

## **Adur County Local Committee**

**23 April 2009** – At a meeting of the Committee at 7.00pm at **Sompting Village Hall, West Street, Sompting, West Sussex, BN15 OAP.**

Present: Carson Albury, Robert Dunn, Paul Graysmark, Janet Mockridge, Clive Williams (Chairman).

Apologies: Vilna Woolhead.

In attendance: Carl Burton (Senior Manager, West Sussex Youth Service), Sgt Chris Smith (Sussex Police), Barry Candy (Highways Manager, Infrastructure), Phil Edwards (Principal Locality Manager, Democratic Services), Matthew Evans (Locality Officer, Democratic Services).

### **Chairman's Welcome**

145. The Chairman welcomed all those present to the meeting.

### **Declaration of Interests**

146. Robert Dunn declared an interest in respect of Agenda Item number 8, The Playbuilder Funding Scheme, as Deputy Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

### **Minutes**

147. Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2008 be agreed as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

### **Urgent Matters**

148. There were no urgent matters.

### **Matters Arising and Progress Statement**

149. Paul Graysmark provided an update on the Shoreham airport footpath for which a number of funds had been secured from local bodies and further money was sought.

150. A bid for £1.17m had been successful for the provision of a youth centre on the Boundstone Academy site. A query was raised by a local resident regarding the provision of adult education at the youth centre and Mr Dunn explained that information would soon be available to update the Committee.

151. The Business Breakfast event held by Adur CLC on the Ricardo Shoreham Airport site was referred to which was seen as a very successful occasion from which it was hoped future events might emerge.

152. The meeting was updated on the schedule of Highways works that had occurred in the Adur district since the last meeting of the Committee. The introduction of Local Authority Parking Enforcement (LAPE) was highlighted as of particular significance which had been implemented locally with minimal problems.

## **talk with us (Community Forum)**

153. The issue of adult education at Boundstone Academy was raised and further clarification was requested. Mr Dunn explained that the decision regarding adult education provision at Boundstone had not been taken. It was explained that the delivery of adult education by the County Council was currently undergoing a transformation and more information on the changes would be available in due course. Mr Dunn explained that he would be meeting with the governors of Boundstone imminently and that the update that emerged from this meeting would be circulated to the Committee and other interested parties when it became available.

154. A member of the audience raised the issue of the cycle track on Lancing seafront. The kiosk end of the track was dangerous and a number of serious accidents had almost occurred. It was suggested that a measure to address the situation would be a cyclists dismount sign at the location. Barry Candy explained that the cycle track extended onto the A259 and cyclists were entitled to cycle on the section of track referred to. Mr Candy would investigate the need for an extra warning sign on the track.

155. A local resident asked whether the Adur and Worthing CLCs would follow the general trend in other organisations, such as the District Council and single officer structure and the merger of local LSPs; and become a single entity. It was the contention of the Committee that it was important to retain a separate Adur CLC due to the differences between the areas of Adur and Worthing and it was confirmed that there had been no discussion at the County Council to merge Worthing and Adur CLCs.

156. The selling of cars on the public highway was raised by a member of the public. The problem was of particular concern on Lancing Road, Brighton Road and Grinstead Lane. Mr Candy informed the meeting that this was a very difficult problem to resolve. Officers from the County Council's Trading Standards department often encountered sellers with multiple telephone numbers which complicated attempts to determine their identity. Officers had been affixing warning stickers to offending cars. The Highways department would only intervene if the cars for sale were causing an obstruction or infringed parking restrictions on the road but this was often not the case. A proposed Consent Street Order was due for decision at a forthcoming meeting of Adur District Council which if enacted would forbid trading on Adur Districts streets with limited exceptions.

157. A member of the audience raised an issue regarding the use of a disabled car parking space by an ambulance driver in Annweir Avenue in Lancing. Sgt. Chris Smith said that he would investigate and provide an update on the situation.

## **Police Update**

158. Sgt. Smith was introduced to the meeting, to provide an update on community safety. Recent crime statistics for the area indicated that on a like for like basis the level of crime had fallen with 409 fewer reported cases than the previous year in the Adur district.

159. An update regarding the situation with the Lancing cannabis café was requested. Sgt. Smith explained that in two to three weeks the criminal

investigation would be completed with a hearing in November. In the meantime an operation would be run under the anti-social behaviour act to collect residents testimonies and to search people seen on the premises. It was likely that the closure order for the building would come into effect in about three months time. Frustration was expressed that the operation had taken such a long period of time. Sgt Smith acknowledged the protracted operation and highlighted legislation limited to crack house closures, with no provision for cannabis cafes, as a factor in the delay.

160. A comment from the audience acknowledged the positive crime figures but referred to the existing perception of crime in the local community. Sgt Smith agreed that good work in the community received only limited publicity. The police had established a new system which identified one member of neighbourhood watch on each local street as a contact for the police and local community.

### **Playbuilder funding**

161. The Committee received a presentation from Carl Burton of WSCC Youth Service (copy of the presentation appended to the signed minutes). The Playbuilder funding programme is intended to assist the delivery of the National Play Strategy, focused on the creation of more play spaces. Points arising from the presentation include those set out below:

- The Department for Children, Schools and Families has dedicated £2.5 million to the County Council to develop play sites. It is hoped that the money will fund the creation and improvement of 22 play sites across the county over the next two years with a working emphasis on 11 in the first year.
- Bids for funding are invited from local voluntary groups and other organisations, such as Parish Councils, with a desire to install play facilities or with existing facilities that require improvements. The focus of the programme is to provide external play sites that encourage creative play. The local identification of the need for play facilities was of central importance to the programme.
- Bids for facilities that cater for 8-13 year olds and are open access and free to use will be preferred. The average cost per site is assumed to be £50,000 although bids can be for more or less than this amount and the programme is being promoted through presentations to CLCs and letter writing to District and Parish Councils with information.
- Bids for funding in the first year need to be submitted by the end of May 2009 which is a very strict, inflexible deadline. Some Parish Councils have already started compiling bids which will be brought to the CLC for comment.

162. Comments and questions were invited from the audience which included those set out below along with the responses in italics.

- A similar scheme was undertaken 4-5 years ago for youth shelters, that involved applications to national lottery funding, which was undermined by the need to provide ongoing maintenance and a demonstration of the

sustainability of the scheme. *Applications will have to demonstrate the ability to provide long-term maintenance capacity.*

- It had been the experience of local bodies that the provision of play equipment incurred great expense. The cost of providing the exemplar play areas in the presentation was requested. *The landscape example of a play area was relatively inexpensive, there was an escalation of cost with the introduction of more items of equipment however no financial limit existed for the bids.*

### **Chester Avenue and Elm Grove, Lancing**

163. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Operations – Infrastructure (copy appended to signed minutes). The report sought the Committee's approval to proceed to formal advertising a traffic regulation order (TRO) to instate parking restrictions in Chester Avenue and Elm Grove, Lancing. The Committee discussed a number of issues, which included those set out below:

- Three objections to the scheme had been received during the informal consultation. In consultation with the objector the first objection had been addressed with an amendment to the proposals and as a result the objection had been removed.
- The further two objections were considered by officers but it was determined that the scheme should continue without further amendment.

164. Resolved – that: The Committee authorise the Head of Legal Services to advertise the Traffic Regulation Order for the revised proposals and, if following advertisement no further unresolved objections are received, to make and implement the Order.

### **Upper Shoreham Road – Traffic Regulation Order Speed Limit Reduction**

165. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Operations – Infrastructure (copy appended to signed minutes). The report sought the Committee's approval to proceed to formal advertising a TRO to reduce the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph on the Upper Shoreham Road between the junction with Hammy Lane and the Holmbush Roundabout. The Committee discussed a number of issues, which included those set out below:

- The reduction of the speed limit from 40mph to 30 mph would ensure consistency across the area, commensurate with the County Council's policy to reduce accidents and injuries. 8 minor injuries had been recorded at the site which were defined by the necessity of attending hospital.
- Speed was a major factor in the accidents that occurred at the location but it was also felt that the sharp turning into Hammy Lane and the obstruction to sightlines by the hospital wall contributed to accidents. The extension of the speed limit to the other side of the roundabout towards Southwick was suggested but it was explained that the content of the report and recommendation contained provision only for a speed limit on the upper Shoreham road to the western side of the Holmbush roundabout.

- More obvious signage would be provided in the area during the introduction of the limit and other measures would be considered at the site to address the accident record.

166. Resolved – that: The Head of Legal Services be authorised to advertise the TRO needed to enact the proposed speed limit and, provided no further objections are received following advertisement, to bring the Order into operation.

### **Priorities for Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs)**

167. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Operations – Infrastructure (copy appended to signed minutes). The report sought the Committee's input and approval for the list of local TRO priorities. The Committee discussed a number of issues, which included those set out below:

- The priority list was ordered by scores allocated to Traffic Regulation Order proposals that would be considered during the financial year specified in the listings. The scoring of each proposal and its prioritisation was based on a number of factors determined by traffic engineers. These were technical scores but it was the prerogative of the Committee to amend the listing if they thought it were appropriate, based on local knowledge of the area and people's concerns.
- Speeding cars and the maintenance of the yellow lines in Grinstead Lane was raised as an issue that required investigation. The concerns would be passed onto the highway office for examination.
- The presence on the listing of TRO057 to introduce parking restrictions in Fairfield Close/Hammy Close/Crown Road was welcomed by the meeting. Parking had become particularly problematic in the area after a new parking policy at the hospital had imposed charges for staff parking.
- A query was raised regarding commercial vehicles parking on the highways in Lancing. Facilities existed to allow HGVs to park in the district and discussions were in progress to remove the height restriction barrier at Lancing Business Park to allow parking for lorries. Local vehicles required an operators licence which defined where parking was permitted but vehicles from outside the area were entitled to park where they were able to.
- The introduction of a special reserved parking bay for a local resident without a driveway was discussed but was not feasible.
- The meeting was referred to TRO069 which proposed the introduction of an HGV ban in Southwick Street/Manor Street/Cross Road in Southwick scheduled for consideration in 2013-2014. Lorries caused great problems to the flow of traffic attempting to leave Southwick and the Committee requested that consideration proposal be moved from the 2013-2014 year into the 2010-2011 year. The displacement of lorries from Southwick Street to other roads, caused by the introduction of the proposed TRO would have to be considered, particularly Eastern Avenue and Kingston Lane. The approved lorry route was Trafalgar Road and Church Road, Portslade which drivers should be using.

168. Carson Albury left the meeting at 8.50pm.

169. Resolved – that: this Committee approves the priority order for implementing Traffic Regulation Orders within the Adur CLC area after an amendment to bring TRO069 into the 2010-2011 year.

### **Community Initiative Funding**

170. The Committee had before it a report by West Sussex County Council Head of Democratic Services (copy appended to the signed minutes). The Committee discussed a number of issues, which included those set out below:

- Concerns were expressed about the Circles Network application and the allocation of such a large sum of money to a project.
- The absence of a representative of Circles Network at the meeting drew comment from the Committee who requested that in future members from organisations that had submitted an application for a large sum of money be available for questioning when the decision is being taken.

171. Resolved – that: the Committee consider the Community Initiative Funding applications and allocate funding accordingly:

(i) The following applications and amounts are approved:

- Ropetackle Centre Trust £1,000
- Southwick and Fishergate Horticultural Society £754+VAT
- Circles Network £9,560  
*Members highlighted that there would be no further funding provided by Adur CLC towards the project and that a representative from the project attend the CLC after a year to provide a progress report.*
- VC Jubilee Youth Development Cycling Plan £1,000  
*Approved subject to the receipt of information that the volunteers selected for training, for which the funding provides, are based in Adur.*

(ii) The following applications are declined:

- Orchard House  
*The Committee declined the application on the basis that the facility was not regularly attended by Adur residents.*
- NSPCC Talk Up campaign  
*The Committee declined the application on the basis that the applications sought funding for projects in schools outside Adur with no definite plans for schools in the area.*

### **Local Authority School Governors**

172. Resolved: The Committee agree the following appointments and re-appointment of local authority school governors:

Appointment:

- i) Mr Stephen Harris to Shoreham Beach Primary for a term of 4 years.

ii) Mrs Andrea Saunders to Shoreham Beach Primary for a term of 4 years.

Re-appointment:

i) Mrs J Searle to St Nicholas & St Mary CE First & Middle School for a term of four years commencing 29 July 2009.

173. The Chairman thanked all for their contributions and informed all of the next meeting to be held on 2 July 2009 at 7.00pm at Jubilee Hall, Lancing Parish Hall, South Street, Lancing, BN15 8AJ.

174. It was the Chairman's last meeting before he stood down at the next election and he thanked his fellow members and officers for their work over the last 4 years. Mr Dunn offered his thanks and best wishes to Clive Williams for all his efforts with Adur CLC which had successfully engaged with local residents and raised awareness of the County Council. The meeting followed these remarks with a generous round of applause.

175. The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

**Chairman**