

## **Meeting held at the Holloway Hill Ground clubhouse 7.30 PM to 9.45 PM**

The Chairman welcomed Police Chief Superintendent Kevin Deanus as a guest at the meeting. He had asked to observe proceedings.

Councillor John Robini attended part of the meeting as a guest to report on parking enforcement issues.

Thanks are due to the Holloway Hill Sports Association (HHSA) for hosting the Forum's meetings in the clubhouse.

### **1. Chairman's report**

#### **General**

E-mail continues to be the Forum's chief mode of communication. At the date of this meeting it had handled 413 pieces of correspondence since the last, 776 in total since inception in October 2006. At the time of the meeting there were 90 addresses on the e-mailing list. (This increased to 104 immediately afterwards).

Meetings have been held with HHSA, Surrey Community Action (SCA), Waverley BC parks and environmental services departments, and with Godalming College.

Godalming College principal David Adelman has adopted a positive attitude to the Forum's work and clearly regards his institution as part of the community. He offered possible use of the college hall if meeting numbers get too large for the clubhouse. Talks continue with a view to getting staff and/or student representation at Forum meetings – a show of hands supported this idea.

An experiment on Holloway Hill to check the rate of deposit of litter has shown that College students are not as bad as painted. Having cleared the stretch of pavement from Croft Road to the College gates, volunteers found an accumulation of only a third of a bag of litter in a month. The previous clearance found almost four bags of litter on the pavement and banks, some of it more than a decade old. Further observation of college students – there are about 1,500 in all – suggests the need for a large bin on a verge about 80 metres short of the junction between Tuesley and Shackstead Lanes. Talks continue with Paul Redmond of Waverley BC to see what can be done and also how to clean the gully (road gutter) on the East side of Holloway Hill where traffic makes it too dangerous to hand pick litter.

This dialogue has made it possible to publish Waverley's street cleaning schedule on the Forum web site [www.busbridge.net](http://www.busbridge.net). Mr Redmond has said that a new schedule will be published in May. Through him, we're in touch with Surrey's Highways Steward – the Forum will approach him shortly about ways of improving reporting of and response to highways problems.

The Forum is pressing the College not to charge students for parking on the campus because it will tend to drive parkers onto nearby streets. The College is also considering car-sharing schemes and other disincentives to car use.

The Forum has been talking with Simon Brooks of Waverley's Parks and Recreation department to discuss clearing the mess around the Holloway Hill Ground groundsman's hut and resurfacing the muddy patch on the access path. Under pressure from the Forum he issued statutory notices – 'this is not a storage area' – in February and says he is aiming to have the area cleared and the hard standing replaced by the end of March. It turns out that much of the stuff belongs to the Cricket Club.

He's also agreed to increase supervision of contractors clearing litter on the Ground, to improve the provision of waste bins and to improve the condition, cleaning and maintenance of the public toilet. The latter is a wholly inadequate provision, having to serve both able-bodied and disabled users of both sexes. Its condition has led to complaints.

#### **Volunteers.**

Ted Wicks agreed to check out the provision of litter bins in the neighbourhood. We'll be putting together a proposal in the next few weeks. At the meeting he reported finding quantities of abandoned advertising flyers from a fast food company littering the streets and will provide details to allow a letter to be sent to the distributor.

Tony Kirton is trying to improve the reporting of potholes in the roads in our area, starting with what he says is the dangerous condition of Shackstead Lane. Surrey CC's road maintenance is overstretched and it is only when a formal complaint about a pothole is received and a case number allocated that anything is done. It is important to report by telephone – e-mail is deniable – and to get both the case number and name of the official issuing it. (Call 08456 009 009)

Notes & action points as amended at 13 April 2007

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Ian Williams has been looking at the way in which parked vehicles obstruct the street cleaning machine. Residents of some streets are familiar with the piles of leaf mould that accumulate where cars are regularly parked. He has prepared a report which will form part of the basis for discussions with Waverley BC about improvements. In particular Ian believes that small 'white boards' on lamp-posts could be used to display the date of the next street cleaning, giving parkers an opportunity to move elsewhere but this may require planning permission. Alternatively, the contractors themselves might place temporary notices a few days in advance of cleaning.

**Relationships with authorities**

Management of contractors by both Waverley and Surrey Councils lacks proactivity. Residents need to consider whether they're willing to become unpaid, unofficial watchdogs, though in the short term there is little alternative. Waverley officials are keen to get residents involved in a StreetWatch scheme – a quality control exercise. This is a potential agenda item for a future meeting.

**5 (out of sequence). Parking**

(This item was taken out of order at Chris Slyfield's request to accommodate John Robini's schedule.)

Cllr John Robini holds the Highways portfolio in the council. He spoke about the new arrangements for enforcing parking restrictions after 2 April when Waverley Borough Council takes over from the police.

He has 12 staff, made available through National Car Parks (NCP), to patrol the Waverley area. Only four of these will operate on the streets, the rest in fee-paying car parks. Initially, warning letters will be sent to those who park in the wrong place. There will be no clamping. Once the roads are clear rules will be more strictly enforced.

Asked whether the linked problems of displacement of parking and obstruction of street cleaning in residential areas had been considered he said that only careful control of parking would be effective and that resident-only parking schemes had been effective in other areas. However Waverley's responsibilities do not cover the introduction of any residents' parking schemes. This remains with Surrey County Council and would require negotiation between the two bodies.

Cllr Chris Slyfield said an earlier estimate of the cost of a controlled parking zone scheme was £150K and residents had rejected it. He warned that if the area gets left out at this stage it might have to wait four years for another opportunity.

*AMENDEMENT (1) FROM CLLR SLYFIELD, RECEIVED 12 APRIL 2007*

*CPZ (Controlled Parking Zone)*

*Could you please amend the minutes to read 'That the consultation that was carried out several years ago on 2 (two) CPZ's cost the Surrey council tax payer in the region of £150,000 for The areas of Godalming North and Godalming South'.*

*I must stress that I did NOT say that residents parking would cost £150,000.*

Surrey CC will give Waverley priority in a review which will take written comments from Waverley residents about where they think residents' parking schemes should be. He repeated that people should lobby SCC about residents parking schemes.

Cllr Peter Martin, who had sent his apologies to the meeting, provided notes on traffic problems in connection with the Brighton Road:

Surrey CC are now installing a raised platform at the crossing outside Busbridge Junior School and the junction at The Drive and the Brighton Road is being modified so that sight lines are improved.

Funding is secure in the 2007/08 Surrey CC Local Committee Budget to increase the amount of legal parking in the Brighton Road but at the same time allow a better flow of traffic. This will be done in the central and higher stretches of the road. In addition he hopes for a further raised table to slow the traffic at the Latimer Road junction.

He argues strongly that parking restrictions need to be reviewed urgently, and ahead of the usual 12 month wait after the shift to local authority enforcement.

**2. Royal Mail security**

Peter Herbert gave a short presentation. He is the Royal Mail's delivery office manager for the GU7 and GU8 areas. This encompasses approximately 100,000 delivery points (addresses) and 380,000 people.

**Notes & action points as amended at 13 April 2007**

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As part of a tightening of mail security he is seeking sites for new, secure storage bins in which mail can await delivery by local postmen. The bins are about the size of 'a double kitchen unit' and are not fixed but heavily weighted and locked to prevent theft. The lack of permanent installation obviates the need for planning permission where the bin is placed on private property.

He asked for ideas for sites for 12 boxes. These would be cleared daily. A small fee of £25 per annum is offered to the site owner plus early delivery of mail. Sites are needed as soon as possible. Contact Peter Herbert on 01483-520612.

**3. Probation Service**

Malcolm Howard of Surrey Probation Area described schemes planned for the area, in which individuals serving court orders to do unpaid work in the community. The first scheme, painting the changing rooms at the Holloway Hill Pavilion, is almost ready to begin using materials donated by Cornmeter DIY store. It is hoped that further schemes will refurbish the Guides' hut and provide fencing at the Village Hall. Others are being actively developed.

Clare Haddad said that the Guide hut scheme was "a very generous offer" and that gutters, windows, grilles, internal and external decoration of the guide hut were needed.

Details of work to be done at the village hall are still being established.

**4. Priorities for policing (item 8 included)**

PC Harris reported that, following the last meeting's request to concentrate on speeding offences, he had issued seven tickets after using a speed gun in the area, none of them on Quatermile Road.

A Busbridge Lane resident requested the speed gun be used there when football or cricket players are arriving or leaving.

**After some discussion PC Harris was asked to concentrate speed-checking efforts on Tuesley Lane, Quatermile Road, Busbridge Lane and Pullman Lane.**

The police officers present warned that police speed-checking efforts could never be 100% effective but that other approaches to speeding often helped. PC Harris suggested six volunteers should be trained for a neighbourhood Speedwatch. This allows residents to use speedguns and to report speeding motorists. Offenders receive a warning letter from the police – a ticket is only issued in persistent cases. An earlier attempt to set up a SpeedWatch scheme in the area appears not to be progressing – PC Harris made a fresh call for volunteers.

SpeedWatch volunteers are required to wear a yellow safety jacket and this led one resident to express fears that there might be victimisation.

PC Harris also described a variant, Junior Speedwatch. In this, school children are trained to use the gun so that police can stop speeding motorists. The children then question the motorist – which embarrasses speeders. Junior SpeedWatch has worked well at Farnham, and is under discussion with Busbridge Junior school.

Several residents reported that the interactive speed sign in Home Farm Road has been out of action some of the time and were advised to contact PC Andy Crane (collar number 1966) at Farnham police station who has responsibility for the speed signs.

**In discussion of other speed-reduction measures, PC Harris agreed to look at costs of speed cameras to put on lamp posts.**

**PC Harris was asked to deal with parking on pavements. He will supply leaflets for windscreens. He also asked for photos with registration numbers on which he can take action.**

**PC Harris is also concentrating on youth disorder – drinking and rowdyism at the Holloway Hill Ground. He and other officers attend on Fridays and Saturdays between 1800 and 0300.**

In addition, residents were reminded they can report excessive noise or illegal use of miniature motorbikes or other vehicles in the Holloway Hill Ground directly to the Pollution Team in the Environmental Health Department, Waverley Borough Council on 01483-523393. Team members say they will come out to deal with the problem in office hours, though this is untested.

If stereo systems in cars parked on the Ground are causing a nuisance, it's important to note and report the registration mark of the vehicle — the Council will relay it to the Police.

## **6. Possible sponsorship**

The chairman reminded the meeting that the Forum currently operates entirely on donated resources and labour and will soon need some funding. In particular he provides communications and printing facilities, and both bandwidth and host space for the web site. This is OK while he has capacity to spare in facilities which he buys for other purposes but cannot continue indefinitely.

In addition, the Forum is very dependent on e-mail communications and should try to contact a wider audience amongst the 1,700 homes in its area. This might involve a mailshot.

One possible way forward is to find sponsorship for some or all of the communications activities. He said there was no question of advertising services or products – there would always be a clear distinction between the sponsor's and the forum's material, but the sponsor's corporate identity would be acknowledged. There were no objections to this idea but one resident suggested greater collaboration with *The Bridge* and other local magazines. The meeting noted recent successes in placing stories in *The Surrey Advertiser* and *The Godalming Times*.

## **7. Youth drop-in centre**

Sarah Clarke of Surrey Community Action explained her plan for 11-16 year olds to use the clubhouse one evening per week – probably Thursday – between 15:30 and 18:00. This is being worked out with Surrey Police, HHSa, Surrey Voluntary Youth Services, Busbridge Church Youth Group and the Forum. It would target children living in the area, encouraging them to come straight to the centre off the school bus. It would be aimed specifically at Rodborough, Broadwater and private school pupils and might involve up to 80 children supervised by volunteers. For a weekly fee of about 50 pence they would be offered a tuck shop, playstation, magazines, sports coaching and other activities. Discipline would be maintained on a yellow/red card warning system. Funding is being sought to pay for equipment and rent.

## **9. For information**

### **Web site**

The web site, [www.busbridge.net](http://www.busbridge.net) is up and running with a variety of facilities and is under steady development. Recently introduced pages include the street cleaning schedule for the area, a community calendar and recommended local traders. The latter two require input from the community and residents are asked to send their material urgently to [forum@harrison-m.com](mailto:forum@harrison-m.com).

### **BUZZ event**

Clare Haddad said the date for this event is now set for 30 June 2007.

*AMENDEMENT (2) FROM CLARE HADDAD, RECEIVED 13 APRIL 2007*

*The date of the BUZZ event is 7 July 2007.*

*We are glad to receive offers of help particularly anyone who can supply plants for the plant sale or offer to help with teas and clearing up at the end of the day.*

*Contact Clare Haddad 01483 422349 or Sarah Clarke 01483 425229.*

## **10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday 26 June 2007, 7.00 for 7.30 pm at the Holloway Hill Sports Association clubhouse.** A flyer advertising the meeting will be placed on the web site during April – residents are urged to copy this to interested parties as widely as possible. Notices will be placed in the Godalming Post Office and on the High Street notice board (subject to the agreement of the relevant managers).

**END**