

Central and South Mid Sussex County Local Committee

20 February 2018 - At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 pm at Haywards Heath Library, 34 Boltro Rd, Haywards Heath RH16 1BN

Present: Mr A Barrett-Miles (Burgess Hill North), Mr P Bradbury (Chairman, Cuckfield and Lucastes) Mrs J Dennis (Hurstpierpoint and Bolney), Mr S Hillier (Haywards Heath East), Mrs A Jones (Burgess Hill East), Mr A Lea (Lindfield and High Weald) and Mrs K Lord (Hassocks and Burgess Hill South).

In attendance: Deborah Myers (Director of Education & Skills), Nick Burrell (Senior Advisor), David Penrose (Democratic Services Officer), Gulu Sibanda (Principal Communities Officer) and Richard Speller (Highways Area Manager)

Apologies for absence were received from Mr S Wickremaratchi (Haywards Heath Town).

Welcome and Introductions

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

Declarations of Interest

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

- Mr P Bradbury declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6, as a Trustee of the Sussex Learning Trust.
- Mr A Lea declared an interest in item 6, as he has links with the University of Brighton.

Minutes

53. Resolved – that the minutes of the Central and South Mid Sussex CLC meeting held on 31 October 2017 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

54. There were no urgent matters.

'Talk with Us' Open Forum & Community Updates

55. The Chairman welcomed the members of the public who had attended in order to discuss Woodlands Meed School and invited questions and comments from them. In the ensuing discussion, the following points were made:

- Cathy Pilbeam, a teacher, invited the Committee to visit the college site and shadow staff in order to appreciate the issues and short fallings at the College.
- A parent asked when the College would be in a position to meet the obligations of the students' Education Healthcare Plans.
- A transport provider for the school stated that the college building was not fit for purpose as it was unsuitable for wheelchairs.

- Ms K Lord urged Members to visit the site. She said that simple things like going to the toilet takes too long as students with mobility issues had to cross the playground into the main building. In adverse weather conditions this was inappropriate.

56. The Director of Education & Skills stated that prior to her appointment, a discussion had been held between the County Council and the School Governors to provide funding in order to replace both outdoor double classrooms at the school with two new ones incorporating a hygiene room and well as providing a new hygiene room inside the main college building. Once the Task and Finish Group had been put in place, the governors had asked that the works be put on hold and the funding used as a central core of funds to attract additional funds to do larger and more extensive works in the future. The governing Body had then changed as terms of office expired and she had been working with new Governors over the previous year to move things forward.

57. She went on to say that funds were in place to install the internal hygiene unit and in order to enable the Council to access the Special Provision Capital Fund from the Department of Education a public consultation had been in place on the Council's website. This would close on the 22 February but there had only been two comments in support of the hygiene room on the website. If there was no public support through this consultation, the Council would not be able to access the funds. She also undertook to supply a list of dates of confidential meetings with the Governing Body where Woodlands Meed had been discussed over the past year.

58. A parent asked about the £1.5 million for extra external classrooms and hygiene rooms. She wanted to know if this sum of money would give children "Access to the full curriculum such as Science and DT, full wheelchair access, adequate heating, air conditioning and hot water to wash their hands with".

59. In reply to a question about the Court Meadow site, the Chairman said that redundant buildings were no longer under the purview of a single Directorate, but were returned to a central pool. He couldn't comment on the view that the proceeds from the sale of the Court Meadow site should be used for Woodlands Meed and said the County Council did not operate in this way.

60. The Chairman pointed out that the Committee did not have executive power over Woodlands Meed School. He said that all comments from those at the meeting, together with responses from the Director of Education & Skills, be passed to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills for his consideration.

61. The Chairman thanked those who came to address the Committee this evening, for being forthright and frank in their views, he acknowledged the passion and commitment of the views expressed and he paid tribute to Annabelle, a pupil at the School, who had opened the discussion. He said the committee would continue to review progress.

62. Mr Chapman asked that there should be a commitment to look at the roundabout at McDonalds in Burgess Hill, as it was causing long delays in the evening. The Area Highways Manager said that the roundabout had been through the planning process and this hadn't been identified as an issue. Motorists should

keep clear of the yellow box when approaching the roundabout. A Member said he would take the issue up with the planning team at West Sussex County Council.

63. In reply to a further question, the Area Highways Manager said that the developer of the Penland Road estate had responsibility to ensure that local roads near the development did not become saturated with mud and a danger to traffic. He undertook to discuss the matter with Mid Sussex District Council.

64. The Area Highways Manager said he would follow up the request to move the 30mph zone 17 meters further out from the Denning Place development undertaken by Fairfax on Broad Street in Cuckfield.

65. A Mid Sussex District Councillor asked for an update on the parking consultation in Heath Ward in Haywards Heath. There was concern over parking restrictions in Victoria Road in Burgess Hill. The Area Highways Manager undertook to provide this to the next meeting.

66. A Member said that he had discussed the matter with residents of Victoria Road and was considering submitting a TRO to introduce a way of staggering the parking in order to ensure that parking was still available to residents.

Resolved - that the Minutes from the Meeting be brought to the attention of the Cabinet Member his consideration and that he take note of the strong depth of feeling regarding the situation in respect of Woodlands Meed School.

Haywards Heath Sixth Form School Provision

(Mr P Bradbury and Mr A Lea declared non-pecuniary interests)

67. The Director of Education & Skills said that the Haywards Heath site was now owned by the Department for Education (DfE) and in order to facilitate the creation of the Chichester College Group, comprising Chichester College and the Crawley campus of Central Sussex College, it was working with local stakeholders including Mid-Sussex District Council, West Sussex County Council and the Coast to Capital LEP to explore potential uses for the site, prioritising educational use in the first instance.

68. Care would have to be taken in order to ensure that whatever options were put to the Department were sustainable and that lessons were learnt as to why the Haywards Heath site initially went wrong. This was a large piece of work, which included work around areas such as community, business and vocational options. The intention was to provide something that would be both viable and also of interest to the Department in order to ensure that educational provision would be in place on the Harlands Road site. It was also important to ensure that existing Post-16 provision in the local area was not destabilised.

69. The Chairman added that the local MP, Sir Nicholas Soames, was very supportive and was closely involved in the process. He had made it clear that what he wanted to see was academic 6th Form provision on the site as the core offer. It was clear that whilst the statutory responsibility lay with the DfE, both Mid Sussex and West Sussex Councils needed to be closely involved. It would also be a year before a college could open, even if a solution were to be found, as 6th form choices were made by children early on in the academic year.

70. It was noted that many of the Sixth Form Colleges presently utilised by parents in the area were already quite full, and additional provision was needed. It was agreed that the Committee supported the vision of Sir Nicholas Soames and the County Council in providing Sixth Form provision to the area around Haywards Heath.

71. In reply to a question as to whether there would be mainstream sixth form provision for children with special needs in the area, the Director of Education & Skills said that a range of options were being looked at, to be put forward to the DfE. Post-16 provision outside the maintained Sixth Form schools was not under the control of the Local Authority, so options that were put forward would be at the behest of the Department. All of the schools in the local area had good provision for special educational needs either within the mainstream or within specialist support centers. The work around the Harlands Road site had a three to five year time scale.

72. A Member supported a comment that, given the population growth in the area, consideration should be given to the provision of a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) college. The Chairman added that a STEM focused primary school would be delivered as part of the Hurst Farm development.

Haywards Heath Town Centre Transport Study

73. The Highways Area Manager introduced the report. He said that as part of the County Council's Strategic Transport Investment Programme a technical assessment and appraisal of transport options in Haywards Heath had been commissioned in 2014. The purpose of the Study was to develop a coherent package of transport schemes that balance the needs of all users, improve accessibility around the town centre and promote regeneration.

74. A Member said that the study had been commissioned in order to consider ways of improving the centre of Haywards Heath but that there was little funding available at the moment. The Town Council were considering a vision for Haywards Heath in twenty to thirty years' time. The schemes that were laid out in the report were funded. The Commercial Square roundabout improvements would improve pedestrian safety on Queens Road. Work in Clair Park would provide additional cycling routes in the town.

75. A member suggested that West Sussex County Council should undertake an overall traffic study of the area, including the impact that the Hurst Farm development would have on Haywards Heath. The Highways Area Manager undertook to discuss the matter further with the Chairman.

Resolved – that the Committee write to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure to request that when the Capital Programme be revised, due consideration be given to:

- A. The proposed delivery arrangements set out in table 2, and
- B. The proposed funding allocations set out in table 3.

Progress Statement

76. The Highways Area Manager introduced the progress statement. He provided the following updates:

- That Virgin Media had started their 18 month program to deliver high speed broadband to 19,000 homes across Burgess Hill.
- South East Water has closed Oathall Road in Haywards Heath in order to upgrade the water main. It was expected that the scheme would now finish in March.
- There were a growing number of accidents on Portsmouth Lane and High Beech lane and the Road Safety Team had agreed to consider whether there were any growing trends in the area. Consideration might be given to putting in a 40mph buffer zone and starting the 30mph further south than it presently was.
- That Section 106 monies had been used in Burgess Hill to provide real time bus information at 6 bus stops.
- That a Speed Indicator Device had been stolen, but as a self-insuring organisation, another could be purchased and alternative ways of securing it considered.
- The Penland Rd TRO had received over 120 objections and was being reviewed. There would be an increasing demand for on street parking in the area as car parks were closing down. The original proposals to remove on street parking restrictions would be taken out of the TRO, but the additional ones that had been included would remain. It would be brought to the meeting in June.
- The three TRO's in Hayward Heath that included Northlands Avenue, Bentswood area, Wealden Way, Lucastes Lane & Bolnore Road and Sergison Road would be brought forward shortly. Adverts would be issued shortly for the two TROs in Burgess Hill which comprised Crescent Road (& other roads) and Burgess Hill Manor Road, Leyland Park, Valebridge Drive, Adur Road and Stirling Court Road.
- It was noted that these were all large, relatively complex schemes, and that the intention going forward was for the Committee to address local, safety issues through the TRO process which would be designed and delivered within the calendar year. Larger parking issues would go through a separate process.

77. Resolved - that the Committee note the written and verbal updates.

A2300 Outline Business Case

78. The Committee noted the report. The Area Highway Manager said that funding was now available to complete the road by building the north carriageway. He added that the present central reservation crossovers would be removed when the road became a dual carriageway.

79. The Chairman said that he had received representations from the owners of Hickstead, which was a very important attraction in the heart of Mid Sussex. It was

also stated by the local Member and the Chairman of Twineham Parish Council that 18 comments had been received about the draft plans. The Director of Highways and Transport would be meeting with them in order to address their concerns.

Transforming Grants: Crowdfunding

80. The Senior Advisor provided a presentation on the proposal to change the Council's funding model from a paper based system to an online Crowdfunding system.

Central and South Mid Sussex Community Initiative Funding Applications

81. The Committee considered a report on Community Initiative Funding by the Director of Law, Assurance and Strategy (copy appended to the signed minutes)

82. The Committee debated the respective merits of the current applications.

83. Resolved: that the following applications be approved:

99/CSMS - St Francis Bowls Club, £1,000.00 towards rebuilding of changing rooms. However the Committee wanted to see action to make the facilities more available to the local community.

107/CSMS - St Andrew's Church, £2,500.00 towards refurbishment and building of toilets.

111/CSMS - Bolney Local History Society, £2,000.00 towards publishing local history book.

133/CSMS - Sussex Clubs for Young People, £830.00 towards setting up the Duke of Cornwall Award.

139/CSMS - Burgess Hill Shed, £2,120.00 towards upgrade of Dust extractor

147/CSMS - Mid Sussex Cultural Group, £2,884.00 towards putting on classes.

152/CSMS - Clayton Volunteer Group, £2,430.00 Village Gateway Initiative

153/CSMS - FLaCK: Freeks Lane Community Kiosk, £565.00 towards renovation of community kiosks

155/CSMS - Haywards Heath Town Team CIC, £500.00 towards The River of Poppies.

160/CSMS - Poynings Volunteers, £2,500.00, towards children's play equipment.

164/CSMS - Haywards Heath Twinning Association, £1,500.00 Anniversary Project

172/CSMS – MSOPC, £695.00 towards outreach lunch.

175/CSMS - Cuckfield Bookfest, £1,500.00 towards Bookfest 2018.

193/CSMS – Bolney Volunteers, £3,000.00 towards Speed Indicator Device.

Nominations and Appointments to School and Academy Governing Bodies

84. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Children, Adults', Families, Health & Education (copy attached to the signed minutes).
85. Resolved –That the Committee approved the following nomination under the 2012 Regulations: -
- (1) Appointment: Cllr Joy Dennis for a four year term to Gattons Infant School and Mrs Susan Hatton for a four year term to Windmills Junior School;
 - (2) Re-appointment: Mrs Denise Harbour for a further four year term to St Mark's C.E. Primary School and Mrs Claire Homer for a further four year term to Northlands Wood Primary Academy

Date of Next Meeting

86. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the South and Central Mid Sussex County Local Committee would be held on Tuesday 26 June 2018 at 7pm at a venue to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 22.24pm

Chairman