

**Minutes of a Meeting of the External
Partnerships Select Committee held at
Surrey Heath House on 19 September
2017**

+ Cllr Robin Perry (Chairman)
+ Cllr Darryl Ratiram (Vice Chairman)

+ Cllr Dan Adams	+ Cllr Jonathan Lytle
- Cllr Ian Cullen	+ Cllr Katia Malcaus Cooper
+ Cllr Paul Deach	+ Cllr Max Nelson
+ Cllr Ruth Hutchinson	- Cllr Chris Pitt
+ Cllr Rebecca Jennings-Evans	+ Cllr Joanne Potter
- Cllr David Lewis	+ Cllr Nic Price
+ Cllr Oliver Lewis	+ Cllr Ian Sams

+ Present
- Apologies for absence presented

Substitutes: Cllr Jonathan Lytle for Cllr Chris Pitt

In Attendance: Graham Bailey, Bisley Village Hall Management Committee
Charles Barbor, Surrey Heath Age Concern
Jayne Boitout, Community Development Officer
Cllr Vivienne Chapman
Inspector Bob Darkens, Surrey Police,
Gill Gibson, Surrey Heath Age Concern
Cllr Josephine Hawkins
Cllr Charlotte Morley
Reverend Christopher Russell, Surrey Heath Age Concern
Sue Smith, Bisley Village Hall Management Committee

7/EP Chairman's Announcements and Welcome to Guests

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Bob Darkens, Surrey Police, Graham Bailey and, Sue Smith, Bisley Village Hall, and Gill Gibson, Charles Barbor and Reverend Christopher Russell, Surrey Heath Age Concern, to the meeting.

8/EP Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the External Partnerships Select Committee held on 27 June 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

9/EP Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

10/EP Bisley Village Hall

Graham Bailey and Sue Smith gave presentation on behalf of the Bisley Village Hall Management Committee. The presentation included an overview of the history of Bisley

Village Hall, the governance and funding arrangements and a summary of the challenges faced by the management committee.

The Committee was informed that although the charitable trust which managed Bisley Village Hall had been set up in 1961 the main body of the hall's premises had been built in 1874.

It was reported that the Village Hall currently received no subsidies. In 2016/17, the majority of its funding had been sourced from a combination of users' fees (25,950), fundraising events (£7,856), donations (£4,632) and one off grants (£29,981). The Management Board tried to maintain a contingency fund of £20,000 to pay for unexpected expenditure and in 2016/17 this had helped to pay for repairs to the hall's flat roofs.

The Management Board had developed a Five Year Improvement Plan which it was hoped would make the Hall a more attractive, comfortable place in the future. The works included improving the insulation, replacing windows, installing a new heating system and improving the lighting. Work would also take place to explore the feasibility of restoring heritage features in the main hall.

Arising from members' questions and comments the following points were noted:

- Bisley Village Hall was not a listed building
- All major hirers were represented on the Management Board and the Board worked hard to ensure that communication between Board members and the wider community was open and awareness of the availability of the hall was publicised as widely as possible.
- It was noted that County Councillors had access to a Member Fund which could be used to support local initiatives in their constituencies and it was suggested that the Management Committee consider the possibility of applying for funding from this source.

The Committee thanked Graham Bailey and Sue Smith for their presentation.

11/EP Policing in Surrey Heath

Inspector Bob Darkens, Surrey Heath Area Commander, Surrey Police, gave an update in respect of the crime figures in Surrey Heath.

The Committee was informed that when compared against the other 42 County Forces in England and Wales Surrey County was, when looking at the number of crimes committed per 1000 of the population, considered to be the 8th safest county area in England and Wales with 57.82 crimes per 1000 of the population. It was noted that the seven safest counties were predominantly rural areas with Dyfed Powys police area in first place with 41.64 crimes per 1000 of the population. Within the Surrey Police area, Surrey Heath was categorised as being part of the Surrey West Policing Division and Surrey Heath currently had the lowest recorded crime rates of the three policing areas within this division.

Over the past seven days police in Surrey heath had been notified of 3800 incidents. In addition to reports of simple theft, for example shoplifting, and anti-social behaviour there had been:

- 3 sexual offences
- 13 child protection incidents
- 17 domestic incidents
- 10 violent crimes

- 4 non dwelling burglaries
- 5 drugs offences
- 6 criminal damage incidents

Safeguarding was a key priority for the police and the force worked closely with other agencies through the Community Harm and Risk Management (CHaRMM) Meeting in order to identify vulnerable people at risk of or experiencing exploitation so that appropriate mitigating steps could be taken to help and support them.

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) would, when they came in to force in Surrey Heath in October, provide a further tool to support the police's work. It was stressed that PSPOs were not intended to be used to impose punitive sanctions on people instead they would be used to help signpost people to alternative sources of action and help instead of using the police as their first port of call. The intelligence gathered as part of the PSPO work would be used to by the police to help target patrols and engagement activity more effectively.

Arising from Members' questions and comments the following points were noted:

- The number of police officers allocated to an area was decided by a number of factors including recorded crime levels and demographics. In Surrey Heath, an average shift had 5 police officers on duty.
- The County Council's decision to switch off street lights at night had had no noticeable impact on crime levels in the County.
- Community policing was considered to be a key factor in tackling radicalisation.
- The majority of burglaries took place during the day when people were out of their homes. Raising awareness of people's need to take action to help themselves keep their property safe was a key part of the police's approach to reducing the number of burglaries committed.
- A recent operation to tackle modern day slavery had resulted in the arrest of 5 people and 2 vulnerable adults being safeguarded. It was stressed that the public should be vigilant to what is going on around them and report anything that 'did not feel right'.
-

The Committee thanked Inspector Bob Darkens for his update.

12/EP Surrey Heath Age Concern

Gill Gibson, Charles Barbor and Reverend Christopher Russell, gave a presentation in respect of the work of Surrey Heath Age Concern.

The Group's main objective was to enhance the lives of older people living in the Surrey Heath area. This was done through three main activities: a visiting and befriending service, the provision of the Rainbow Café in Camberley and Tea and Chatter sessions. The organisation's costs amounted to approximately £50,000 a year of which £10,000 was received as a revenue grant from Surrey Heath Borough Council. The charity employed three part-time members of staff working a total of 38 hours a week.

The Visiting and Befriending Service used a network of 43 volunteers to provide companionship and reassurance to older people living in the Borough. Volunteer befrienders were carefully matched with their older person and received training before they started making visits. Volunteers were expected to make at least one one hour visit a week to the person they were matched with and visits could be made at any mutually agreed time including evenings and weekends. In addition to providing companionship,

befrienders also fed any concerns that they might have back to Age Concern to ensure that problems were dealt with appropriately. This service was provided free of charge.

The Rainbow Café in Camberley town centre was run by a part-time manager supported by volunteers. It was reported that the café currently managed to cover its costs and since its refurbishment in 2015 the café had seen an increase in customers and the café's income this year was currently 31% ahead of what it had been at the same point in 2016. In addition to providing food and drink the café also offered vulnerable people a safe space in which they could volunteer.

In May 2015, monthly Tea and Chatter sessions were set up to enable older people to socialise on Sunday's and help counter-act loneliness and isolation. Since the initiative had started over 1000 guests had attended one of the weekly tea parties.

Work was underway to convert the organisation into a Charitable Incorporated Group. The change, on 1st April 2018, would turn Surrey Heath Age Concern into legal not for profit organisation and give its trustees a greater degree of security. As part of this change it would be necessary to change the Rainbow Café's lease which had another five years left to run and the possibility of extending the lease would be explored with the Council's Corporate Property Team.

The Committee thanks Surrey Heath Age Concern for their presentation and congratulated the organisation on the progress that it had made in recent years.

13/EP External Partnerships Select Committee Work Programme

The Committee received and noted a report setting out its proposed work programme for the rest of the 2017/18 municipal year. It was agreed that the agenda for the Committee's meeting in November would go ahead as listed.

Chairman