

Central Mid Sussex County Local Committee

29th November 2011 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 pm at Warden Park School

Present: Mr. B Acraman, Mr P Bradbury (Chairman), Mrs C Field (Vice Chairman), Mr B Hall and Mrs A Hall.

Chairman's Welcome

43. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting, introduced members and officers and invited those attending to introduce themselves. Apologies were noted for Mr P Griffiths. Attending officers were Monique Smart, Democratic Services Officer, George Chisenga, Gatwick Diamond Team Manager and David Crockford, Team Leader - Mainstream and Passenger Transport.

44. The Chairman introduced Chrissy Hamilton, Assistant Head of Warden Park School and also the Head Girl, Emily, who welcomed the Committee and public to the meeting.

Declarations of Interest

45. In accordance with the members' Code of Conduct, the following personal interests were declared:

- Mr P Bradbury as the Cabinet Member for Public Protection.

Minutes

46. Resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on 8th September 2011 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

47. The Chairman stated that he would like to amend the agenda and bring forward agenda item 6, Haywards Heath Market.

Haywards Heath Market

48. The Chairman introduced the information report by Director Communities and Infrastructure and Head of Engineering Solutions (copy appended to the signed minutes). He explained that since the market had opened there had been a significant amount of public debate about its impact in terms of bus routes, traffic and retail trade. Since the last meeting of the Committee, the Chairman undertook to look into the impact and has had various meetings with the bus operators, County Council officers and District and Town Councillors. He explained that these meetings had been very productive and various options for moving forward were being discussed.

49. The Chairman welcomed Michael Bishop, Operations Director, Countryliner, Councillor Tim Farmer, Haywards Heath Town Council and Councillor Gary Wall – Mid Sussex District Council.

50. The Chairman invited comments and questions from those present. In the discussion that followed, a number of points were raised, which included those set out below:

- A local trader from the Broadway stated that his trade had significantly dropped on Saturdays since the introduction of the market. He stated that the main impact was the road closure and the fact that his customers could not park near the shop. It was stated that traders in The Orchards had also noticed a reduction in trade.
- A representative from Haywards Heath Business Association stated that Haywards Heath is a market town and that the increase in footfall had been significant on market days. She asked the bus companies to think creatively to bring shoppers into the town.
- John de Mierre, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Haywards Heath District Council, stated that it was difficult to tell if the market was affecting trade in the current economic climate. He agreed that a survey could be useful to test the impact and stated he would consider undertaking such a survey. The Chairman stated that he would encourage such a survey.
- The main issues being considered with the bus companies are in relation to whether the routes should be changed and also whether the current temporary stops are in the right place. These are the subjects of continuing discussions. It was agreed that notes from these meetings would be made available to all members of the CLC. Tim Farmer agreed to arrange this.
- A local resident made a plea for all buses to use South Road and Boltro Road.
- It was suggested that better road diversion signage could be provided on market days.
- Michael Bishop, Operations Director, Countryliner stated that the main problem regarding buses serving South Road is that they can not service the Railway Station and South Road without adding time or extra buses and unfortunately there are no additional funds available.
- The Chairman confirmed that he would continue to work hard with all concerned parties to get an equitable solution.

Urgent Matters

51. The Chairman informed those present that West Sussex County Council had launched a survey to find out more about how people use certain bus services. The bus user survey will help the County Council when making further decisions around which bus subsidies have to be reduced. The Chairman encouraged anyone who uses buses to complete the survey either online at www.westsussex.gov.uk/buses or by calling 01243 642105. The closing date for feedback is January 17 2012.

52. The Chairman also welcomed the recent County Council announcement of a £50 million kick start package to boost the local economy. He also welcomed the District Council scheme to create a new industrial unit in Haywards Heath.

Progress Statement

53. The Committee had before it a progress statement on matters arising from the previous meeting (copy appended to the signed minutes). Comment/queries were as follows:

- A follow up reminder would be sent regarding the street lighting issue in Wellswood.
- Northlands Avenue Controlled Crossing. The Chairman confirmed this was being discussed as part of the Committees Area Infrastructure Plan and these priorities would be finalised at the next meeting in February
- George Chisenga also agreed to provide an update with regard to the School Safety zone at Lindfield and Oathall.
- The TRO progress report stated that the Fox Hill TRO had been incorporated into the Relief Road TRO. The Committee expressed concern that this would delay the Fox Hill TRO and asked George Chisenga to ensure that his colleagues were notified that the CLC wish this progress as a matter of urgency.
- There followed a number of questions with regard to the apparent delay around TRO's on the progress report. The Committee expressed dissatisfaction about the delays and the Chairman undertook to arrange a meeting with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to discuss the issue.

Proposed Safer Routes to School Improvement – London Lane, Cuckfield.

54. The Chairman introduced the report by the Director Communities & infrastructure (copy appended to the signed minutes).

55. Resolved:

- i) That the Committee recommends that the Cabinet Member approves the allocation of £30k of eligible s106 funding available.
- ii) That the Central Mid Sussex CLC gives approval and authorisation to the Divisional Manager for Transport & Countryside Services to formulate the design and location of a puffin crossing in London Lane, and, should no unresolved objections be received during the design process that the Head of Legal & Democratic Services be authorised to formally advertise the proposal

Community Initiative Funding (CIF)

56. The Committee considered the new applications for CIF outlined in the report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (copy appended to the signed minutes). The Committee awarded funding based on the merits of each bid.

57. Resolved that the Committee approved the following applications for funding:

- 1671/CMS Haywards Heath U3A, £1,536, towards the purchase of IT equipment and a display board.
- 1703/CMS, 4Sight, £167, towards educational packs for all school children in the Central Mid Sussex area

Appointment of Local Authority School Governors

58. The Committee considered the report by the Director Operations Learning which explained the criteria for appointment to school governing bodies and listed proposed nominations (copy appended to the signed minutes).

59. Resolved that the Committee approved the following appointment:

- Mr John Maher to Holy Trinity School, Cuckfield for a 4 year term

Winter Maintenance Update

60. The Chairman introduced George Chisenga, Gatwick Diamond Team Manager, Community Development & Big Society. George provided the Committee with a verbal update regarding the County Council preparedness for winter. Comment/queries were as follows:

- Winter Management Plans have been submitted from many Parish Councils.
- Salt bins for those Parishes who have submitted their plans will be filled or topped up shortly.
- Advance bulk bag deliveries will be made to Balcombe and Haywards Heath shortly.
- Mass distribution of bulk bags to all parishes will only take place if snow is forecasted.
- Roads to be treated with salt by WSCC the same as last year (reviewing Balcombe).
- Balfour Beatty will be making the daily decision not WSCC
- 10,000 tons of salt currently in our depot, more available if we need it.
- Met Office providing the Daily Weather forecast
- 23 gritter provided by Balfour Beatty (all new) plus 3 spares. The public can follow the routes of the gritters using 'Gritter Twitter' at www.twitter.com/wscCGritting
- Daily Decision form will still be e:mail to all interested parties (can add more names if required)
- http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/living/emergencies/get_ready_for_winter.aspx– for useful information and advice.
- Some farmers who have signed up to help with snow clearance in Central Mid Sussex Area.
- The Chairman agreed to ask the Cabinet Member responsible, if the County Council contact centre would be operational to take out of hours calls regarding winter maintenance.

Talk with Us Open Forum

61. The Chairman invited comments and questions from residents. In the discussion that followed, a number of points were raised, which included those set out below:

- Mr Nye, Foxhill Residents Association stated that parking in Colwell Road was still a problem. Anne Hall stated that she was aware of the issues and had requested an officer meeting to look at this again. District and Town Council representatives requested to be part of this meeting.

- Mr John Sage, Greenhill Way Residents' Association asked if WSCC could confirm that they will be responding to Lewes District Council's consultation on their emerging Core Strategy which proposes allocating land to the east of Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill for potential housing development, and if so, outline the nature of their response?"

George Chisenga to provide the following response:

The County Council has recently been consulted by Lewes District Council and South Downs National Park Authority on their Emerging Core Strategy and is in the process of preparing a response. Although it is the local planning authority's role to plan for new development, the County Council is a key stakeholder in the planning process and service provider. The County Council's response is likely to state that insufficient evidence has been presented to demonstrate that the sites are acceptable in transport terms and the emerging draft Mid Sussex District Plan and Burgess Hill Town Wide Strategy, including the cumulative impact on West Sussex County Council services, do not appear to have been taken account of. If the sites adjacent to Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill were to proceed, then there would be a need to ensure that sufficient funds are made available to mitigate the impact on West Sussex County Council services.

- Mr Pigeon, a resident from Hurstfield Close, understood that developers would be applying for a closure of Hurstwood Lane for three months. He requested if this could be kept open for residents. The Chairman stated that when the application is received then the County Council would take account local residents needs.
- A local resident asked the Committee to consider a Pelican crossing on the relief road. The Chairman suggested that the resident discuss this with the local member, Anne Hall, who could bring it forward as a TRO proposal.
- Cuckfield residents stated that a crossing in Ardingly Road was required and should be considered in the same way as the earlier decision on London Lane. The Chairman confirmed this was being discussed as part of the Committees Area Infrastructure Plan and these priorities would be finalised at the next meeting in February.

Date of Next Meeting

62. The Committee noted that its next scheduled meeting would take place on 9th February 2012 at Haywards Heath Library.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Chairman