remain part of the NHS.
- The main feature of a Foundation Trust (FT) is governance – the management is embedded in local communities.
- St Helier and Epsom both have large financial deficits and are therefore unable to become FTs as FTs need to operate with a 1% surplus. This does not mean that they need to operate as businesses.
- The deficits arose for a number of reasons such as the need to reduce budgets by 4%, changes in readmissions and the PCTs reducing the amount of work coming to the Trust.
- The St Helier rebuild will still go ahead.
- No services will be moved without public consultation and proper legal processes.
- The rebuild is entirely Treasury funded rather than PFI funded.

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Councillor Kane highlighted the timescale of the St Helier rebuild and asked for clarification and whether the rebuild will reduce the amount of beds on offer. Mr Sargeant responded that a final business case would be produced by spring 2012 and works should start by summer 2012 and the rebuild will have roughly the same number of beds.

Councillor Colin Stears raised the issue of car parking spaces and expressed the view that parking should have been increased as part of the development. Mr Sargeant explained that the number of spaces will remain the same due to site and Transport for London constraints, however, further traffic studies are planned.

Resolved: To thank Mr Sargeant for his attendance and presentation.

656. THORNTON ROAD

Paul Tugwell, Principal Traffic Engineer, updated the Committee on the results of a speed survey undertaken on Thornton Road with a view to introducing traffic management measures in this area. The results showed that whilst most cars travelled within the 30mph limit, around 15% were travelling considerably faster than this. These drivers were therefore presenting a risk to those crossing the road, a risk that would be increased if the majority of traffic was expected to travel at 20mph.

Councillor Dave Callaghan expressed his support for introducing a 20mph limit.

The Committee discussed whether to impose a 20mph limit and comments by Regional and Local Transport Minister Norman Baker on proposals to reduce bureaucracy around 20mph limits, however, Mr Tugwell stated that the comments made were just proposals rather than regulations at the moment and any current decision is governed by the existing legislation and regulatory frameworks.

The Committee debated whether signage alone would be sufficient to address the issue of speeding and whether the limit in Carshalton was adhered to.

Resolved: (i) To approve the release of up to £20,000 from the Public Realm Budget, dependent upon costs, for the installation of a 20mph speed limit and appropriate signage on Thornton Road;

(ii) To thank Paul Tugwell for the speed survey and his reports on this issue to date.

657. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAMS - UPDATE

Inspector Neil Tyre attended and addressed a question following minute 417 from 10 May 2011, stating that wardens will enforce parking on double yellow lines outside Nisa and he agreed to inform wardens.

Ben Unsworth, Locality Lead Officer, updated the Committee following minute 417 regarding cycling on pavements. He had spoken to Sutton's Smarter Travel team who had agreed to approach the issue by promoting good practice and free cycle training to explain what is legal and to develop confidence in cycling on roads.

Inspector Tyre provided a general update and ward based information including the news that crime had fallen across the Northern Wards and INSI questionnaires will begin again soon.

- There had been a small spike in robberies in St Helier and the Metropolitan Police were running Operation Target to tackle violent crime and predict future spikes. Ongoing priorities were described as crime prevention, anti theft of number plate events and leafleting hotspots.

- The Wrythe had seen a dramatic reduction in crime and priorities were youth engagement, including ramp events and the Police Academy, and theft from motor vehicles.
- Wandle Valley ward had seen a slight increase in crime but anti-social behaviour had fallen slightly since a number of arrests.

Residents raised issues including the speed gun survey in Thornton Road, vandalism of trees in the daisy field on the border with Stonecot Ward and cycling in Sutton High Street.

Resolved: (i) To thank Inspector Tyre for his report and for agreeing to pass on concerns about cycling on pavements to safer transport teams and concerns around tree vandalising to safer parks colleagues;

(ii) The Locality Lead Officer to follow up queries about cycling and using scooters on Sutton High Street.

658. WASTE COLLECTION REVIEW UPDATE

Ben Unsworth, Locality Lead Officer, provided an update on the recent decision of the Council's Executive Committee on options to be taken to save around £1m from the waste collection budget.

Councillor John Drage clarified that no charge for green garden waste collection will be introduced following The Executive's decision.

Resolved: To thank residents for taking part in the consultation.

659. AREA IMPROVEMENTS - PUBLIC REALM

Ben Unsworth, Locality Lead Officer, provided an update on current public realm projects and clarified that after the earlier decision on Thornton Road, there was now £41,000 available for public realm initiatives.

Councillor Roger Thistle reported that he had spoken to the owner of Nisa who had agreed the location for the bicycle stand in principle. A formal agreement now needs to be put in place. Councillor Thistle also raised the issue of parking bays at this location.

The Committee discussed the potential for railing flower troughs by the traffic lights next to Nisa on Green Wrythe Lane, Culvers Avenue allotment fence, the proposed notice board at St Helier Station, double yellow line proposals for Beech Close and the lack of disabled parking at the Circle medical centre.

The Committee further discussed the potential for a sign to direct pedestrians to the Spencer Nursery and noted that the Police Forum will discuss cycling on pavements at the meeting on 21 July.

Resolved: (i) Ben Unsworth to raise the issue of progress with the Culvers Avenue allotment fence, to ask the new Locality Lead Officer to report back to Committee when a response is received from Merton regarding the rail station sign, and to look into disabled parking at the Circle medical centre;

(ii) To request that highways officers include Beech Close in the proposed yellow line scheme around Almond Avenue and Arlington Drive;

(iii) To release in principle up to £3000 from Transport for London funding for the Beech Close yellow line scheme

(iv) To release the necessary sum for the appropriate number of railing planters for outside Nisa on Green Wrythe Lane at £370 per planter;

(v) To thank Jane Hodson for raising cycling as an agenda item on the Police Forum.

660. ANY URGENT BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE DIRECTION OF THE CHAIR

There was no urgent business to consider.

661. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved: To note that the date of the next meeting is 4 October 2011.

The meeting ended at 9.33 pm

Chair:

Date: