

Runnymede Borough CouncilECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE14 June 2001 at 7.30 p.m.

Members of the Committee present: Councillors R.K. Habgood (Chairman), J.R. Furey (Vice-Chairman) E.G. Barrett, A.G. Collins, J.M. Edwards, H.W.V. Meares, P.J. Poole, Ms C.M. Simmons, F.J. Tourlmain and K.J.T. Walmsley

Members of the Committee absent: None

77. NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Groups mentioned below had notified the Chief Executive Officer of their wish that the changes listed below be made to the membership of the Committee for a fixed period ending on the day after the meeting. Thereafter the Councillors removed should be re-appointed.

Group requesting Change	Remove from Membership	Appoint Instead
Conservative	Councillor Mrs. V.A. Smallman	Councillor A.G. Collins
Runnymede Independents	Councillor B.A. Clarke	Councillor F.J. Tourlmain

The Chief Executive Officer had given effect to these wishes in accordance with Section 16(2) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

78. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17 May 2001 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

79. WORK PROGRAMME PRESENTATION

The Committee received a presentation from Officers setting out the principal features of its anticipated work programme for the new municipal year. It was noted that the key areas were likely to be property management (including the Property Strategy and Asset Management Plan), the ongoing Chertsey Revitalisation and Action Addlestone town centre regeneration schemes, car parking management, and economic development initiatives, including those pursued through the Runnymede Business Partnership. In order to familiarise Members with the Council's substantial property portfolio it was agreed that a schedule of the more significant and sensitive property holdings should be produced and a programme of site visits arranged. The Committee, in subsequent discussion of some of the issues raised by Officers, took the opportunity to express concern at the potential economic impact of the reduced car parking standards imposed on the Council's planning policies by the Government.

80. ACTION ADDLESTONE

The Committee received details of progress with the Action Addlestone initiative. Members noted that proposals for the redevelopment of the two key town centre sites were now well advanced. Two alternative detailed options for the redevelopment of the Marconi site had received planning consent and demolition of the existing buildings was nearing completion. Work on the new roundabout and access road was expected to commence shortly. Meanwhile an application for the redevelopment of the former Co-op site by Tesco was due to be considered by the Planning Committee on 20 June. Tesco aimed to open the store before Christmas. This should, in turn, allow implementation of the Garfield Road Car Park market which had been delayed pending completion of the Tesco project in order to retain sufficient car parking in the town.

Outline design proposals for improvements to the pavement and road layout outside Spittles in Station Road had also now been approved. In order for the works to be implemented before the end of the year the Committee agreed that a sum of £15,000 should be set aside from the Action Addlestone approved expenditure to cover consultants fees. Rather than tender the work with contractors it was proposed to use the Surrey County Council 'quantimator' which included annually tendered rates from the County Council's select list of contractors for elements of highways work. This would enable a contractor to be selected by using the best overall price for the works.

Amongst the other ongoing elements of the project it was noted that a consultant had been commissioned to produce initial designs for canopies to be placed outside the shops on the southern side of Station Road. Surrey County Council had agreed in principle to fund works to the junction of the High Street/Station Road in order to introduce a pedestrian crossing phase and prioritise timing in favour of the greatest vehicle flows. A public exhibition was to be held in a vacant town centre shop during the first week of July to illustrate progress with the initiative as a whole.

RESOLVED that –

- i) the Borough Technical Services Officer be authorised to appoint consultants to develop a detailed design and bill of quantities for the area outside Spittles, Station Road, together with supervision of the works at a cost not to exceed £15,000, to be allocated from the Action Addlestone approved expenditure;**
- ii) a contractor for the works outside Spittles be approved using the Surrey County Council 'quantimator' prices; and**
- iii) the Borough Secretary and Leisure Services Officer and the Borough Technical Services Officer be authorised to agree a short-term lease on a vacant shop unit in Addlestone for the purposes of a public exhibition.**

81. EGHAM FARMERS' MARKET

(Ref: Minutes of Executive Committee 10 January 2001, page 1135, para 546)

Members were pleased to note the success of the inaugural monthly farmers' market in Egham High Street, held on Saturday 26 May. Eleven stalls had been in attendance, four fewer than anticipated as some producers had already committed themselves to a market in Cheam on the same day. Nevertheless this was still more than the number present for the first of the successful markets in Arundel, and substantially more were expected for the next occasion. Feedback from both stall keepers and traders had been positive and the number of people present in the High Street appeared to be greater than usual. The trial was to continue on the fourth Saturday in each month until 27 October. The Committee would consider whether to continue the initiative beyond that date at its meeting in September.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 8.50 pm)