

Chanctonbury County Local Committee

8 July 2015 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.15pm at Sullington Parish Hall, Thakeham Road, Storrington.

Present: Mrs Arculus, Mr Barling, Mr Barnard and Mr Circus.

In attendance: Graham Olway (Principal Manager, Capital Planning and Projects), Chris Stark (Highway Manager), Cali Sparks (Principal Community Officer), Judith Packer (Voluntary Sector Relationship Officer) and Helena Cox (Democratic Services Officer).

Welcome and Introductions

1. Mr Barling, as the outgoing Chairman, opened the meeting as members had agreed that the election of a Chairman should be deferred until after the substantive agenda item, which was the 'Consultation on the organisation of education across the "STARS" Area Schools'.
2. Mr Barling welcomed the members of the public to the meeting and introduced the Committee Members and officers. Mr Barling also thanked those who had attended the event prior to the CLC meeting regarding the "STARS" consultation.

Declaration of Interest

3. None were declared.

Minutes

4. Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of the Chanctonbury County Local Committee (CLC) held on 4 March 2014 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the elected Chairman.

Urgent Matters

5. There were no urgent matters.

Consultation on the organisation of education across the "STARS" Area Schools (Amberley, Ashington, Storrington, Thakeham, St Marys, Washington and West Chiltington First Schools, Rydon Community College) as well as the implications for Steyning Grammar School

6. Mr Barling introduced Graham Olway, Principal Manager, Capital Planning and Projects to the meeting and invited him to present details of the consultation to members (consultation document can be found at www.westsussex.gov.uk/haveoursay).
7. Mr Olway informed the meeting that the consultation was focussing on the 'principles' of changing the organisation of education across the "STARS" area and the County Council was keen for residents to respond to the consultation and that it was important to hear from students as well. The principles had been consulted

upon in other areas of the county and this was the last remaining area where provision was not in line with the Key Stages of the National Curriculum.

8. Questions/comments are summarised as follows:

- Kevin Wells, a local resident, enquired whether a secondary school would be retained in the local area. *Mr Olway responded that there was a map of the schools which were included in the consultation and this would be added to the 'have your say' website to provide clarity.*
- A Storrington and Sullington Parish Councillor asked for clarity of the meaning of secondary school and how that was constituted as Key Stage 3 was a moveable feast. *Mr Olway responded that this consultation was not looking at specific schools and that secondary schooling in the area would be maintained, which would mean different things to different people. The consultation was planned to get a feeling of what residents wanted.*
- Dawn Watson, representing Ashington School stated that the facts were available and that she was of the opinion that a small secondary school would only be able to offer a small number of GCSEs and commented that Steyning currently offered 35 GCSEs. To have a smaller secondary school would mean reducing the offer of provision.
- The Headteacher at Steyning Grammar School, Mr Nick Wergan, commented that there were a number of students at the school who spent 3-5 years with them from the "STARS" area; Key Stages 3-4 were strong, with two years at Key Stage 3 on the Church Street site of the school. Mr Wergan urged people to talk to parents of children who were on that site to see that there was viability for Rydon to become a year 7 and 8 school, which could be part of a federation with Steyning Grammar School. Mr Wergan concluded by saying that curriculum reform should inform the way schools were organised.
- Fiona McConnachie representing Thakeham Parish Council stated that the problem of having Year 6 children in a small school was that they would not get the same exposure to science and languages. *In response it was commented that Steyning Grammar School have an arrangement where their specialist language teachers went out to primary schools in the area.*
- Kevin Newman representing Washington Parish Council commented that the wider demographic should be considered with school roles, as there would be extra funding for primary schools if they had additional classes. He asked why there couldn't be two secondary schools as there was no need just to have large secondary schools. *Mr Olway responded that with continued growth in every locality the County Council was planning for school places with pockets of development factored into future numbers. The County Council was working with District and Boroughs to secure financial contributions from developers to look at options. Regarding secondary provision there were a wide variety of size schools across the county however, the consultation was to look at principles to ensure that children have the best possible provision and that money was being put to best effect.*
- It was asked if a Free School could be a possibility in the area. *Mr Olway suggested questions like this be used as part of the feedback to the consultation.*
- Jen Persson, a parent at West Chiltington School, commented that residents were missing full information to make informed decisions. As a collective community there were differing opinions based on feelings more than facts and she wanted to understand more on funding. She requested anything which was in the public domain that would help inform decisions, be made

available on the website. It was also asked that any meetings with schools, as part of the consultation, were minuted. *Mr Olway apologised that the County Council had been slow to get information onto the website but through the length of the consultation, further information would be added. A map of the area would be added and officers would try to be at meetings organised at individual schools.*

- Richard Evea, a Storrington and Sullington Parish Councillor commented that in his view the team had been totally honest and fair in previous meetings and he had faith they would do the job.
- It was asked if there would be implications for future Ofsted inspections. *Mr Olway stated that he could not comment on behalf of Ofsted as that would be for individual schools.*
- John Allen, a resident of Ashington stated that he had respect for Rydon and that a sustainable solution to keep Rydon going was needed. It was hard to contribute if you did not understand the ramifications. *Mr Olway responded that there would be a need to understand options however the consultation was about principles, but in the meantime he could have discussions with learning colleagues.*
- It was asked if there was a need to build extra classrooms whether a planned date for implementation of September 2017 was realistic. *Mr Olway commented that the view from schools was to do it quickly and urged for comments of whether it should be done sooner rather than later be part of consultation responses.*
- Further to his earlier points, Mr Wergan commented that the consultation was on principles and that Rydon had rushed forward a campaign that Rydon would either be an 11-14 school or close. There was a strong case for a Year 7 and 8 school, although they were not at that stage in the process.
- When asked if any first school headteachers wished to comment, the Headteacher at Amberley First School said that he had attended the meeting purely to gauge the opinion of parents and the locality.

9. Mr Barling concluded by stating that this was the start of the process and the highlighted the importance of residents responding to the consultation.

Election of Chairman

10. Mr Barling then vacated the Chair and nominated Mr Philip Circus to become Chairman of Chanctonbury County Local Committee for the 2015/16 municipal year which was agreed unanimously.

Prevention and Wellbeing Grants

11. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Public Health, Commissioner for Health & Social Care (copy appended to the signed minutes). The report detailed how Prevention and Wellbeing Grants were allocated in 2014/15 and set out the prevention and wellbeing commissioning objectives for the 2015/16 financial year to ensure duplication of grant giving and commissioning did not take place.

12. The Committee considered the grant applications for 2015/16 as set out in Appendix B and discussed how to allocate funding.

13. Resolved – that

(a) The following applications were approved:

DR001 – Cruse West Sussex, £130.00
JP026 – Friends of Henfiled Medical Practice – cook and eat, £3,000.00
JP042 – Friends of Henfield Medical Practice – exercise classes, £1,000.00
JP014 – Horsham District Community Transport, £397.88
JP034 – Know Dementia, £1,930.00
NL004 – Lifecentre, £150.00
TL006 – PBC Foundation, £8.12
JP029 – Pulborough and District Community Care Association, £750.00
JP044 - Pulborough Volunteer Visiting, £750.00
TB01 – SASBAH, £250.00
JP046 – South Downs RAF Social Club, £500.00
DR024 – St Barnabas House, £500.00
JP021 – Storrington Tefoil Guild, £450.00
JP028 – Sullington Monday Club, £400.00
JP025 – West Sussex Mediation Service, £800.00

(b) The following applications were declined:

TB14 – Cancervive, £485.00 as the committee felt that, as the funding available was oversubscribed, the applicant could apply for Community Initiative Funding as an alternative.

TL022 – Collected Works CIC, £700.00 as the committee felt that, as the funding available was oversubscribed, the applicant could apply for Community Initiative Funding as an alternative.

TB30 – Ditchling Museum of Arts and Craft, £100.00 as the committee felt that this application would not have a wider benefit for Chanctonbury CLC residents.

Progress Statement

14. The Committee considered a report which provided updates on matters arising from previous meetings of the CLC (copy appended to signed minutes). Mrs Arculus asked for clarification regarding the Tesla site S106 contributions and as pedestrian improvements had not been done would the money be going towards improving the roundabout on Rock Road, Storrington. The Principal Community Officer highlighted the update in the progress report and commented that there was money there to be used but she was not aware of a scheme for the roundabout. Mrs Arculus asked what had happened to discussions about a potential roundabout scheme. The Principal Community Officer believed that there may be issues regarding fibre optic cables in the area however, the way the contribution had been secured allowed flexibility. As there was uncertainty where details of the discussions Mrs Arculus referred to were, officers undertook to find out and report back to Mrs Arculus.

15. Resolved – that the progress report be noted.

Community Issues List and Section 106 Funding

16. 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 footpath at Meadowside, Storrington had been added to the Community Issues List. Mr Barnard asked if the schemes included on the Community Issues List were up for review and it was agreed the Chairman of the CLC would write to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to ask for clarity. Mr Barling asked the Highway Manager to chase up a response he had asked for regarding Clays Hill.

Talk with Us Open Forum

17. The Chairman invited questions and comments from residents in attendance. A resident asked for further information, regarding the County Council's 2014/15 Audit Report, in relation to a database to assess eligibility criteria for free school meals, which had been delayed and was due to be delivered by Capita. In addition she asked if this would result in an extra cost to the community and asked who would be paying for it. *The Democratic Services Officer undertook to organise for a response to be sent and members asked to be copied into it.*

Chanctonbury Community Initiative Funding (CIF)

18. 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.

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

- Regarding application 685/C from the Steyning & District Community Partnerships, the Chairman invited a representative from the organisation, who was present at the meeting, to provide members with any additional information. Mr Barling as local member stated that he supported the application. Mrs Arculus highlighted that businesses should be contributing to the sign as this would be using public money to support businesses. Mr Barnard asked for confirmation that highways would not object to the location of the sign and that funding should be awarded subject to this confirmation.
- Regarding application 687/C from Steyning Business Chamber, Mrs Arculus commented that the CLC should not do this for every chamber of commerce and she did not want the potential to give funding to the voluntary sector to be affected.
- Regarding application 705/C from Beeding and Bramber Local History Society, having raised the possibility of the application being diverted the Heritage Lottery Fund; the applicant highlighted that only grants over £3,000 would be considered. Mrs Arculus stated her frustration that this was the criteria, having been told by a resident that there was still a large amount of funding available from that fund.

20. Resolved that –

a) The following awards were made:

685/C Steyning & District Community Partnerships, £2,500.00 to purchase and erect a tourist sign.

686/C Splash for Schools and Communities, £900.00 towards the purchase equipment for the youth Club.

687/C Steyning Business Chamber, £2,200.00 towards replacement parts for the Christmas lighting.

695/C Ravenscroft Guide and Community Centre, £2,500.00 towards the replacement of external doors and windows.

705/C Beeding and Bramber Local History Society, £1,500.00 to research, prepare and publish a book outlining the role of local people during the Great War.

707/C Trinity Methodist Church, £1,000.00 towards the replacement of a flat roof over WCs.

716/C Amberley Cricket Club, £500.00 to redecorate the interior of the cricket pavilion.

750/C Ashurst Village Hall, £1,200 to purchase materials to complete works to the outside of the hall.

b) The following applications were declined:

683/C Hanover Band, £261.43 towards the costs of purchasing musical instruments to be lent to school children as the committee believed that this would not directly benefit schools in the Chanctonbury area.

700/C Horton Golf Club, £5,000 to purchase machinery as the committee felt that this was not an appropriate use of Community Initiative Funding.

713/C Bluebird Community Partnership, £885.00 to purchase upgraded IT equipment and software as the committee believed that this would not benefit the majority of residents in the Chanctonbury CLC area.

Appointment of Local Authority Governors

21. 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

22. The Committee noted that its next scheduled meeting would take place at a venue to be confirmed at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 9 September 2015.

The meeting ended at 8.57 p.m.

Chairman