

EXECUTIVE

- * Councillor Caroline Reeves (Chairman)
- * Councillor Fiona White (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Joss Bigmore
* Councillor Angela Goodwin
* Councillor David Goodwin
* Councillor Jan Harwood

Councillor Julia McShane
* Councillor John Rigg
* Councillor Pauline Searle
* Councillor James Steel

*Present

Councillors Tim Anderson, Angela Gunning, Ted Mayne, Ramsey Nagaty, George Potter, John Redpath, Maddy Redpath, Tony Rooth, Patrick Sheard, and Catherine Young were also in attendance.

EX42 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Joss Bigmore and Julia McShane.

EX43 LOCAL CODE OF CONDUCT - DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

EX44 MINUTES

The Executive approved, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2019. The Chairman signed the minutes.

EX45 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements from the Leader.

EX46 E-PETITION: NEW PARKING RESTRICTIONS AT KINGSTON MEADOWS CAR PARK, EAST HORSLEY

Councillors noted that, in January 2018, the Executive had approved a proposal to extend parking restrictions to Council-owned parks, including Kingston Meadows Car Park in East Horsley. These measures had been taken to improve access to parking for local clubs and societies, in particular the village hall, and users of the park's facilities.

On 8 July 2019, an e-petition was launched on the Council's website requesting the Council to immediately suspend the 'no return same day' restriction at Kingston Meadows Car Park. This e-petition received in excess of 500 signatures and under the Council's adopted Petition Scheme required the Council to debate the matter raised by the e-petition and to indicate to the e-petition organiser what action, if any, the Council proposed to take in response.

The Council considered the matter at its meeting held on 8 October 2019 and, following the debate, the Council resolved that the Executive be requested to consider the following as action to be taken in response to the e-petition:

- (1) To ask officers to review the parking order through the statutory Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) process as soon as practicable

- (2) To agree that the existing TRO remains in place until it is replaced
- (3) To implement a parking control that safeguards the use of the car park for park users
- (4) To agree that a revised control considers the following parameters:
 - (a) removal of the no return element;
 - (b) one free period of 4 hours each day per visitor within the hours of control (including allowing returns at no charge within the free period) and the ability to charge for additional hours for any time in excess of the free period or for any separate parking event outside of the free period in the same day;
 - (c) restrictions that apply Monday to Friday (not at weekends and bank holidays); and
 - (d) enforcement times of 9am to 6pm

with the final TRO to be issued for consultation being agreed by the Director of Environment, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Countryside, Rural Life, and the Arts and the Lead Councillor for Waste, Licensing, and Parking.

Prior to the Executive's consideration of this matter, the following persons addressed the meeting:

Chris Tailby, Chairman of Trustees of the East Horsley Village Hall, indicated that whilst he welcomed the introduction of the four-hour restriction for parking at the Kingston Meadows Car Park, and would like to see it retained, it was acknowledged that it was the "no return" provision which was causing difficulties locally.

Colin Carmichael, East Horsley Parish Councillor, also emphasised that it was the "no return" provision which was causing significant problems for local residents, who wished to use the car park as a community facility, many of whom made return visits to it during the course of a day. Mr Carmichael requested that the "no return" provision should be suspended pending the review.

In response to the e-petitioners' request to immediately suspend the 'no return same day' restriction, the Executive was advised that the TRO could not lawfully be suspended in this manner and that any change would have to be implemented by making a further TRO in accordance with the statutory procedures and timescales for public consultation.

Having considered the matter, the Executive

RESOLVED:

- (1) That officers be asked to review the parking order through the statutory Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) process as soon as practicable
- (2) That the existing TRO remains in place until it is replaced
- (3) That a parking control be implemented that safeguards the use of the car park for park users
- (4) That a revised control considers the following parameters:
 - (a) removal of the no return element;
 - (b) one free period of 4 hours each day per visitor within the hours of control (including allowing returns at no charge within the free period) and the ability to charge for additional hours for any time in excess of the free period or for any separate parking event outside of the free period in the same day;
 - (c) restrictions that apply Monday to Friday (not at weekends and bank holidays); and
 - (d) enforcement times of 9am to 6pm

with the final TRO to be issued for consultation being agreed by the Director of Environment, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Countryside, Rural Life, and the Arts and the Lead Councillor for Waste, Licensing, and Parking.

Reason:

To comply with the requirements of the Council's adopted Petition Scheme, by approving action to be taken in response to the e-petition received in respect of this matter.

EX47 E-PETITION: NEW PARKING RESTRICTIONS AT SUTHERLAND MEMORIAL PARK CAR PARK, BURPHAM

Councillors noted that, in January 2018, the Executive had approved a proposal to extend parking restrictions to Council-owned parks, including Sutherland Memorial Park car park in Burpham. These measures had been taken to improve access to parking for local clubs and societies and users of the park's facilities.

On 22 July 2019, an e-petition was launched on the Council's website requesting the Council to remove the new parking charges and restrictions at Sutherland Memorial Park car park. This petition received in excess of 500 signatures and under the Council's adopted Petition Scheme required the Council to debate the matter raised by the e-petition and to indicate to the e-petition organiser what action, if any, the Council proposes to take in response.

The Council considered the matter at its meeting held on 8 October 2019 and, following the debate, the Council resolved that the Executive be requested to consider the following as action to be taken in response to the e-petition:

"To temporarily cease enforcement of the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) at Sutherland Memorial Park Car Park and undertake a review as part of the annual parking business plan, such review to include consideration of options based upon the following:

Maintaining the car park for park visitors:

- (a) Maintain the restrictions in the current TRO with the exception of removing the no return and replacing it with display of a valid ticket.

Making the car park available for community use:

- (b) Revoke the Order (and return to allowing all day free parking to all), except for the enforcement of anti-social parking, through a new TRO.
- (c) Change the time the order applies from 6am to 5pm weekdays to between 10 am and 5pm, maintaining five hours free (providing time for dropping off, dog walking and additional visits later in the day), as well as unlimited visits after 5pm. The no return would be removed and changed to display of a ticket. This would still restrict motorists from parking all day prior to when the ticket machine issues tickets (10am) and charges would apply to park beyond the five-hour free period."

Prior to the Executive's consideration of this matter, the following persons addressed the meeting:

Richard Smee (E-Petition Organiser) indicated that when the restrictions were introduced there was concern locally that they would cause traffic disruption and increase risk to children's safety and were a solution to a problem that residents did not consider existed in Burpham. Mr Smee stated that the restrictions had not only had a detrimental impact on the wider community but also impacted on parks users including the bowling club. He therefore requested that the Council suspends the parking restrictions at Sutherland Memorial Park Car Park.

Three parents of children at Burpham Primary School addressed the meeting and drew attention to the difficulties faced by parents who had cause to use the park during the day but

then were unable to lawfully park in the car park in the afternoon to pick up their children from school. They also stated that there was no safe alternative for parents other than to use the park car park when dropping off/picking up children.

Geoff Sheldon (Vice-President of Burpham Bowling Club and Chairman of the Sutherland Memorial Park Amenities Club) addressed the meeting and reiterated that the no return element had caused significant problems for club members and threatened the viability of the club. Parents using the park twice a day was not a problem for the club or other park users.

Lee Elliott addressed the meeting stating that the issue was one of safety. The school had expanded at the request of Surrey County Council and the borough council, whilst raising no objection to this, was not convinced that the measures to deal with parking were suitable at that particular time. The borough council did recognise that the park and stride strategy might overcome that harm. Unfortunately, the Council's decision in respect of the parking restrictions had invalidated this strategy, which was seen as a risk management technique.

During the debate, a number of comments were made by non-Executive councillors including:

- The 'no return' element of the restrictions was not sufficiently highlighted to the public during the statutory consultation, which would explain why no comments regarding the 'no return' element were made.
- The consultation was not about the wisdom of the policy to prioritise the use of the car park to park users, merely about the implementation of the policy by way of introduction of the restrictions
- The overwhelming view of residents, including park users, is that the park is for use by the whole community and does not require the restrictions.
- The Executive should adopt the Council's recommendation to suspend enforcement of the restrictions, whilst further public consultation takes place including consulting on whether people would like see Sutherland Memorial Park Car Park prioritised for park users or viewed as a facility for the whole community.

In response, the Executive was advised that the statutory process for introducing the restrictions was complied with fully, but officers would be happy to go through a further TRO process to address the 'no return' issue. The Executive noted that this matter had raised issues regarding the efficacy of the existing policy to prioritise the use of parks car parks to tenants and parks users and felt that this policy should be reviewed in respect of Sutherland Memorial Park.

The Executive, having considered the matter and noting the reasons why suspending the enforcement of the current restrictions pending the review of the TRO was not recommended

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the current Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) at Sutherland Memorial Park Car Park be reviewed through the statutory TRO making, modification, and revocation process, such review:
 - (a) to include a consideration of the removal of the "No Return" element; and
 - (b) to take place concurrently with the review of the TRO at Kingston Meadows Car Park, East Horsley.
- (2) That a separate review of the policy around the use of the car park at Sutherland Memorial Park be undertaken and reported back to the Executive.

Reason:

To comply with the requirements of the Council's adopted Petition Scheme, by approving action to be taken in response to the e-petition received in respect of this matter.

EX48 ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2018-19

The Executive considered a report on the completed external audit for 2018-19 for which an Annual Audit Letter had been issued. The Executive commended the overall conclusion reached by Grant Thornton that they were satisfied that the Council had put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ending 31 March 2019.

Having considered the report and noted that the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee had also considered the Annual Audit Letter at its meeting on 30 July 2019 and had commended it for formal approval, the Executive

RESOLVED: That the Annual Audit Letter for 2018-19 be approved.

Reason:

To approve the Annual Audit Report.

EX49 SURREY HILLS AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN 2020-2025

The Executive considered a report which recommended the adoption of the reviewed Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan (2020 – 2025). The Management Plan contributed to setting out the policy framework for development within the Surrey Hills AONB.

The Management Plan had been reviewed as required under legislation and prepared jointly with other local authorities within the Surrey Hills AONB area. The review of the Management Plan had comprised a deliberately 'light-touch' process, with the main changes summarised within the report. Each local authority was required to adopt the Management Plan separately.

Accordingly, the Executive

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan (2020 – 2025), as set out in Appendix 1 to the report submitted to the Executive, be approved for adoption and publication by the Council.
- (2) That the Director of Planning and Regeneration be authorised, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Planning, Regeneration, and Housing Delivery to agree such minor alterations as proposed by the AONB Board as she may deem necessary.

Reason:

To meet our statutory obligations under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

EX50 REPLACEMENT OF DIAL A RIDE MINI BUSES

The Executive was informed that the Council's Dial a Ride (DAR) mini buses were approaching five years of age and that the Community Care Service, which operated the Dial-a-Ride service had commissioned a review of the replacement options.

The Executive considered a report which examined three possible options as follows:

1. Replace with a new electric fleet
2. Replace "like for like"
3. Delay replacement of the fleet for 2-3 years

The conclusion reached following the review was that electric vehicles provided a beneficial environmental solution at an affordable financial cost. The Executive therefore

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Option 1 – the proposed purchase of ten new electric Mini Buses for the Dial-A-Ride service, as described in the report submitted to the Executive – be approved.
- (2) That the transfer of £820,000 from the provisional to the approved capital programme, be approved.

Reasons:

To ensure an up to date and reliable fleet for this service and reduce the Council's vehicle emissions.

EX51 RODBORO BUILDINGS – ELECTRIC THEATRE THROUGH ROAD AND PARKING

The Executive was reminded that, at its meeting on 7 February 2018, the Council had approved the inclusion of the sum of £450,000 in the General Fund Capital Programme provisional list for a scheme to improve the area around the Rodboro Buildings and the northern side of the Electric Theatre. The scheme would address pedestrian safety concerns as well as enhancing the area.

The Executive considered a report which sought approval to transfer the sum referred to in the 'Not for Publication' Appendix 2 to the report from the provisional to the approved Capital Programme to enable this scheme to be implemented.

Councillors noted that Appendix 2 contained a schedule setting out the detail of the estimated cost of each element of the scheme, disclosure of which may adversely affect the tendering process so that competition would be undermined. In order to discuss this schedule, the Executive

RESOLVED: That the public be excluded from the meeting due to the likely disclosure of information exempt from publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, which is "Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)".

Having noted that Wetherspoons and Popworld would be making a 50% contribution towards the cost of the provision of the bin store element of the scheme, the Executive

RESOLVED: That the sum referred to in the 'Not For Publication' Appendix 2 to the report submitted to the Executive be transferred from the General Fund Capital Programme provisional list to the approved list, subject to the scheme receiving planning permission.

Reason:

To enable the Rodboro Buildings-Electric Theatre through road and parking scheme outlined in this report to be implemented.

The meeting finished at 8.53 pm

Signed

Chairman

Date