

Minutes of a Meeting of the External Partnerships Select Committee held at Surrey Heath House, Camberley on 5 March 2013

+ Cllr Josephine Hawkins - Chairman
- Cllr Bob Paton – Vice-Chairman

+ Cllr Glyn Carpenter	+ Cllr Adrian Page
+ Cllr Ian Cullen	+ Cllr Ken Pedder
+ Cllr Paul Deach	- Cllr Ian Sams
+ Cllr David Hamilton	- Cllr Pat Tedder
- Cllr Beverley Harding	+ Cllr Alan Whittart
+ Cllr Paul Ilnicki	+ Cllr John Winterton
- Cllr Lexie Kemp	

+ Present
- Apologies for absence presented

Substitutes: Councillor Bill Chapman substitute for Councillor Bob Paton and Councillor Judi Trow substitute for Councillor Pat Tedder.

In attendance: Councillors Mrs Vivienne Chapman and Joanne Potter.

Guests: Steve Bailey and Bernard Bavistock (Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership/Trust), Dr Andy Brooks and Nicola Airey (Surrey Heath Clinical Commissioning Group) and Tim Murphy and Richard Roads (Campaign to Protect Rural England).

24/EP Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 15 January 2013 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

25/EP Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed the guest speakers and congratulated Committee members on their work on revenue grants, which had assisted the Executive in its deliberations.

PART I **(public)**

26/EP Campaign to Protect Rural England

Tim Murphy and Richard Roads briefed Members on the role and activities, both nationally and locally, of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE). The CPRE had been established in 1926 in response to creeping urbanisation of the countryside. It sought to enhance the beauty and tranquillity and local distinctiveness of the countryside, to protect the Green Belt and bring new life into the countryside through measures such as affordable housing, food production, recreation and jobs.

Although receiving no Government funding, the CPRE had and continued to have a lot of support from politicians. Separate charities existed for each of the English Counties, with the national officers operating in a lobbying role. Similar set-ups existed for the rest of the UK. Nationally, lobbying in recent

years has included seeking and achieving significant changes and improvements to the National Planning Policy Framework.

In Surrey, with 2,250 members, the CPRE had district groups for each Borough. It had liaised with the Department of Transport on proposals to increase the capacity of the M3, by using the hard shoulder as a carriageway and installing further gantries in sensitive areas, and had raised concerns over proposals to develop the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) site and creation of traveller pitches which have not been approved by local authorities.

In terms of the future, Tim Murphy noted the CPRE was very concerned that, despite the number of available brownfield sites in Surrey, new planning regulations would make it easier to develop in the Green Belt and greenfield areas outside of the Green Belt. He expressed concerns over planning legislation which made it much more difficult to oppose developments and could envisage areas being developed without affordable housing. He noted that a number of developments, such as 'Fracking' proposals in Tandridge, would be considered by Government inspectors rather than the local planning authority.

Mr Murphy reported that the CPRE would be holding a public meeting in Surrey in May. He invited Members to attend this meeting and agreed to circulate details.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

Note 1: In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct Councillor Judi Trow declared a non-pecuniary interest as she was a member of the Campaign to Protect Rural England.

Note 2: Subsequent to the meeting, the CPRE Surrey open meeting was confirmed as being held on 18 May 2013, on the topic of "Surrey's Future". The venue would be the Masonic Hall at Dorking Halls and the meeting would start at 13:30.

27/EP Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership

The Chairman welcomed Steve Bailey from the Blackwater Valley Country Partnership and Bernard Bavistock from the Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust. Mr Bailey explained that the Trust and Partnership had been established to address issues around undeveloped land next to the Blackwater and on the flood plain. At that point, the river was effectively dead, due to industrial activity, including gravel extraction and was effectively dead.

Thirteen partners had joined, comprising county, unitary, parish, town and borough councils, including Surrey Heath. The Partnership had worked closely with the Environment Agency, land and quarry owners, targeting a continuous green space along the Blackwater Valley, which would be attractive to wildlife and residents. The Partnership had improved the Blackwater Valley by cleaning the river and creating new habitats for fish to spawn. It had created new footpaths, by the river where possible, and had moved from a restoration role to site management and improvement.

The Partnership was funded by partner organisations; Surrey Heath contributed £10,000 per annum, about 8.5% of core funding. The trustees carried out fund raising and income was gained through managing areas on behalf of organisations/ individuals.

Work with individual owners, such as with the Frimley Hatches, would generate improvements across the area and the Partnership was looking to manage SANGS on behalf of Surrey County Council, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath Borough Councils.

The Partnership relied heavily on volunteers, with only four full time staff. It worked closely with community groups, including youth groups, scouts and guides and the Nepalese community.

The Trust was a separate entity to the Partnership. It was established to raise funds which could be used to protect and enhance the Valley and encourage residents to visit. It was slightly biased towards wildlife and worked closely with the Partnership on fund applications and publicity. Some £94,000 had now been spent on projects, including a recent restoration of reed beds in Frimley.

Members noted that pollution of the river had been dramatically reduced, though one recent event had killed upwards of 300 fish. A prosecution was likely, but the presence of so many fish demonstrated a resurgence of wildlife in and around the river.

RESOLVED, that the presentation be noted and that the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership and Trust be congratulated on the many improvements achieved and on on-going projects.

Note1: In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct Councillor Josephine Hawkins declared a non-pecuniary interest as she is a member of the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership.

Note 2: It was noted for the record that Cllr Paul Deach declared that he had previously done work for the Partnership.

28/EP Surrey Heath Clinical Commissioning Group

Dr Andy Brooks and Nicola Airey presented an update on the progress of Surrey Heath Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), noting that the Primary Care Trust (NHS Surrey), with a population of 90,500 of whom 99.5% lived in Surrey, would cease operation on 31st March 2013.

Surrey Heath would be one of 55 clinical commissioning groups to operate the new health agenda in England . Surrey Heath was recognised as an affluent Borough with generally good health, but with pockets of inequality and deprivation. There was a statutory responsibility to reduce health inequalities. The Borough had an aging population and planning would need to take account of this.

Although it was the second smallest CCG established, this allowed all health teams to be organised round Surrey Heath and the needs of residents. The CCG was mostly coterminous with the Council and was based in Surrey Heath House.

The CCG was working in partnership with other organisations and groups to improve health in the Borough and developing a 'virtual ward' model, working with partners and patients to reduce the number of occasions when patients would need to present to hospitals. There was also a shift in end of life care to allow people a greater choice about where they would want to die, with many choosing their own homes.

The CCG would be using IBIS, a new system developed by the South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust to enable crucial patient data to be updated on a database by health professionals and accessed. This would allow information sharing and improve the quality of response to patients' needs.

Members noted that the CCG was involved in a multi-agency project to improve health outcomes in the Old Dean. It was also seeking to support the single GP practice in that area.

The CCG had recently worked closely with Public Health colleagues and Surrey Heath Borough Council to make presentations at schools on alcohol problems. There was a need to change behaviour and lifestyle decisions at an early age and as part of this process, the CCG would be seeking to engage with youth groups such as the Youth Council.

Councillor Mrs Vivienne Chapman reported that the Council and the CCG were in the process of establishing a new Health and Wellbeing Board for Surrey Heath, which would feed into the County wide Board and provide a local perspective and influence. The Council had received funding to help promote the health and wellbeing of Surrey Heath residents and both the Council and CCG would be working closely together to agree joint priorities for the future

RESOLVED, that the report be noted and the Clinical Commissioning Group be asked to provide a further update in the following municipal year.

Note: In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct Councillor Paul Deach declared a non-pecuniary interest as he worked at the Royal Surrey Hospital and had connections with the South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust.

29/EP Committee Work Programme

The Committee considered a report on the work programme for the 2013/14 municipal year. The Chairman reported that it was expected that the Chief Constable would give a presentation on Surrey Police from 6.00 p.m. on 25 June 2013, prior to the Committee meeting. The meeting would include a community safety report and a report had been requested from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Following on from the assistance given to the Executive on revenue grants, the Committee would receive an update, including feedback from recipients, at the November 2013 meeting.

Members emphasised the need for outcomes and considered the potential benefit to the Council of the reports scheduled for the September 2013 and subsequent meetings.

The Committee agreed to proceed with the proposed reports for 25 June 2013 and provisionally schedule items for the remainder of the year, with further consideration being given to items for future meetings as necessary at the meeting on 25 June 2013.

RESOLVED, that the provisional Work Programme for 2013/14, as attached at Annex A to these minutes, be agreed.

CHAIRMAN

External Partnerships Select Committee Work Programme – 2013/14

Date		Topic	Presenter/ Author
25 June 2013	1.	Community Safety Update	Inspector Goodwin
	2.	Police and Crime Commissioners	TBC
17 September 2013	1.	Youth Support Service	TBC
	2.	Surrey Heath Area Partnership for Education (SHAPE)	TBC
	3.	Local Business (e.g. Siemens/ Merrill Lynch)	TBC
14 November 2013	1.	Update on organisations in receipt of Revenue Grants	Kevin Cantlon
	2.	Highways Authority, Surrey CC	TBC
14 January 2014	1.	Community Safety Update	Inspector Goodwin
	2.	Crimestoppers	Angela Hollinshead
	3.	Trading Standards	TBC
4 March 2014	1.	Health and Wellbeing Board	TBC
	2.	Enterprise M3 LEP	Geoff French
	3.	Collectively Camberley BID	Glen Fulton