

Chanctonbury County Local Committee

11 September 2013 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7pm at Partridge Green Village Hall, High Street, Partridge Green

Present: Mrs Arculus, Mr Barnard and Mr Barling (Chairman)

Welcome and Introductions and a tribute to Frank Wilkinson

35. Mr Barling welcomed the members of the public to the meeting and introduced the Committee Members.

36. A tribute was paid to Frank Wilkinson, the Member for Storrington who sadly passed away. A short silence was held in his memory.

Declaration of Interests

37. There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

38. Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of the Chanctonbury County Local Committee (CLC) held on 12 June 2013 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

39. The Chairman agreed to receive an update on Community Safety in the Chanctonbury Area from Sergeant Bob Trevis from Sussex Police.

40. The following points were highlighted:

- **Crime Statistics** – Reported crime for the Chanctonbury area was 1,500 for the year to August 2013 which was the lowest it had ever been.
- **Criminal damage** had reduced by 83 in the same period for the Chanctonbury area. Criminal damage was seen as a signal crime which was linked to other crimes such as anti-social behaviour.
- **Resources** had been affected over the summer due to officers being required for the protests at Balcombe, however numbers were now returning to normal. PCSOs had not been affected by the protests.
- **Recruitment** – there was currently a drive to recruit Special Constables in the area to support the neighbourhood policing teams.

41. Resolved – That the update be noted.

Jolesfield Primary School Ofsted Report

42. The Committee considered the recent Ofsted report for Jolesfield Primary School, Partridge Green that had put the school into special measures (copy appended to the signed minutes).

43. Mr Barnard welcomed the parents, Mrs S Uff and Mrs C Knight (Co –Head Teachers), David Green (Chairman of Governors), Partridge Green Parish Council, Catherine Davies (Senior Advisor - Support and Intervention, West Sussex County Council) and Debbie Kennard (Deputy Cabinet Member for Children – Start of Life)

to the meeting.

44. Mr Green, the new Chairman of Governors at Jolesfield Primary School addressed the Committee, highlighting the actions that had taken place since the Ofsted report had been received.

- The Ofsted report had come as a shock to the whole village and there was strong commitment from all those involved in the school to get it out of special measures as soon as possible.
- Two inset days with staff had taken place to discuss the action plan for the school which were very encouraging, and showed the commitment of the staff.
- It was recognised that hard work would now be needed to make sure the actions in the action plan were followed up. A further visit from Ofsted was expected in approximately 4 weeks to see what action had taken place.
- A constructive meeting with parents had taken place the previous week, with many looking at how they could help the school move forward.

45. Mrs Knight added that the school was driven and focused on getting out of special measures and was working closely with the Local Authority and Diocese to put actions in place. Newsletters had also been issued to parents to advise them of what was being done.

46. The Committee asked the co-Head Teachers whether the support they were receiving from the Local Authority was sufficient and if there was anything further they needed at this time to be able to progress with their action plan. Mrs Uff confirmed that the school was very pleased with the involvement and support it had received from the Local Authority and that resources had been very forthcoming. Mrs Uff highlighted that as the action plan developed there would be financial implications for the school, but that these were currently being well supported by the Local Authority.

47. Ms Davies confirmed that since the inspection, the Local Authority's role was to monitor and challenge the actions and progress of the school. The school had also been linked with St Lawrence Primary School (rated Outstanding) for additional support. The Local Authority was also providing consultant head support as well as resource from Ms Davies' and her team. Ms Davies also confirmed that the Local Authority had agreed to fund an additional half-time teacher to support year six. Ms Davies added that the Local Authority had powers of intervention, including replacing the Governing body with an Interim Executive Board (IEB); however this had not been done as it was seen important that the current governing body who largely represented the community were able to demonstrate their leadership ability to hold the school to account for better outcomes. A parent of the school asked if how likely it was that the school would move to Academy status. Ms Davies confirmed that the school would become an Academy (September 2014 at the earliest) due to being put into special measures.

48. The Committee was happy with the progress that the school had made and was encouraged by the focus on community involvement, rather than intervention. The Deputy Cabinet Member added that in her capacity as a school governor, she had worked with Ms Davies and her team and was confident that she would give good support to Jolesfield Primary School.

49. Resolved – that the Committee notes the progress being made by the school

and requests that a progress report be brought to the Committee in approximately six months to see how the school was progressing and provide a review of the Local Authority support provided.

Talk With Us

50. A representative of Henfield Parish Council asked when the formal offer for the Parish Winter Maintenance Plans would be received. The Principal Community Officer (PCO) confirmed that the letters should be issued this week. The County Council would be able to fund up to three additional grit bins for each Parish where requested, and contribute 50% of the cost for any additional bins. A representative of Bramber Parish Council asked if the County Council would fund bins that the Parish had installed earlier that year. The PCO advised that the funding was not retrospective and was a one off offer. A member of Thakeham Parish Council commented that they had requested a grit bin for a privately owned road. The PCO advised that the County Council were unable to support bins for private roads, they would need to be placed on County Council roads to qualify for funding.

51. Henfield Parish Council asked for an update on the Service Level Agreement that was being developed between the Parish Council and the County Council as the Parish were keen to start work. The PCO advised that the details were being finalised so that it could be reported to the Cabinet Member for a decision. Mr Barnard confirmed that he had been following this up with officers and that there should be some details for the Parish Council this week. The PCO agreed to progress as quickly as possible.

52. Various Parish Councils raised concern over the length of time it was taking to progress Operation Watershed Active Communities applications, and highlighted the lack of clarity over the process they needed to go through to put in an application. The PCO advised that she had the expressions of interest from various parishes for the fund and she would be meeting with them shortly to discuss their bids. The PCO added that if a Parish was unsure of the works they required, that they could use the fund to get a study done on the solution required, however if a Parish was aware of the required solution, they were able to proceed with getting quotes for the work (without commissioning a study). The Committee agreed that the bureaucracy needed to be cut from the process and clarity was required for the Parish Councils. The PCO added that she would now be focussing on developing Operation Watershed bids with the parishes and that she would provide details of local contractors to all of the Parish Councils.

53. A representative from Washington Parish Council reminded the Committee that it had received a presentation on the request for a 30mph speed limit through Washington Village in September 2011 and subsequently a speed survey was carried out. The Parish Council felt that the response provided by the Highways on the results was incorrect and asked the Committee to look into the issue. The Parish were keen to establish the price for reducing the speed limit so that it could decide if it would be able to fund the scheme. The Parish Council also raised an issue of a requested Vehicle Activated Sign that it thought had been agreed and was progressing. The Chairman acknowledged the concern of the Parish Council and confirmed he had seen the letter the Parish had sent to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport on these issues and the response provided. The Chairman agreed to meet with the Parish as soon as possible to discuss their concerns. The Committee added that the new member for Storrington (due to be elected on 26 September) would also be able to take up these issues.

54. A member of Partridge Green Parish Council and the Local Transport Working

Group asked for an update on the progress for the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) in Oakwood, Partridge Green and the Bines Road South Downs Link and speed limit reduction. The Committee recognised that there had been a lack of communication from highways on updates of these two issues. The Committee confirmed that they would be selecting their two priorities for delivery in 2016/17 at their meeting on 5 December 2013, but that other funding was available (for example S.106 monies) to develop further schemes. The PCO confirmed that the Oakwood TRO was on the Communities Issues List and could be progressed once funding became available. She agreed to meet with the Parish Council Clerk to discuss this further. The Committee recognised the need to speed up the process of getting projects completed once funds had been identified. The PCO confirmed that the Committee would be considering a report at its meeting in December 2013 that would propose new options enabling S.106 monies to be released quicker. The Committee recognised that Highways only had a finite capacity, but that communication to the public on the progress of schemes was of paramount importance.

55. A member of Cowfold Parish Council asked if advance warning had been provided by the County Council of the drainage works that were currently taking place in Cowfold. The Local Member recognised that the County Council on this occasion had failed to warn residents or the Parish Council of the works. The PCO confirmed that there had been a breakdown in communication and that she would investigate what went wrong. It was highlighted that a survey that had been delivered was now null and void due to the works being carried out. The Committee asked the representative for the Parish to write to the Local Member with the details of the survey and costs so that he could follow up with officers.

Progress Statement

56. The Committee considered a report which provided updates on matters arising from previous meetings of the CLC (copy appended to signed minutes). The PCO introduced the report.

- The Street Bramber removal of speed humps – The Chairman confirmed that he was working with officers on the scheme and awaiting the revised scheme design.
- Vicarage Lane, Steyning ownership of banks – The County had reviewed the legal evidence with the church and there is no evidence the banks belong to the County Council.
- Clays Hill, Steyning speed signs – The County Council is awaiting the design of the preferred sign from the Parish Council. Once submitted, the County Council will look at the next steps.
- B2139 Amberley Road 40mph Speed limit extension – The PCO confirmed that that the scheme was an Infrastructure Priority that was programmed for delivery. The Parish Council needed to decide which type of signs it would like as a 'gateway feature'. The PCO agreed to meet with the Parish Council to discuss the options and report back to the next meeting.
- High Street Partridge Green Pedestrian Crossing – The Parish Council requested a meeting with the PCO to discuss further the potential location of the crossing to report back to the next meeting.
- Community Highways Volunteers – The PCO agreed to let the Committee and parishes know when recruitment of volunteers was reopened.
- B2139 Rackham Junction – The PCO confirmed that the scheme was not in the Infrastructure Plan for delivery, and that previous confusion had occurred between this scheme and the Amberley Road 40mph speed limit extension. The PCO agreed to see if £5,000 could be added to the Amberley project,

including exploring with neighbouring parish councils if they would be willing to provide S.106 monies, so that the low cost measures at Rackham Junction could be implemented.

57. Resolved – That the progress report be noted.

Community Issues List

58. The Committee considered the Community Issues List (copy appended to the signed minutes). The Committee highlighted that the list enabled Parish Councils and public to see what schemes were being considered for progression. It asked the Parish Councils to let their Local Member know if there is anything that they would like adding to the list or that they don't support. The PCO added that she would be going through the list with each of the members to update it further prior to the next meeting of the Committee.

59. The PCO added that the schemes on the list did not have to be delivered by the County Council and that alternative measures for delivery could be explored.

60. The Chairman of Small Dole Parish Council requested that a gateway feature for the south side of the village be considered for addition to the list. The Local Member for Bramber requested the addition of an enhanced pedestrian crossing at Dacre Gardens and the removal of the Rights of Way change at Woodmancote.

61. Resolved – that the Communities Issues List be noted.

Chanctonbury Community Initiative Funding (CIF)

62. The Committee considered a report by the Head of Law and Governance (copy appended to signed minutes), which sought decisions on the applications received under the CIF scheme.

63. Resolved –

1. That the Committee approves the following applications:

(i) **60/C** Ashurst Village Hall, £1,250 towards a new stage.

(ii) **95/C** Amberley Museum & Heritage Centre, £900 towards the purchase of equipment for the Early Years Backpack Trail.

(iii) **114/C** Washington Village Memorial Hall, £1,000 towards internal decoration.

(iv) **115/C** Thakeham Parish Council, £500 towards the restoration of the War Memorial. The Committee suggested the Parish Council investigate further funding options from Horsham District Council.

2. That the Committee declines the following application:

(i) **121/C Pulborough United Reformed Church** £10,000 towards the redevelopment of the Church building as the Local Member confirmed that she would be putting an application in to the Members' Big Society Fund.

Appointment of Local Authority Governors

64. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Communities Commissioning (copy appended to the signed minutes) that set out proposed nominations to school governing bodies and the criteria for their appointment or reappointment.

65. Resolved - That the Committee:

(i) approves the following appointments: -

- Mr S Booth to West Chiltington CF School for a 4year term.
- Rev P J Butchers to Upper Beeding Primary School for a 4 year term.

(ii) approves the following reappointments: -

- Mr M J Willett to Steyning Grammar School for a 4 year term.
- Mrs S J Lewis to St Peter's CEP School, Cowfold for a 4 year term.
- Mrs H Sachania to Rydon Community College for a 4 year term.

Date of Next Meeting

66. The Committee noted that its next scheduled meeting would take place at 7.00 p.m. on 4 December 2013 at Dial Post Village Hall, Worthing Road, Dial Post. RH13 8NS.

The meeting ended at 8.54 p.m.

Chairman