

Unconfirmed minutes, subject to approval/amendment at the next meeting of the Central Mid Sussex County Local Committee

Central Mid Sussex County Local Committee

15 December 2015 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 pm at Balcombe Victory Hall, Balcombe.

Present: Mr Acraman (Worth Forest), Mr Bradbury (Cuckfield and Lucastes) (Chairman), Mrs Field (Lindfield and High Weald), Mr Griffiths (Hurstpierpoint and Bolney), Mr Hillier (Haywards Heath East) and Mr Wickremaratchi (Haywards Heath Town).

In attendance: Rachel Allan (Democratic Services Officer) and Richard Speller (Highways Area Manager).

Welcome and Introductions

46. The Chairman welcomed everyone in attendance to the meeting and invited members of the Committee and officers to introduce themselves.

Declarations of Interest

47. In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct the following interests were declared: -

- Mr Bradbury declared a personal interest as a Mid Sussex District Councillor in relation to the Haywards Heath Town Centre Transport Study.
- Mr Hillier declared a personal interest as a Haywards Heath Town Councillor in relation to the Haywards Heath Town Centre Transport Study.
- Mr Wickremaratchi declared a personal interest as a Haywards Heath Town Councillor in relation to the Haywards Heath Town Centre Transport Study.
- Mr Hiller declared a prejudicial interest as Chair of Bentswood Community Partnership to Community Initiative Funding, application 812/CMS.
- Mr Griffiths declared a personal interest as a registered carer to Community Initiative Funding, application 816/CMS.

Minutes

48. Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 15 September 2015 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman, subject to one amendment at Minute 29, that "London Lane" read as "London Road".

Urgent Matters

49. The Chairman invited Mr Acraman to update the Committee on the recent boundary commission review that had been undertaken. He advised that a draft set of recommendations had been developed, and took the Committee through the aspects of the recommendations that would affect the Central Mid Sussex area. These included a re-organisation of the divisions in Haywards Heath. A public consultation for a period of eight weeks commenced on 15 December 2015. Mr Acraman advised that all changes would be in place for the May 2017 election.

'Talk with Us' Open Forum & Community Updates

50. The Chairman invited previously successful Community Initiative Fund (CIF) applicants to provide feedback on how the funding had helped their organisations.

- Marion Wilcock, thanked the Committee for funding Haywards Heath Community CIC to run the Winter Festival Street event.

51. The Chairman invited Committee members to provide verbal updates on recent and upcoming items of interest within their electoral divisions.

- Mr Wickremaratchi advised the Committee on the current works at Haywards Heath train station, and explained that the car parks had now been re-opened.
- Mr Griffiths commented that the improvements that had been made at Bolney by the volunteers had reduced the number of road accidents to zero.
- Mr Bradbury advised that Ansty and Staplefield Parish Council had submitted their draft plan village plan to Mid Sussex District Council.

52. The Chairman invited questions and comments from members of the public, which included: -

- A representative from Cuckfield Parish Council asked for an update on traffic regulation orders (TRO). Mr Hillier explained that the Task and Finish Group which had been examining TROs had finished, and that proposals were with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport awaiting a decision.
- Mr Bates, a resident, asked the Committee for an update on the Wivelsfield Road crossing. The Highways Area Manager explained that this would have to be assessed when the new criteria for TROs was established.
- Mr Bates further asked about the lack of street lighting on the footpaths adjacent to Bolnore and Ashenground woods. The Highways Area Manager advised that due to vandalism and conservation issues, repairs work to the lighting had been challenging, but that the Council was working on this in correspondence with village residents.
- A resident asked whether the Council would be responsible for the costs of repair to a pavement outside a new development. The Highways Area Manager requested that the resident report this to the relevant department, and assured him that the Council always sought to recharge costs where appropriate.

Progress Statement

53. The Highways Area Manager introduced the progress statement following the September 2015 meeting (copy attached to the signed minutes). He provided updates as follows:

- Paddockhall Road, Haywards Heath: Roadworks were about to be removed from the road, but other works were scheduled to take place shortly. The Council was looking at how it could better co-ordinate works in the future.
- HGVs travelling through Mid Sussex: The Committee noted the correspondence that had been received on this matter. The Cabinet Member has written to all parishes on this issue, and was awaiting responses.

- Utility works on Borde Hill Lane: This will be closed for a period of four months from the middle of January 2016.
- Traffic calming in Slaugham, Pease Pottage, Handcross and Warninglid: The funding was currently being transferred to Warninglid to commence gateway features.

54. Resolved - That the Committee notes the written and verbal updates.

Haywards Heath Town Centre Transport Study

55. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Strategic Planning and Place and Strategic Planning Manager (copy attached to the signed minutes). The consultation report presented the conclusions of the Haywards Heath Town Centre Transport Study technical assessment, including the recommendations of the consultants WS Atkins. The Study was guided by the Haywards Heath Town Centre Working Group, which included local councillors representing Haywards Heath Town Council, Mid Sussex District Council and West Sussex County Council.

56. Richard Speller, Highways Area Manager, introduced the Report. He advised that the conclusions of the Study had been presented to the Central Mid Sussex County Local Committee meeting on 15 September 2015. At this meeting, the Committee requested that the study be published and local stakeholders be invited to give their views on the study and to identify their priority schemes.

57. At this stage, all schemes were at the feasibility stage and no preferred options had been identified by the County Council. For any scheme to be implemented, it would need to be included in the County Council's Capital Programme by demonstrating how it delivered corporate ambitions and intentions. It would also be necessary to identify or secure the necessary funding and carry out all relevant design stages, consultation and approvals prior to implementation.

58. Members discussed the report, asked questions and made comments including: -

- That prioritisation for the scheme had been challenging, but the implementation of this scheme would improve the traffic issues in Haywards Heath town centre.

59. Resolved – That the Committee;

- (a) Endorses the priorities for scheme delivery identified by the Haywards Heath Town Centre Transport Study Working Group as outlined in paragraphs 4.2-4.4;
- (b) Requests that these priorities are taken into account by the County Council and partners when considering making future investment decisions against agreed County Council priorities, and in particular when seeking external funding and making use of developer contributions (in line with all relevant planning regulations);
- (c) Requests that the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport:

- i. considers this priority list of schemes against agreed County Council priorities and if approved by the County Council, work with all relevant bodies to ensure the scheme objectives are delivered;
- ii. notes that as and when other schemes emerge, they, too, will be assessed against County Council agreed priorities; and
- iii. if identified as a priority by the County Council, more detailed work be undertaken to assess the potential of the Muster Green Gyrotory scheme.

Community Initiative Funding

60. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law, Assurance and Strategy (copy attached to the signed minutes) which detailed applications for Community Initiative Funding.

61. The Committee debated the respective merits of the application.

62. Mr Hillier declared a prejudicial interest in application 812/CMS (Bentswood Community Partnership) and left the room whilst that item was discussed.

63. Resolved: - That the following applications be approved: -

807/CMS – Scaynes Hill Village Centre Trust, £1,786.00 towards reduction of heating costs.

812/CMS – Bentswood Community Partnership, £2,247.00 for production of newsletter over 12 months. However, requested funding for delivery costs of newsletter was not supported.

816/CMS – Haywards Heath WI, £680.00 towards making activity blankets for dementia patients.

819/CMS – Haywards Heath Town Twinning Association, £2280.00 towards a mosaic to celebrate 175 years of the railway in Haywards Heath and town twinning.

Schools Consultation

64. The Chairman explained to the Committee the impact of the recent schools consultation on the Central Mid Sussex area. He thanked the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills who had allowed the Committee to provide comments on this consultation outside of the consultation period, which had ended on 30 November 2015.

65. Members discussed the consultation, and made comments including: -

- That the proposals were broadly welcomed.
- There were concerns about the impact on traffic in relation to the increase in school traffic.
- That a new development in the proposed area had also included plans for a new school, details of which had not yet been provided to the Council.

- There was concern that there was still not sufficient provision for school places demand over the next twenty years.

66. Resolved – That the Committee provide its comments to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills.

Nominations and Appointments to School and Academy Governing Bodies

67. The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director Care, Wellbeing and Education (copy attached to the signed minutes). The report included a list of the current vacancies for Local Authority Governors in the CLC area).

68. Resolved –That the Committee approves the following nomination under the 2012 Regulations:-

(1) Appointments:

- Mrs C Gage to Bolnore Village Primary School for a four-year term.

Date of Next Meeting

69. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday 15 March 2016 at Haywards Heath Library.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Chairman