

Central Mid Sussex County Local Committee

18 June 2013 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 pm at Balcombe Victory Hall, Balcombe.

Present: Mr Acraman, Mrs Field, Mr Bradbury (Chairman), Mr de Mierre, Mr Griffiths (joined the meeting at 7.45pm) and Mr Wickremaratchi.

Election of Chairman

1. Resolved – That the Committee elects Mr Bradbury as Chairman for the Central Mid Sussex County Local Committee for the 2013/14 municipal year.

Declarations of Interest

2. No interests were declared at this stage. See point 10 Mr Wickremaratchi declared a personal interest as an observer for the Haywards Heath Community Partnership (The Yews) Application Ref: TB17.

Minutes

3. Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2013 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Committee Terms of Reference

4. Resolved – That the Committee notes its terms of reference (copy attached to the signed minutes).

'Talk with us' Open Forum

5. 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: -

- A Balcombe resident presented a submission to the Committee on concerns about fracking. The submission proposed that the County Council issue a clear statement on fracking and requested that it urgently review its policy regarding exploratory drilling, acid stimulation and fracking. The submission asked the CLC to refer the points raised to the relevant Cabinet Member and or Select Committee. *The Chairman thanked the resident for her presentation and submission and agreed to pass on the points raised to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport and the relevant officers.*
- Another Balcombe resident raised concerns on the issue of flaring and venting. Specifically, assurance was sought that the County Council would undertake comprehensive monitoring of the emissions of flaring and venting of gases at the site in Balcombe and that if the emission standards set by the EU are breached that the County Council had an action plan to deal with this. *The Committee agreed to ensure that the points were minuted and forwarded to the relevant officers.*
- A local resident asked whether a review of the recent Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to reduce the speed limit to 50mph on Selsfield Road, north of Ardingly,

had yet been undertaken. He referred to the results of a survey that he had undertaken and asked if these had been looked at by officers. *The Principal Community Officer, Dr Rhodes-Kubiak advised that the Engineering Solutions Team was responsible for undertaking speed surveys. He confirmed that a review of the reduced limit on Selsfield had not yet taken place, but that it was hoped it would be in place by the end of July. He explained that some delays had been experienced due to bad weather. He confirmed that he had reviewed the results of the survey undertaken by the local resident and that these would need to be verified. He explained that the data collected by the County Council would look at vehicle classifications and indications of peak traffic flows. He said he would be happy to have a discussion with the local resident once the results of the County Council's survey were available and to look at possible alternative ways of improving road safety.*

- A representative of Ardingly Parish Council advised that following a grant from the CLC a consultant had now completed the first part of the work on the Ardingly Traffic Appraisal which had been sent to the County Council's Head of Highways and Transport. He advised that representatives were due to meet with the County Council and would be carrying out further consultation in the village.
- A Haywards Heath resident asked what changes had been made to the Infrastructure Planning process to improve it. *Dr Rhodes-Kubiak advised that a Community Issues List had been developed with members of the CLC and that schemes would be prioritised from this list. Some had previously not been subjected to such a robust process prior to consideration by the Committee. He advised that he was working with the members to ensure that schemes were only on the list if there was evidence of support and need and that the scheme would have the best impact.*
- A representative of a local Alzheimers Support Group raised concerns that smaller groups might not be being included in the plans of some of the larger national organisations when it came to the provision of services. Terina Bryant, Voluntary Services Relationship Officer for the County Council was present at the meeting and she offered to have a conversation outside of the meeting, but gave assurances that the County Council was very well engaged with the voluntary sector and the prevention and wellbeing commissioning intentions were being circulated currently. Mrs Field in her capacity as Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing advised that she had attended the Carers Support Summit the previous week and that the issue had been raised by a number of groups and was not being overlooked.

Prevention & Wellbeing Grants 2013/14

6. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Public Health (copy attached to the signed minutes). The report set out the prevention & wellbeing commissioning objectives for 2013 along with the Prevention and Wellbeing Grant applications received for 2013/14. It also identified how the grants were spent in 2012/13. Grants are awarded annually on merit in relation to the application and awarding criteria. The criteria reflect countywide and service area objectives, as well as specific local needs.

7. Each County Local Committee (CLC) was allocated budget in proportion to the adult population in each area based upon information gained from the 2011 Census.

8. The Committee discussed the applications. Mr Wickremaratchi declared a personal interest as an observer for the Haywards Heath Community Partnership (The Yews) Application Ref: TB17. Mr Griffiths joined the meeting at this point.

9. Resolved - That the Central Mid Sussex County Local Committee considered the Prevention and Wellbeing Grant applications as set out in Appendix C and allocated funding as follows:

(i) The following applications were approved: -

- Cruse West Sussex Area (Ref: DR030) £305.
- Friends, Families and Travellers (Ref: DR033) £700.
- Handcross Rosemary Club (Ref: TB28) £600.
- Haywards Heath Community Partnership (The Yews) (Ref: TB17) £2,300.
- Headway (Ref: TL008) £384.61.
- Lifecentre (Ref: DN16) £100.
- Mid Sussex Older People's Council (Ref: TB22) £500. The Committee members considered that a projector could be borrowed rather than purchased and wanted to focus the award on the event i.e. costs of venue hire and publicity.
- PBC Foundation (Ref: TLO48) £8.04.
- Peters House Project (HIV stay healthy) (Ref: BB0020) £400. To cover training and insurance costs. The Committee considered that the application was unclear about the number of residents in the Central Mid Sussex area that would benefit from the project and also that £1,000 was very expensive for venue hire.
- SASBAH (Ref: TB05) £250
- Sussex Community Day Centre (Ref: TB20) £450

(ii) The following applications were declined: -

- In Safe and Caring Hands Limited (Ref: BB0017) £300.
The Committee was unsure about the research elements of the application and considered that the charge for phone calls was high. The County Council has also recently awarded a contract to the WRVS for a similar service in this area.
- Mid Sussex Sinfonia (Ref: TB13) £500.
The Committee considered this was not the most appropriate grant process for the application and did not fit the Prevention and Wellbeing Grant criteria.
- SERV (Ref: DN26) £1,000.
The Committee considered the organisation should be approaching the Clinical Commissioning Group for this type of funding.

Progress Statement

10. The Committee considered a report containing brief updates on matters arising from the last meeting and statements of progress made on other issues pertinent to Central Mid Sussex (copy attached to the signed minutes).

- The Chairman advised that signage of real time bus and train passenger information would be starting to appear in South Road, Haywards Heath from September and would graduate out of the town centre. It was hoped that this would encourage more people to use public transport.
- Foxhill, Haywards Heath temporary 30mph speed limit – The Principal Community Officer advised that the Traffic Engineering Solutions Team were looking at options for more permanent measures. He confirmed that any traffic calming measures would need to go through the CLC via the Infrastructure Planning process and that the County Council had no powers to enforce the speed limit, this was a matter for the Police. Mr Griffiths suggested that the local community may wish to consider forming a voluntary group to be trained to undertake speed surveys.
- Mr Wickremaratchi asked about the likely timescale for the improvements to the kerbs in Ash Grove. The Principal Community Officer said he would chase this up and report back.
- A representative of Slaugham Parish Council asked what the Parish Council could do to help take forward the request for improvements to the footpath north of Handcross Primary School. The Principal Community Officer advised that the County Council was looking to make improvements to clear to allow it to be used as a cycle route. Mr Griffiths advised that in the village of Bolney a small volunteer group had formed to clear pathways and to litter pick. He confirmed that County Councillors would help local residents as much as possible if there was interest from local residents. Mr Acraman added that the more urgent issue was parking on the grass verge and that he considered grasscrete would assist the problem. The Principal Community Officer advised that a reliable estimate was currently being sought and that he would continue in his efforts to get the issue resolved.
- Mr Acraman suggested there was a need to review speed limits and traffic in a number of areas across the CLC area with an integrated, strategic approach.
- A Balcombe Parish Council representative asked if the Principal Community Officer would continue to follow up with South East Water the problems on London Road. He agreed to do so and report back.

11. Resolved – That the Committee notes the report.

Haywards Heath Quality Network Partnership

12. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Communities Commissioning (copy attached to the signed minutes). The report provided details of an initiative led by Haywards Heath Town Council to create a Quality Network Partnership (QNP) similar to a voluntary Quality Bus Partnerships (QBPs) which are a well-established concept and welcomed by bus operators in West Sussex. QBPs attempt to co-ordinate the time, money and efforts of all interested parties on improving bus services in a specific area, corridor or route. The result should mean a better, more integrated service than individual partners or initiatives can achieve individually.

13. Steven Trice, Clerk to Haywards Heath Town Council, gave a brief background to the Haywards Heath Quality Network Partnership and advised that the Memorandum of Understanding was a model document adapted to meet the needs of partners.
14. Members commented that it was an excellent initiative that should be supported by the Committee.
15. Resolved – That the Committee endorses the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (Appendix A) that will underpin the QNP, prior to the document being signed by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport on behalf of the County Council.

Community Initiative Funding

16. The Committee considered the new applications for Community Initiative Funding (CIF) outlined in the report by the Head of Law and Governance (copy appended to the signed minutes). The Committee awarded funding based on the merits of each bid.
17. Resolved that the Committee approved the following CIF applications:
 - 3/CMS** Haywards Heath Foodbank, £2,500, towards a total of £5,000 for a new storage facility.
 - 73/CMS** Balcombe Parish Council, £1,522, towards tables, additional seating and a lockable cupboard for the youth club equipment at Bramble Hall.

Appointment of Local Authority School Governors

18. The Committee considered a report by the Head of Learning which explained the criteria for appointment to school governing bodies and listed proposed nominations (copy appended to the signed minutes).
19. Resolved that the Committee approved the following re-appointments of Authority School Governors:-
 - Mr R.M. Clark to Warninglid Primary School for a 4 year term.
 - Mrs R.J. Chalk to St Peter's C.E. Primary School for a 4 year term.
 - Mr J. De Mierre to Harlands Primary School for a 4 year term.
 - Mr J. De Mierre to Beechfield & Chalkhill School for a 4 year term.

Date of Next Meeting

20. The Chairman advised that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 24 September 2013, 7pm at Haywards Heath Library.

The meeting closed at 8.54pm.

Chairman