

Chanctonbury County Local Committee

4 March 2015 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7pm at Ashurst Village Hall, Ashurst, Nr Steyning.

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

In attendance: Cali Sparks (Principal Community Officer) and Helena Cox (Democratic Services Officer).

Welcome and Introductions

82. The Chairman welcomed the members of the public to the meeting and introduced the Committee Members and officers. The Chairman highlighted that this was the first public meeting held in the new Ashurst Village Hall, the building of which had been coordinated by local residents and part funded by the County Council.

Declaration of Interests

83. Mrs Arculus declared a personal interest regarding agenda item no. 8 Community Initiative Funding relating to application 548/C Steyning & District U3A as a member of the organisation.

Minutes

84. Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of the Chanctonbury County Local Committee (CLC) held on 26 November 2014 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

85. There were no urgent matters.

Progress Statement

86. The Committee considered a report which provided updates on matters arising from previous meetings of the CLC (copy appended to signed minutes). In addition to the detail of the report the following points were noted;

- The Principle Community Officer (PCO) introduced the update and highlighted that there was currently a review across the county of how schemes were moved forward.
- Regarding the road surface on the B2135 north of the pub in Ashurst it was commented that more than patching was required to deal with potholes in the area and that the whole road needed resurfacing. The Chairman suggested the Roger Harding, the local highway officer provide the Parish Council with an update on the status of the road. The PCO stated that potholes should be reported via Love West Sussex and marked for Roger Harding's attention.

87. Resolved – that the progress report be noted.

Community Issues List and Section 106 Funding

88. The Committee considered the latest Community Issues List, Infrastructure Priority Schemes and an update on the position regarding Section 106 funding (copies appended to signed minutes). The Principal Community Officer (PCO) informed the meeting that the schemes included on the Infrastructure Priority Schemes had been prioritised by the CLC in previous years. Future prioritising was currently being reviewed by the new Director of Highways and Transport and managers looking at the current programme of future works within the overall budget. Mrs Arculus asked for confirmation on what would happen to schemes already approved. *The PCO responded that what drove the scheme would be considered and how it fits with WSCC wider priorities.* Mrs Arculus conveyed her concerns and invited representatives from Pulborough Parish Council to discuss the three schemes for her division on the Infrastructure Priorities Schemes list. It was commented that improvements in the vicinity of Swan Corner was a priority and that the railway line footbridge was dependant on other factors. *The PCO commented that all were subject other factors, the timing of the delivery of schemes had been dependent of when it was picked as a priority and that WSCC was looking at the whole list across the county of what is to be delivered.* It was stated that there would consultation with the parishes for them to highlight what was most important. Mrs Arculus stated her concerns about the need for pedestrian facilities in the vicinity of Swan Corner especially as an application for extra houses would put more pressure on the area adding that the infrastructure around Pulborough needed to be looked at holistically. The Chairman highlighted that a new Director of Highways and Transport, Nicola Debnam, had been put in post and there was a member seminar in mid-April to detail the delivery of highway priorities. The PCO added that the focus of the review was how the County Council can deliver schemes within its current budget.

89. Regarding the Section 106 list the PCO updated that the unallocated total for Pulborough needed to be amended as the pedestrian crossing at the railway station had been delivered.

Chanctonbury Community Initiative Funding (CIF)

90. The Chairman informed the meeting that the Committee would consider the Community Initiative Funding item prior to Talk with Us. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law, Assurance and Strategy (copy appended to signed minutes), which sought decisions on the applications received under the CIF scheme. The Chairman informed the meeting that the Committee had received a flood of applications and that there would be a further £24,000 for the Committee to allocate in the next financial year. The Members Big Society Fund which had been significantly increased to around £500,000 would also be available to fund substantially larger projects which the CIF fund was unable to. Mrs Arculus highlighted that for the Members Big Society Fund the local member had to personally put the grant in and show support from the local community. The first deadline for applications was 15 May 2015.

91. Members considered the applications as listed in Appendix A of the report and the following comments were noted;

- Regarding application 479/C, members would decline the request but suggest a further application with a trimmed down request for funding.
- Regarding application 548/C, a representative from Horsham & Mid Sussex Voluntary Action addressed the CLC that the organisation would formally have been known as the CVS. It was mentioned that Ashurst Village Hall could be used as an outreach centre to encourage people to volunteer. The application was to fund costs associated with the merger to expand the service. Mrs Arculus stated that most charities run on their own and she was concerned that that the County Council would only talk to the CVS and not others. *A representative from the organisation highlighted that there was local networking and acceptance that the organisation had not reached much of the southern part of Horsham district. Mr Barnard commented that he would let the Henfield Community Partnership about the organisation.*
- Regarding application 565/C, representatives from Steyning Community Orchard addressed the CLC highlighting the huge community support for the orchard and that the grant would allow them to expand and promote it.
- Regarding application 567/C, Mr Barnard stated that Shermanbury Parish Council were acting as a bank account for the community and St Giles Church for funding for the event and as local member was very keen to support the application.
- Regarding the application 595/C from the Bramber Society, members were keen to encourage the organisation to seek health and safety training for working at height, support for this could be provided by the County Council's Volunteer Development Team.
- Regarding application 600/C, a representative from Ashurst Village Hall highlighted that the application was for the installation of Wi-Fi and not for an on-going cost.
- Regarding application 601/C, a representative from the Steyning & District Community Partnership addressed the CLC stating that funding requested for a tourist sign was similar to that on the northbound approach and would improve the attractiveness of Steyning to those passing by and help local businesses. The PCO stated that the County Council would allow installation of the sign but would not maintain or replace it nor fund it from its highway budget. Members asked for a proper breakdown of the cost and asked if there was a precedent for CLCs to fund a sign of this nature.
- Regarding application 613/C from the Henfield Community Partnership it was agreed that this should be agreed subject to approval of the Review of Services at Henfield Day Centre decision to be made by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health.

92. Resolved that –

a) The following awards were made:

452/C West Chanctonbury Recreation Association Fitness & Fun, £1,000.00 to purchase soft play equipment.

533/C Milestones, £500.00 to subsidise Youth Camp places

543/C Steyning & District 3UA, £1,000.00 to purchase IT equipment and software.

548/C Horsham & Mid Sussex Voluntary Action, £891.41 to purchase IT infrastructure and comms system plus website.

558/C Steyning Festival Ltd, £1,000.00 to purchase ticketing equipment and software.

565/C Steyning Community Orchard, £1,500.00 towards the costs of website development, advertising banners and other materials.

567/C Sherman Parish Council, £259.64 for various events costs relating to the "Beating the Bounds" event

587/C West Sussex Mediation Service, £500.00 for promotional materials.

595/C The Bramber Society, £222.60 to purchase a ladder.

600/C Ashurst Village Hall, £1,500.00 to install broadband, plus line rental and other running costs.

603/C Beeding and Bramber Village Hall, £2,500.00 to replace main hall flooring

604/C Steyning & District Community Partnership, £396.00 to purchase a mobile literature stand.

610/C Amberley Knights Football Club, £1,994.00 to improve the entrance to the football pitch.

613/C Henfield Community Partnership, £1,000.00 to produce publicity materials subject to approval of the Review of Services at Henfield Day Centre decision to be made by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health.

b) The following application was declined:

479/C Partidge Green Area Response Team, £5,000.00 to purchase medical equipment for the team as the local member had yet to be contacted by the applicant following its deferral at the last meeting.

c) The following applications were deferred:

497/C Hanover Band, £261.43 towards the costs of purchasing musical instruments to be lent to school children to enquire which schools would benefit in the Chanctonbury area.

568/C Steyning Area Youth Service, £795.00 to purchase a pool table so that officers and the local member could discuss the details of the application further with the applicant.

601/C Steyning & District Community Partnerships, £2,500.00 to purchase and erect a tourist sign so that officers and members could seek further information.

605/C Splash for Schools and Communities, £909.00 to purchase equipment for the youth Club so that the local member could discuss the details of the application further with the applicant.

606/C Steyning Business Chamber, £3,689.00 replacement parts for the Christmas lighting so that members could consider the application at a meeting closer to Christmas.

Talk with Us

93. The Chairman informed the meeting that a written question had been submitted prior to the meeting and a response had been provided (copy appended to the signed minutes). Mr Circus commented that this had been an issue where all that could go wrong had gone wrong and was a complete and utter shambles, local residents were very unhappy, restrictions on the road where planned from 5th May for resurfacing as the delivers resurfacing was very unsatisfactory. In addition, Mr Circus stated that residents had asked for the site to be turned down and Horsham District Council did so however as it was allowed by the Planning Inspectorate, local councils lost control and issues had arisen because of that. The Chairman suggested putting the development on the Land Charges Register as a point for the purchaser of the house on the development. It was asked if these works would impact on the in/out of Storrington low emissions trial. *The PCO stated that the County Council knew that the works were occurring and that modelling could be used to take those works into account.*

94. A local resident thanked the County Council for a successful operation watershed bid which had funded works to repair water damage on Park Lane, West Grinstead. In addition, the resident raised issues of water draining from one of the fields onto Park Lane, Mr Barnard, the local member, informed the meeting that this had been reported to Jonathan Ullmer. *The PCO undertook to get an update on this issue.* The final point raised concerned hedge cutting and that this seemed to be a slow process, citing Maplehurst Road in Cowfold as an example of how uncut hedges were causing dangerous driving conditions. Mr Barnard commented that officers were taking this forward. The PCO added that there was an issue that some hedges were privately owned but for those on the public highway there was an annual maintenance schedule and urged residents to report issues with hedges to the County Council's highways contact centre so the County Council could check with its contractors.

95. It was asked about the programme for general road repairs. The PCO informed the meeting that the programme for maintenance was set by regional inspectors who prioritise the workload and unfortunately some had to wait. A long stretch of the A281 was cited as needing action and the PCO encouraged these to be reported so they could be logged and considered. The A2116 between Henfield

and Albourne was also raised and that it was beyond being tarred and chipped. The Chairman said that he would have a site visit.

96. Mr Thomas, who had raised the issue of the need to address the safety of pedestrians on Rock Road, Thakeham and asked for an update on his request. Mr Circus responded that there could be some resistance from residents as increasing the pavement length may be perceived as making it become an urban road and that the stretch of footpath was underused and untidy. Mrs Arculus also stated she was concerned about urbanising the area and there could be issues of prioritising the scheme for funding. *The PCO informed the meeting that Rydon Community College had confirmed that they had other priorities as they had other children that came from other areas.* Mr Thomas was urged to gain parish council support to indicate community support for the proposed scheme, Thakeham Parish Council confirmed that they supported but Rock Road crossed parish boundaries. The PCO confirmed she would clarify these boundaries and provide them with a copy of the County Council's speed limit policy. In addition the PCO urged local residents to report anti-social driving along Rock Road to Operation Crackdown as this did work in local areas. Mrs Arculus enquired whether Section 106 monies from the Tesla site in Thakeham could be used for an improvement scheme for Rydon College. The PCO undertook to speak to Thakeham Parish Council.

Appointment of Local Authority Governors

97. The Committee noted that there were currently no appointments, reappointments or nominations to governing bodies for the Committee to approve and also noted the list of Authority Governor Vacancies for the Chanctonbury area (copy appended to the signed minutes).

Date of Next Meeting

98. The Committee noted that its next scheduled meeting would take place at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 3 June 2015 at Rydon Community College, Rock Road, Storrington, West Sussex, RH20 3AA.

[Post meeting note: this meeting was moved to 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 8 July 2015 at Sullington Parish Hall, Thakeham Road, Storrington, RH20 3PP.]

The meeting ended at 8.36 p.m.

Chairman