

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
Community Services Scrutiny
Committee held at Surrey Heath House
on 4 December 2014**

+ Cllr Audrey Roxburgh (Chairman)
+ Cllr Valerie White (Vice Chairman)

+ Cllr David Allen	+ Cllr Beverley Harding
+ Cllr Bill Chapman	- Cllr Josephine Hawkins
+ Cllr Ian Cullen	+ Cllr Paul Innicki
+ Cllr Paul Deach	- Cllr Adrian Page
- Cllr Tim Dodds	Cllr Joanne Potter
+ Cllr Heather Gerred	- Cllr Alan Whittart
- Cllr Liane Gibson	

+ Present

- Apologies for absence presented

Substitutes: Cllr Edward Hawkins (for Cllr Josephine Hawkins)

In Attendance: Cllr Charlotte Morley, Stefan Nahajski, Tim Pashen and Leigh Thornton

7/C Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2014 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendment:

- At minute 3/CY, the sentence in the third paragraph should read, 'The Committee was advised that the WVYP had recently received a grant.....'

8/C Declarations of Interest

It was noted for the record that Councillor Paul Deach declared that he had worked with Stefan Nahajski on various projects in the past.

9/C Management of Green Space in Surrey Heath - including Sports Facilities and Community Gardening

The Committee received a report on the Management of Green Space in Surrey Heath, including sports facilities and community gardening.

The Committee was advised of the areas within the remit of the Green Space Team which was responsible for 600 acres of open green space. The team was also responsible for the day to day servicing of the green spaces as well as working on various projects.

Income generation had been on the work programme in recent years and a number of new initiatives had been in place to produce income and provide an enhanced service. The initiatives included:

- Frimley Lodge Park Golf and café had been put out to tender with the rent and income paid direct to the Council;
- Hire of barbeques and function spaces at Frimley Lodge Park;
- Events such as Frimley Lodge Live, Theatre in the Park;
- Looking into Billy Smarts Circus for next year.

Members were advised that grant funding and the use of Section 106 agreements were being looked at carefully so that they can be used more effectively.

The Dementia Friendly Garden at the extended Windle Valley Centre was underway and was being delivered by the Community Gardener with the Green Space Team and Windle Valley clients.

It was also noted that the work at the new 3G Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP) should be completed by Christmas 2014, which was good news regarding this commercially viable project.

The following suggestions were made by Members:

- Some Members noted that there was a shortage of floodlit netball courts in the borough. Some Members asked whether tennis courts could be used for netball. The Executive Head – Business advised that he was looking into dual marking of the tennis courts;
- It was noted that it was not always appropriate for the Council to apply for grants and it was considered that the Council could encourage other groups to apply. It was suggested contact could be made with Cllr Pitt as he had some expertise on funding for sport;
- The work of the Transformation Team was discussed and the Executive Head Business would discuss availability of grants with the team;
- The grass cutting of verges was raised. It was noted that this was carried out by Surrey County Council. There would be an opportunity for the Council to consider taking on this role in 2016. There was discussion regarding leaving grass verges in their natural state to encourage wildlife;
- Consideration would be given to using fallow pitches.

Resolved that:

- i) The report be noted;**
- ii) The work of the Green Space Team to continue to improve parks at no extra net cost to the Council be highly commended; and**
- iii) Different sources of grant funding be explored.**

10/C Youth Issues

Stefan Nahajski from the Windle Valley Youth Project (WVYP) and a member of the Youth Council addressed the Committee. The following was discussed:

- i) Members were reminded that the WVYP was a charity which provided a range of activities for 11-18 year olds in the borough. WVYP worked with 160 young people each week;
- ii) The Member of the Youth Council highlighted that the public bus fares were too expensive for young people and the service was poor;
- iii) An anti-bullying training campaign had taken place. It was noted that 31 million school days nationwide were lost through bullying. This figure accounted for the primary reason for being away from school and had not included cases where bullying had been the secondary reason. The project looked at who the bullies were, what empowers them, the psychology of bullying and that bullies did not seem to have any boundaries. Bullying used to be confined mainly at school but these days with the increase in social media it had spread to home life.
- iv) The Youth Councillor advised Members that there was no fixed venue for the Youth Council meetings. Meetings had been carried out at the café in the Camberley Theatre but it was not always available. Members were keen to support the Youth Council and wished to explore ways the Council could help with a venue at no cost to the Youth Council. The Wellbeing Centre in Bagshot and the library in Bagshot could be used by the Youth Council but the poor public transport service would make it difficult for some Youth Councillors to attend. Stefan and the Executive Head – Community agreed to get together after the meeting to discuss options for venues.
- v) The Committee congratulated the Youth Councillor on her excellent presentation.

A summary from the Senior Museum Officer was circulated to Members regarding the events which took place with local school children during Local Democracy Week. Events included a mock meeting in the Chamber with the Mayor and Councillor Charlotte Morley, the children's champion, in attendance, a quiz and workshop in a polling station. There was also the launch of the Surrey Heath Mosaic, designed by children from local schools.

An event also took place involving the Junior Council called a 'google hangout'. Children from four local schools in the borough communicated on line with children from four schools in the twin town Sucy-en-Brie. An hour was spent with both sides practising and speaking French and English. Councillor Morley had been impressed with the use of both languages and the success of the event. The project would increase future communication, help with bi-lingual blogs and with setting up pen pals.

Resolved that:

- i) **Stefan Nahajski and the Youth Councillor be thanked for their presentation on the progress with Youth projects;**
- ii) **opportunities for alternative venues for the Youth Council be explored;**
- iii) **the concept of the council being recognised as an anti-bullying borough be explored; and**
- iv) **a further progress report be provided by Stefan Nahajski in December 2015.**

11/C Dog Fouling Reduction Members Panel

Councillor Paul Deach spoke on behalf of the Dog Fouling Reduction Members' Panel. He reported that there had been a meeting at Frimley Green Recreation Ground with the Community Warden and it became apparent how difficult it was to monitor and tackle the situation of dog fouling. Frimley Lodge Park had also been visited. A further meeting would take place in the New Year with the Civil Enforcement Officer.

It was felt that anyone found to allow their dog to foul and not clear it up should be fined and also publicised. The strong feeling regarding this anti-social behaviour needed to be promoted.

The Executive Head – Community advised Members that a new campaign was being considered in conjunction with 'Keep Britain Tidy' group. In addition new legislation, Anti-Social Behaviour and Crime Act would prohibit dogs from certain areas and other areas dogs would have to be kept on a lead. Designation of areas in the borough was being considered and would be in consultation with the police and local businesses. Clarification would be sought as to whether the legislation referred to only Council land.

Resolved that the report be noted.

12/C Work Programme

The Committee considered the work programme. Some Members asked that the mobile app for car parks be discussed in February when the review of the car parking strategy would be considered.

Resolved that the work programme as agreed as at Annex A.

Chairman

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**Community Scrutiny Committee Work Programme
2014/15**

Date		Subject	Author
5 February 2015	1.	Housing Services <u>Purpose</u> To provide an annual report on the work of the Housing Services team.	Clive Jinman
	2.	Review of Car Parking Services <u>Purpose</u> To provide a progress report on improvements to the two town centre car parks and to provide a report on the analysis of the information obtained from the action plan provided in June on out of town car parks	Eugene Leal
	3.	Independent Living including the services provided by the Wellbeing Centre at the Windle Valley Centre <u>Purpose</u> To provide a progress report on independent living in the borough, taking into account suggestions made by Members at the February 2014 meeting, and the service provided at the Wellbeing Centre including dementia advice.	Tim Pashen
	4.	Emergency Planning <u>Purpose</u> To provide a report on how the Council responds to emergencies.	Tim Pashen/Laura Sweetman
	5.	Work Programme/Members' Panels <u>Purpose</u> To consider the work programme for the year 2014/15	Lee Brewin

2 April 2015	1.	Air Quality Report <u>Purpose</u> To provide a report on the air quality in the borough	Tim Pashen
	2.	Sustainable Community Strategy <u>Purpose</u> Provide a progress report to include details of the Care Co-ordinator pilot in Lightwater	Tim Pashen/Sarah Groom
	3.	Work Programme/Members' Panels <u>Purpose</u> To consider the work programme for the year 2014/15	Lee Brewin

Unallocated Topics

1. Housing Services – annual reports in December
2. Museum/heritage
3. Waste and Recycling Action Plan
4. Supported Families Project