

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 September 2015 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 pm at Haywards Heath Library.

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

Apologies were received from: Mr Acraman (Worth Forest) and Mr Wickremaratchi (Haywards Heath Town).

Welcome and Introductions

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

Declarations of Interest

21. Mr Hillier declared a personal interest as a Haywards Heath Town Councillor and Chairman of the Haywards Heath Town Centre Transport Study Working Group in relation to agenda item 6 Haywards Heath Town Centre Transport Study.

Minutes

22. Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 23 June 2015 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

23. The Chairman advised that a late Local Authority Governor nomination had been received and would be considered at the relevant agenda item - Nominations and Appointments to School and Academy Governing Bodies

'Talk with Us' Open Forum & Community Updates

(a) Local Member Updates

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

- Mr Griffiths, County Councillor for Hurstpierpoint and Bolney, commended the work undertaken to improve the A272 through Bolney, particularly the superb flower beds and posts now in place. He explained that guidance and insurance had been provided by the County Council and that as the local County Councillor he had supported the group with their work.
- Mr Hillier, County Councillor for Haywards Heath East, advised that Bentswood Community Partnership had been very active over the summer. He also informed the meeting that a group of local residents had organised a fundraising event to be held on Sunday 27 September at Haywards Heath Football Club. The money raised would be divided between the families of

the victims of the Shoreham Air show tragedy, the Red Cross and the Air Ambulance Service.

(b) Feedback from Recipients of Community Initiative Funding

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

- Lucinda Meagher, Programme Manager for IMPACT Tasty Team (awarded £1,566 towards equipment and Training for 'Get Cooking' courses) advised that IMPACT was an international development charity. Some of the CIF funds awarded had paid for a secure storage box for gardening equipment used in the community garden situated behind the Saltworkz Café in the Bentswood area of Haywards Heath. The project helped local people at risk of isolation. The remainder of the funding had paid for the training of two volunteers to run the Tasty Team cookery courses – weekly courses run at local schools, including Warden Park Primary.
- Barry Prior, Chair of Trustees for the Haywards Heath Food bank (awarded a £1,688 donation) provided a written update on how the funding had helped the charity which was circulated to members of the Committee.

(c) Talk with Us Public Open Forum

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

- A resident of Paddockhall Road, Haywards Heath, raised concerns about the difficulty of crossing the road outside Haywards Heath railway station due to the current works taking place. The resident said she had received excellent support from the Town Clerk at Haywards Heath Town Council. The Highway Area Manager for Mid Sussex agreed to meet with the resident to look at what action could be taken to increase the safety of pedestrians.
- A representative of the Lindfield Preservation Society updated the Committee on the proposed scheme to deal with the problems of HGVs travelling through Mid Sussex which had developed in to a much larger scheme and was now supported by seven of the local parish councils (Ardingly, Lindfield, Lindfield Rural, Horsted Keynes, Turners Hill, Worth and Cuckfield). A meeting with Balcombe Parish Council was due to take place the following evening. A letter from The Rt. Hon. Sir Nicholas Soames, MP to the Chief Operating Officer of the County Council was circulated to Committee members (copy attached to the signed minutes). The letter outlined concerns over ineffective policies and sought to protect Lindfield and Haywards Heath and supported the introduction of a weight restriction on Cuckfield High Street and London Lane. The Chairman advised that he had written to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport and that a response had been received, supported by correspondence from Sussex Police (copy attached to the signed minutes). He reiterated that the opinion of the Committee was that this was a countywide problem which could not be dealt with locally and undertook to write to the Cabinet member to inform, him of these events (copy attached to the signed minutes). Mr Griffiths declared a personal interest as a member of the County Council's Traffic Regulation Order Task and Finish Group and emphasised that

although the response from Sussex Police advised that it would be impossible to enforce it did not necessarily mean that it could not be given further consideration.

- A Cuckfield Parish Councillor raised concerns about the forthcoming utility works on Borde Hill Lane, Balcombe Road, near Haywards Heath, that were scheduled to begin in January 2016 and predicted to last for five months. He advised that he had received a disappointing response from West Sussex Highways advising that the contractors were within their legal right to work on the roads. A number of local residents were also present for this issue. The Highway Area Manager was asked whether the utility companies were challenged by the County Council about the length of time taken to complete works. He confirmed that this was a matter for the Street Works Team. The Chairman agreed to write to the Director of Highways and Transport to ask her to hold further discussions with interested parties to see if the length of closure could be foreshortened and what could be done to minimise the disruption (copy attached to the signed minutes).
- A resident asked who gave permission for The Sussex Bus and Metrobus to run local services within five minutes of each other. The Chairman advised that the provision of commercial bus services was a matter for the bus companies but suggested that the resident wrote directly to him and he would provide contact details.

Progress Statement

27. The Chairman advised that a Task and Finish Group had been set up by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to look at the process for Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs). It was expected that the outcomes of this work would be available in time for the Committee's meeting in December 2015.

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

- Fairfield Road Parking Problems – This scheme was not in the current year's delivery programme and would be for the Task and Finish Group to agree criteria which would allow a proposed TRO for double yellow lines to be assessed.
- Slaugham - Proposals for traffic calming measures through the villages of Slaugham, Pease Pottage, Handcross and Warninglid. The Highway Area Manager had met with representatives of both Slaugham and Warninglid Parish Councils and reviewed both schemes. Funding had been confirmed and he agreed to contact the supplier of the plastic posts to investigate the possibility of agreeing a lower price.
- Larch Way and Northlands Avenue, Haywards Heath – The road resurfacing was now complete.
- Staplefield 30mph speed limit – Work was continuing on this scheme which should appear on the 'B' list of TROs.
- A written response would be provided to Mr Bates in response to the questions submitted in advance of this meeting and the previous meeting in June.

- Wivelsfield Road Pedestrian Crossing – This scheme was currently on the 2016/17 Integrated Works Programme provisional list.

29. The Chairman advised that a date had been booked in October 2015 for the introduction of a pedestrian crossing on London Road, Cuckfield.

30. Resolved – That the Committee notes the written and verbal updates.

Haywards Heath Town Centre Transport Study

31. 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.

32. Jamie Dallen, Planning and Transport Policy Planner, gave a presentation on the conclusions of the study (copy of slides attached to the minutes). Darryl Hemmings, Planning and Transport Policy Manager and John Malyon, Project Manager, WS Atkins were also in attendance to answer questions.

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

- The proposed schemes were not currently in the Capital Programme.
- The Chairman supported the recommendations and recognised that the costs associated with the proposals were substantial.
- Suggested there was a need for a business case to secure the funding required.

34. Darryl Hemmings, Planning and Transport Policy Manager, suggested that it was not necessary to be specific about funding in the report recommendations as this would be considered once the proposed schemes had been prioritised.

35. A member of the audience questioned whether the Police would support the proposal for a 20mph speed limit and another expressed concerns about the proposal to remove the hedge along the northern edge of Victoria Park. It was also suggested that the proposal for the Muster Green gyratory system would require public persuasion.

36. Mr Hillier, Chairman of the Transport Study Working Group, thanked Jamie Dallen for his superb support and to the Committee Chairman for his support with the work of the Group. He said it was very likely that Haywards Heath Town Council would adopt a major part of the report and attach it to its Neighbourhood Plan. He confirmed that all stakeholders would be sent a copy of the report for comments

and that the next stage would be for the Working Group to look at the report in detail and to prioritise schemes with a report back to the Committee in December.

37. Resolved – That the Committee:

- (a) Notes the contents of the Study report, its findings, and its recommendations;
- (b) Requests that the Study report recommendations, once prioritised by the Committee, be 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. publishes the report and invites local stakeholders to provide feedback to the Committee on its contents and identify their priority schemes;
 - ii. 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;
 - iii. notes that as and when other schemes emerge, they, too, will be assessed against County Council agreed priorities; and
 - iv. if identified as a priority by the County Council, more detailed work be undertaken to assess the potential of the Muster Green Gyrotory scheme.
 - v. Continues the work of the Haywards Heath Town Centre Transport Study Working Group by; reviewing the feedback from local stakeholders, prioritising the schemes and/or packages, and reporting back to the Committee.

Introduction of Waiting Restrictions in Oaklands Road Car Park, Haywards Heath

38. The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director Residents' Services and Director of Highways and Transport (copy attached to the signed minutes). The report advised that Mid Sussex District Council proposed to introduce a restriction on limiting waiting to a maximum of two hours from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday in the visitor car park of its council offices in Oaklands Road, Haywards Heath. The District Council was not legally able to introduce this restriction without permission from the County Council and power to grant such permission rested with the County Local Committee.

39. Resolved –

- (1) That the Central Mid Sussex County Local Committee grants Mid Sussex District Council permission to introduce the restriction as set out in their draft schedule (attached as Appendix A), subject to Mid Sussex District Council fulfilling its own statutory requirements for making their proposed Order.

- (2) That this consent be conditional upon Mid Sussex District Council making a further application for consent to the Committee if they later wish to introduce hourly parking charges in the affected car park.

Community Initiative Funding

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

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

42. Resolved: - That the following application is approved: -

- 766/CMS – Kangaroos, £1,900.00, to purchase sports equipment.

Nominations and Appointments to School and Academy Governing Bodies

43. 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). The Chairman briefly explained the role of Local Authority Governors and encouraged people to express their interest by completing the online form or by contacting Governor Services for further information.

44. Resolved –That the Committee approves the following nominations under the 2012 Regulations: -

(1) Reappointments:

- Mr John Maher to Holy Trinity CEP School for a four-year term.

(2) Appointments:

- Mr Derek Cheung-Lew to St Joseph's Primary School for a four-year term.
- Mrs Linda Stockwell to Handcross Primary School for a four-year term.

Date of Next Meeting

45. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday 15 December 2015 at Balcombe Victory Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Chairman