

## **Central Mid Sussex County Local Committee**

17 June 2014 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 pm at Ansty Village Hall.

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).

### **Election of Chairman**

1. Mr Bradbury was elected Chairman of the Committee for the Municipal Year 2014/5.

### **Declarations of Interests**

2. None declared.

### **Minutes**

3. Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12 March 2014 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

### **Urgent Matters**

4. None

### ***'Talk with Us'* Open Forum**

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

- A Staplefield resident requested the following updates on local issues:
  - Local speed reduction from 40mph – 30mph. – The Principal Community Officer responded that the scheme was at the planning stage and remained on course for delivery in the current financial year.
  - The removal of overgrown vegetation on Handcross Road from Tanners to Brantridge Lane. – The PCO recommended that all local issues should be reported direct to Highways to ensure they are logged on to the system and acted upon. She undertook to liaise with highways to prioritise the works.
- A local resident queried progress on the Wivelsfield Road crossing, located opposite Sainsbury's. - The PCO stated that a location had been selected and work was being planned. A delivery date was not yet known as detailed design work was still being completed.
- A District Councillor requested a progress update on the Haywards Heath relief road. – The Chairman responded that, contrary to local press reports, the road had not been scheduled for a July completion. Rather section 5B (railway bridge) would be completed by this time with the remaining section completed in Autumn. The works had been delayed by the essential water

works on South Road, which at the request of local traders had been scheduled to avoid the Christmas period.

- A representative of Haywards Heath Town Team noted that BBC Sussex had been encouraging listeners to avoid Haywards Heath during the period of works on South Road and requested that the County Council act to counter this message. – The PCO agreed to progress this with the Communications Unit.

## **Tour of Britain**

6. The Principal Community Officer provided members with a presentation on the proposed route for the stage of the Tour passing through the County and the Central Mid Sussex area (presentation appended to signed minutes).

7. She stated that it was hoped the event would create a local economic benefit and stimulate uptake of exercise. The main focus of local activities would be South Road, Haywards Heath. The town would also be holding Town Day events and a military parade on the same day. A rolling road closure would be in place and traffic would be held for a maximum of 20-30mins as the race passed.

8. The PCO added that the route was still being planned, although it was hoped that a local sprint section could be included. She confirmed that South East Water was aware of the date and the importance of ensuring works did not impact the race.

## **Fire and Rescue Consultation**

9. The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Chief Fire Officer which outlined the consultation on the future of the Fire and Rescue Service and provided detailed information regarding the potential impacts on the South Mid Sussex area (copy appended to the signed minutes).

10. The Area Manager introduced the report and emphasised the importance of people responding to the consultation, which was available online at [www.westsussex.gov.uk/fire](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/fire) . Paper copies were also available, if required.

11. Members asked a number of questions, including those that follow. They:

- Queried the overall funding context the £1.6m saving was required from.  
– The Area Manager stated that the Fire Service had an operating budget of £28m, of which approximately 80% was staffing costs.
- Requested clarification regarding group crewing arrangements. – The Area Manager responded that through consideration of crewing arrangements as a whole, rather than in individual shifts it was possible to achieve efficiencies, reduce costs and maintain provision.
- Sought reassurance that training would not be unduly impacted by savings. – The Area Manager confirmed that training was of paramount importance to ensure officers remained ready to respond, particularly as the number of incidents the Service was called to continued to decline.

- Queried whether a training centre would be developed. – The Area Manager responded that this was currently planned for location at Worthing Station.

12. Members of the audience asked a number of questions, including those that follow, they:

- Queried whether the Fire Service could invoice insurers for property saved during incidents. – The Area Manager responded that this was a complex area and there were likely to be significant costs to the Authority in recouping any savings.
- Queried whether ring-fenced funding from Central Government could protect the Service from savings required by the County Council. – The Area Manager responded that local management of the budget allowed for greater flexibility in meeting local issues. It was also important to recognise that all areas of County Council delivery were essential for West Sussex residents.

13. Members noted the report.

### **Beacon Heights Car Parking Charges**

14. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Service Operations and the Head of Highways and Transport (copy appended to the signed minutes).

15. Resolved – that the Central Mid Sussex CLC gives formal consent to the Mid Sussex District Council for the introduction of changes for parking in the Beacon Heights Car Park as detailed in the appendices of the report.

### **Real Time Bus Information**

16. The Principal Community Officer introduced a report by the Director of Service Operations (copy appended to the signed minutes) outlining the latest progress in the installation of five real-time bus displays in central Haywards Heath. She confirmed that the technology would communicate with mobile devices, enabling real-time updates for mobile 'apps'.

17. Members asked a number of questions, including those that follow, they:

- Stated that the County Council should consider a case-study to promote the project and that consideration should be given to measures of success for the pilot.
- Stated that if the project was to be rolled out to outlying communities then the app would be more appropriate for areas with a lower concentration of routes, particularly as local bus users would not be required to travel to the bus stops to obtain the information.

### **Prevention and Wellbeing Grants**

18. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Public Health, Commissioning for Health and Social Care (copy appended to the signed minutes)

which outlined the funding available for the CLC and the current applications for consideration.

a) The following awards were made:

**TB11** Bluebird Community Transport £1,750

**JP005** Cruse West Sussex £300

**TB32** Cuckfield Fun & Song Stroke Communication Group £1,600 (£1,000 for transport; £600 for activities)

**TB02** Handcross Rosemary Club £500

**TB24** IMPACT Foundation £1,310

**TB01** SASBAH £250

**DC008** St Catherine's Hospice £435

**JP025** The Life Centre £100

**TB05** The Yews (Haywards Heath) Community Partnership £2,500

b) The following applications were declined:

**CO001** Action for Deafness - members queried the clinical effectiveness of the treatment and felt it was more appropriate for the NHS to fund.

**TL001** Impact Initiatives – as members felt that service users would be reluctant to travel to Worthing and also questioned the high resource costs.

**TB30** In Safe and Caring Hands as duplication of a RVS service commissioned by the County Council.

## **Progress Statement**

19. The Committee considered the statement of progress following the March 2014 meeting and the Infrastructure Plan and 2013/14 Community Issues List (copy appended to signed minutes). The Principal Community Officer confirmed that all Priority A schemes had now been developed and dates for the initiation of works would be circulated to members.

20. Members asked a number of questions, including those that follow. They:

- Queried the reasons for the delay to the Balcombe Road Infrastructure Plan Scheme. – The PCO confirmed that the current delay was due to the utility works and water pipes and had been pushed back to May 2015.
- Queried the delay on the Oathall Road Infrastructure Plan Scheme – the PCO stated that costs had increased since January and further work was now required.

## **Appointments and Nominations to School and Academy Governing Bodies**

21. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Communities Commissioning (copy appended to signed minutes).

22. Resolved – that the following appointments, reappointments and nomination be made:

Appointments and reappointments under the 2007 Regulations

### **Appointments**

Mrs Anne Denise Harber to St Mark's CEP School for a four year term

### **Reappointments**

Mr R Goddard to St Paul's Catholic College for a four year term

Mr K Turnbull to Warninglid Primary School for a four year term

### **Nominations under the 2012 Regulations**

Mr SG Head to Lindfield Primary School for a four year term (current term ending on 16 November 2014)

### **Date of Next Meeting**

23. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on 23 September at a venue to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm