

Chanctonbury County Local Committee

28th September 2011 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7pm at Storrington First School, Storrington.

Present: Mr Wilkinson (Chairman), Mrs Arculus, Mr Barnard and Mr Deedman.

Chairman's Welcome

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

Declaration of Interests

31. There were no declarations of interest at this point. See minute 63.

Minutes

32. Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting of the Chanctonbury County Local Committee (CLC) held on 8th June 2011 and the special Adults' Grants meeting held on 27th July 2011 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Progress Statement

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

Community Safety in Chanctonbury

34. Sergeant Bob Trevis of the Neighbourhood Policing Team updated the Committee on work that was ongoing in the area. Updates included: -

- The BT line into the Fire Station in Henfield was now in place and the office would therefore be up and running soon. Sussex Police were very keen to establish a similar office in Storrington.
- A new system was now in place for recording anti-social behaviour which meant that instead of a report, incidents were now dealt with as longer terms issues. As a result there had been a marked improvement in how these issues were dealt with.
- Sussex Police were working with Parish Councils and local communities. For example Upper Beeding Parish Council to look at youth provision. The Snack Bus and Purple Bus had proved to be good initiatives which were run by trained youth workers.
- Operation Autumn launched to tackle crime around Halloween and Firework season.
- New radio system to be launched in rural areas. Sergeant Trevis hoped to provide an update at the next CLC meeting.

35. A local resident asked whether a special Police presence could be arranged during work on the new play area at Meadowside, Storrington taking place over a three to four week period. Sergeant Trevis agreed to look into this.

Infrastructure Planning

36. Tracey Webb, Principal Highway Officer, Community Development & Big Society Team, advised that the Infrastructure Planning process was currently being reviewed. The aim was to make it more inclusive of local views/needs and to look at different ways of funding initiatives. She advised that at its meeting in November 2011 the Chanctonbury CLC would be asked to consider a range of priorities to be reviewed and considered for progression within available resources. She encouraged the local community to put forward ideas and initiatives.

37. Resolved – That the Committee notes the verbal update.

Speed Limits in Parishes - Requests received from Parish Councils

Ashington Parish Council

38. The Chairman advised that the Committee had received a request from Ashington Parish Council to extend the present 30mph limit that finished immediately east of the southern A24 flyover in Hole Street, Ashington, through Wiston village, where there was a 40mph limit at present, up to the Wiston cross roads at the A283. There were no representatives from Ashington Parish Council at the meeting.

39. The Committee discussed the request and agreed to ask Highways officers to assess the route against the SPACE criteria (the framework for assessing TROs against five criteria; Safety, Pollution, Accessibility, Congestion and Engagement) and add it to the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) priority list. It was noted that there may be an opportunity to progress the TRO more urgently if the Parish Council was able to fund the cost of the TRO (legal, set up and maintenance costs).

40. Resolved – That Hole Street and Water Lane, Ashington be assessed by Highways officers against the SPACE criteria for a 30mph speed limit and that it be included on the TRO priority list.

Washington Parish Council

41. The Chairman advised that the Committee had received a request from Washington Parish Council for a reduced speed limit (from the national speed limit, 60mph along London Road, The Pike and The Bostal in Washington down to 30mph).

42. The Chairman welcomed representatives of Washington Parish Council to the meeting. Councillor Horwood presented a report (copy appended to the signed minutes). The report advised that the main issue was traffic travelling along the A283 and using the village as a cut through to the A24. It advised that drivers approach the village along the A283, where there was a 50mph speed limit, with a national speed limit sign on entry to the village. Data collected from a number of previous traffic surveys (included in the appendix) indicated that the further along London Road and the Washington Bostal the faster the traffic speed, which posed a significant risk to pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians, residents and school children.

43. The Committee considered the report and presentation. It was suggested that a large proportion of the traffic was commuting as opposed to local traffic. It

was also noted that the road was used as an alternative route along the South Downs Way. Members agreed that a de-restricted speed limit did not seem appropriate and suggested that Community Highways officers be asked to score the route against the SPACE criteria for a 30mph speed limit and that it be added to the TRO priority list. Tracey Webb advised that the location of the speed survey was critical and agreed that a Community Highways Officer would liaise with Washington Parish Council.

44. Resolved - That the Committee notes the report and requests that route be SPACE assessed and added to the Traffic Regulation Order Priority list.

B2139 - Storrington to Whiteways Lodge Route – Road Safety Review

45. The Committee considered a report by the Director for Communities and Infrastructure (copy appended to the signed minutes). The report was requested by the CLC who asked that a road safety review of the B2139 between Storrington and Amberley be undertaken and the findings presented in an information report. In particular the report was to consider the benefits or otherwise of introducing a lower speed limit on the sections currently subject to the national speed limit.

46. Tracey Webb introduced the report which advised that a route Safety Speed Management Scheme was implemented on the B2139 between Storrington and Whiteways Lodge in 2007. The scheme was considered successful with the average annual accident rate reducing. The report advised that following the safety review the introduction of a 40mph was considered to have a statistically significant risk of increasing the number of serious collisions, as it was likely to increase the number of inappropriate overtaking manoeuvres. It also advised that a 50mph speed limit may have a limited benefit by reducing the number of drivers who chose to travel at excessive speeds, but was unlikely to bring about significant changes to the current average speeds. The report suggested that the County Council could look at a number of low cost features to further highlight the Rackham Street junction.

47. A representative of Parham Parish Council thanked the Committee for commissioning the review. She advised that the Parish Council would be considering the report at its meeting in November and would provide a response to the County Council. She commented that it was encouraging to see that there were some low cost features that could potentially be introduced.

48. A representative of Amberley Parish Council suggested that the 40mph speed limit through Amberley village be extended 200 metres east from the current terminal signs. The Chairman suggested that this may mean that the current rumble strips would need to be removed. He suggested that the Parish Council discuss the request at its next Council meeting. Tracey Webb agreed to carry out a site visit and to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council. It was also suggested that the double white lines could be extended. Members requested that the estimated cost of extending the double white lines be presented at the Parish Council meeting.

49. Resolved – That the Committee notes the report and that a Highways Officer attends the next meeting of Amberley Parish Council to discuss the request to extend the 40mph speed limit through Amberley and the possible extension of the double white lines along the B2139

towards the Rackham Street junction.

Shooting Field, Steyning – Proposed Traffic Regulation Order

50. The Committee considered a report by the Director for Communities and Infrastructure (copy appended to the signed minutes) on the proposed Traffic Regulation Order for single yellow and double yellow line waiting restrictions on Shooting Field, Steyning. The report advised that on street parking on Shooting Field has caused concern for residents, and road users for many years. The high level of parking has led to congestion and parking at the junctions which impedes visibility. Due to the close proximity of two schools much of the concern is for the safety of children walking to and from school. The proposed single and double yellow line waiting restrictions are considered necessary to improve road safety and prevent dangerous parking near junctions. Upon formal consultation with the public, one letter of objection (now withdrawn), support from the local member, and a letter of no objection from Sussex Police were received.

51. The Committee discussed the report.

52. Resolved – That the Committee, having considered that the resulting benefits to the community outweigh the concerns raised, is asked to authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to make the Traffic Regulation Order as advertised.

Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) Consultation on Proposed Merger

53. The Chairman welcomed Mr Bradbury, Cabinet Member for Public Protection, to the meeting.

54. The Committee received a presentation from Matt Sturman, Director of Resources, West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (FRS). The presentation advised that East Sussex and West Sussex FRSs were developing a business case on options to increase operational resilience and preserve frontline services to the public across West Sussex, East Sussex and the City of Brighton and Hove. A 12-week consultation process started on 14th July 2011 to provide the opportunity for residents, business and public organisations to give their views on a potential merger. It was noted that comments made at the meeting would be fed into the consultation and inform the County Council's decision in December.

55. A number of comments/questions were raised, including: -

- Asked about the likely location of the new combined control room. *Mr Sturman confirmed that a decision had been reached but that it was likely the new control room would be in a neutral location. Mr Bradbury confirmed that there were no plans to build a new control room but if the merger went ahead there was likely to be an emphasis to move to a new location with staff commuting as one of the main drivers for this. He confirmed that a funding bid for had been submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government.*
- Asked about back up procedures for the control room. *Mr Sturman confirmed that there was always a fall back position provided by neighbouring services.*
- Asked how the three services would integrate their procedures. *Mr Sturman advised that the services were looking to standardise a number of*

procedures and also their vehicle fleet. He advised that East and West Sussex currently assisted each other and he did not believe there would be an operational problem. Mr Bradbury added that the software and hardware currently used by East Sussex FRS was nearly obsolete which presented a dilemma.

- *Asked whether the £3.8m savings were a one-off saving or on-going. Mr Bradbury advised that they were year on year savings. He confirmed that 80% of the total current budget was spent on wages and that some savings would come from the rationalisation of equipment and buildings but would also involve some reductions in manpower, primarily from the Senior Management Team and back office functions. He advised that the costs associated with the new authority were in the order of £2m.*
- *Asked whether the County Council would pick up the full cost of redundancies. Mr Bradbury said he hoped that redundancies would be voluntary.*
- *Asked about the likely Governance arrangements of the new authority. Mr Bradbury said it was likely there would be 24 members on the new authority comprising 12 West Sussex County Council members, 8 East Sussex County Council members and 4 Brighton and Hove City Council members.*

Talk With Us Open Forum

56. A local resident asked about the gritting arrangements for Horn Lane in Henfield. Tracey Webb advised that Horn Lane was not currently on the Priority One Network within the Winter programme, however she advised that there was now a facility to pick out cold spots and to grit part of the network rather than the complete route. It was agreed that a Community Highways Officer would liaise with the contractor and request that Horn Lane be included on the Priority One Network.

57. A local Steyning resident voiced safety concerns regarding the A283 bypass around Steyning, particularly the junction with Canons Way. She advised that local residents were campaigning for a re-examination of the current 60mph speed limit together with proposed acceleration and deceleration lanes. She had been in contact with the local County Councillor Mr Deedman and Steyning Parish Council and the campaign had gained local press coverage.

58. The Chairman of Steyning Parish Council added that the Parish Council was also very concerned. He advised that the Highways Committee had requested further feedback prior to an item being included on an agenda. A survey was being conducted that weekend and leaflets had been distributed to local residents. He confirmed that he had requested a meeting with County Council Highways officers. Officers agreed to follow this up.

59. A local resident asked what action had been taken on traffic modelling in Storrington. *The Chairman advised that it was the responsibility of Horsham District Council (HDC) to prepare an Air Quality Management plan and then seek support from partners including the County Council. He advised that the report had to be with Defra by June 2012.*

60. A local resident raised concerns about the proposed Waitrose superstore in Storrington. *The Chairman advised that the County Council would be concerned*

with the increase in traffic created by the store but that planning was the responsibility of HDC.

Chanctonbury Community Initiative Funding

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

62. Mr Barnard declared a personal interest in application 1660/C as Deputy Leader of West Sussex County Council and portfolio holder for Communities, Environment and Enterprise.

63. Resolved – That Community Initiative Funding be allocated as follows:

- (i) Members voted in favour of approving this application (the vote was carried by a majority of three, Mr Barnard abstained). The following amount was approved: -

1660/C Steyning 10:10 Campaign, £350, for the purchase of three reusable, biodegradable promotional banners, the printing of A6 leaflets for Insulation Month and a 'Shop Local' inclusive directory.

- (ii) The following application is declined as the Committee considers the Parish Council should use its precept and it is therefore outside of the funding criteria: -

1645/C Steyning Parish Council, £400, two provide two 'finger-arm direction signs' to the refurbished memorial garden.

- (iii) The following application was withdrawn: -

1622/C Pulborough Community Partnership, £1,000, for the purchase of a 6x12m marquee as the offer of shared ownership of the marquee had now expired.

Appointment of Authority School Governors

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

65. Resolved - That the following appointments and reappointments be approved:

Appointments:

- Mrs J Handley to West Chiltington for a 4 year term
- Mr M Hobbs to Upper Beeding for a 4 year term

Re-Appointments:

- Ms D Streatfield to St Andrew's Steyning for a 4 year term

Date of Next Meeting

66. The Committee noted that its next scheduled meeting would take place on Wednesday 30th November 2011, 7pm, at Rydon Community College, Rock Road, Pulborough, RH20 3AA.

The meeting ended at 9.12pm

Chairman