

Chanctonbury County Local Committee

17 September 2014 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7pm at St. Mary's CE Primary School, Link Lane, Pulborough.

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

In attendance: Cali Sparks (Principal Community Officer), Roger Harding (Assistant Highway Manager) and Helena Cox (Democratic Services Officer).

Welcome and Introductions

31. The Chairman welcomed the members of the public to the meeting and introduced the Committee Members and officers.

Declaration of Interests

32. There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

33. Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of the Chanctonbury County Local Committee (CLC) held on 11 June 2014 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

34. There were no urgent matters.

Community Issues List and Section 106 Funding

35. The Committee considered the latest Community Issues List 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 had support from the relevant local member and would be progressed when funding became available. The Chairman explained the process for using Section 106 monies and the importance of Parish Councils within this process.

36. The Chairman highlighted a new scheme in his division that had been added to the list in the parish of Bramber, which would provide pedestrian enhancements along an existing walking route and was known as Walks For All. The Chairman invited members of the committee for any comments/queries regarding the schemes identified on the list. Mrs Arculus stated that there were additional schemes to be added to the list in the parish of Thakeham and that there seemed to be a duplication of schemes in the parish of Pulborough. It was agreed that Mrs Arculus would give the PCO further details outside of the meeting so the list could be updated.

37. A Thakeham Parish Councillor was invited by the committee to voice concerns of the speed of traffic on Merrywood Lane and Greenhurst Lane in the parish of Thakeham. *The PCO stated that this could be added to the list if it had local member support.* Mrs Arculus asked the representative present to ensure that Thakeham Parish Council gave her a list of priorities as their local member. Further

to this issue a local resident, Matthew Beckett, addressed the committee supporting the need for a reduction in speed limit along Greenhurst Lane as he feared for the safety of his son who had to walk along the road, in some places without a footpath, to be able to catch his school bus. *The Assistant Highway Manager and PCO informed the committee that a proposed reduction in speed limit would need to be reviewed against speed limit policy. Traffic behaviour would be assessed by way of speed loops over a week long period at different periods of the day. This information would provide evidence if a reduction in speed limit was necessary or ascertain if there were other self-enforcing measures which could be taken. In addition, it was suggested that the community could get involved as part of the speedwatch programme and that reducing the speed limit did not always change the issue.* Mrs Arculus stated that a 60mph limit on a road which children used to get to and from school was too fast. The Parish Councillor informed that committee that there was also an issue of flooding on a tight bend on the road which caused traffic to move to the other side of the carriageway. It was suggested that funding from Operation Watershed could be used to address this issue and the Chairman encouraged Thakeham Parish Council to apply for funds. *The PCO informed the meeting that for there to be a reduction in speed limit the CLC would need to agree this as part of the CLC's Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) priorities which would be agreed next March for progression in the next financial year, prior to this there would need to be a speed survey.* Regarding the issue of flooding, if the Parish Council were to apply to Operation Watershed a decision could be made within 6-8 weeks and a cheque paid directly to the Parish Council to co-ordinate the works. It was agreed that the PCO would give Thakeham Parish Council the contact details and suggested that they work in partnership with West Chiltington Parish Council as the road crossed both parishes.

38. Mr Circus asked for clarification why schemes in his division were listed on the community issues list when he believed they were approved and on the programme to be delivered. *The PCO explained that the proposal was to go further north into Water Lane towards the A283 and therefore a separate scheme.*

Progress Statement

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

- Gateway B2116, Blacklands, Henfield – the Parish Council were due to discuss this scheme at their next meeting and the local member was asked to update the CLC at the next meeting.
- Flooding of Mouse Lane, Steyning – the Chairman updated that a consultant was required to have a more detailed look at the issue. The PCO was supporting the Parish Council to make a bid to Operation Watershed for the cost of the consultant and potential scheme.
- Extension of 40mph limit in Amberley – new data had been collected and was ready for analysis, once reviewed it would be shared with the local member and Parish Council.
- A283, Station Road, Pulborough – Mrs Arculus stated that the current pedestrian warning triangle towards the village was misleading. *The PCO responded that the sign complied with current regulations although she was investigating alternatives and what the costs involved would be.* Mrs Arculus

stated the importance of highway involvement in the proposed development nearby and the PCO confirmed that the developer had approached the County Council for pre application advice. The Chairman encourage Mrs Arculus to contact a member of Mike Elkington's team at the County Council who would deal with the application to look at it proactively.

- Downs Link Project – the Chairman informed the meeting that completion of the scheme was imminent.
- Bramber, Walks For All – the Chairman invited a representative from Bramber Parish Council to give the committee more details of the scheme. The timescale for completion was a couple of weeks and the walking facility would open in a month's time. It was agreed that this item would be removed from the progress statement.

40. Resolved – that the progress report be noted.

Safer Speed Signage

41. The Committee received a presentation from the Principal Community Officer (PCO) regarding safer speed signage and the work of the Sussex Safer Road Partnership (copy of slides appended to the signed minutes).

42. Mrs Arculus stated her concern that the focus was on speed rather than educating drivers to drive appropriately to the conditions. *The PCO responded that the intention was to target drivers to ensure they were aware of their responsibility to abide to the rules of the road.* The PCO clarified that the Sussex Safer Road Partnership scheme targeted urban areas with a speed limit of 30mph or less and that there was not a scheme for rural areas. It was suggested that members lobby the Police Crime Commissioner for resource to be dedicated in rural areas.

Penns Court, Steyning – Proposed Traffic Regulation Orders

43. The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Residents' Services and Head of Highways and Transport (copy appended to signed minutes), which sought approval to extend the double yellow lines throughout most of the southern side of Penns Court, Steyning. Roger Harding, Assistant Highways Manager introduced the report.

44. The Chairman invited residents of Penns Court present to address the CLC. Residents commented that they were keen for this proposal to be agreed for the safety of those who lived in the 62 properties within Penns Court. Access was currently restricted due to parked cars and there was a fear that emergency vehicles would not be able to gain access to Penns Court. There was also the issue of refuse trucks gaining access and it was highlighted there would only be the loss of one car parking space for other local residents. The Chairman stated that as local member he supported the recommendation.

45. A local resident, Louise Davis, whose property was opposite the entrance to Penns Court, addressed the CLC stating that she objected to the proposal. In her opinion three parking spaces would be lost rather than one and that six vehicles could be parked on either side of the road and there would still be vehicular access. In addition, Ms Davis raised a number of objections with the content of the report and raised concerns with the publication of the consultation, stating that notices

were only placed at Penns Court and not in surrounding roads, which would ultimately be impacted by the movement of parked cars.

46. Mrs Arculus suggested that a meeting with residents and highways officers should be arranged on site to discuss the issues and possible solutions. Mr Barnard queried who would enforce the double yellow lines and was informed this would be the District Council and Sussex Police if an obstruction occurred. Mr Circus enquired whether the Parish Council was in favour of the proposal and was informed that they were. Mrs Arculus stated that this issue was an illustration of the impact on residential roads when developers do not account for the existing parking issues before building new residential developments.

47. The Principal Community Officer (PCO) responded to Ms Davis's remarks on the content of the report highlighting that the request had come from a member of the community and would impact on all equally as there were no permits or allocated bays. The PCO acknowledged that there would be displacement of parked vehicles but emphasised that the proposals had been designed and developed in line with partners' requirements.

48. Resolved: -

That the Committee, having heard representations from local residents who both supported and opposed the proposal, agreed to defer the decision until the next meeting of the Chanctonbury CLC on 26 November 2014, following a site meeting with members of the committee, local residents and West Sussex County Council officers.

Talk with Us

49. A Parish Councillor suggested that following from the discussions around speed and road safety there should be a national campaign to reduce the national speed limit to 50mph. Mr Barnard suggested the Parish Council's write to their local MP. It was mentioned that this had been mooted at another CLC and it would be for MP's to take forward. The PCO stated that the Department for Transport had looked at the issue recently and had decided not to review the national speed limit at present. Mrs Arculus suggested setting up an online petition which would have to be discussed by Parliament if it reached a certain number of signatures.

50. A Thakeham Parish Councillor asked whose responsibility it was to remove fallen trees on the side of the road which had previously been moved from the highway. Members were informed that it was the responsibility of the landowner where the tree had been placed. Mr Barnard highlighted that as part of the Stronger Communities initiative Bolney Parish Council had chopped up fallen trees which were the responsibility of private landowners. Mrs Arculus stated that it was important for the County Council to move faster with rural parishes on smaller issues. Mr Barnard, as part of responsibility as Cabinet Member for Residents Services, stated that the County Council was currently formulating policy and would welcome any direction from local parishes.

51. A Bramber Parish Councillor, Nick Mills who is coordinating the Neighbourhood Plan for the cluster of parishes around Steyning, highlighted that there would be a public meeting on 1st November 2014 between 10am-1pm at the

Steaying Centre regarding the Steaying, Wiston, Ashurst and Bramber (SWAB) Neighbourhood Plan.

Chanctonbury Community Initiative Funding (CIF)

52. 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. There was one application from Steaying Film Club, towards the purchase of a catering tea boiler for use by the Steaying Centre, which the Chairman, as local member, supported. Members of the CLC stated that as the tea boiler would be made available for all users of the Steaying Centre they were happy to approve.

53. Resolved that the following award is made:

426/C Steaying Film Club, £765, towards the purchase of a catering tea boiler for use by the Steaying Centre.

Appointment of Local Authority Governors

54. 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.

55. Resolved - That the Committee approves the following appointments under the 2007 Regulations: -

- Mrs Penny Spokes to Amberley CEF School for a four year term;
- Dr Ann Corkery to West Chiltington CEP School for a four year term.

Date of Next Meeting

56. The Committee noted that its next scheduled meeting would take place at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 26 November 2014 at Storrington First School, Spierbridge Road, Storrington.

The meeting ended at 8.35 p.m.

Chairman