

Unconfirmed minutes – subject to approval/amendment at the next meeting of the East Crawley County Local Committee.

Agenda Item No.

East Crawley County Local Committee

5th July 2011 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00pm in Crawley Library, Crawley.

Present: Mr Burgess, Mr Burrett (Chairman), Mr Crow and Mr Lanzer.

Declarations of Interests

33. Mr Burgess declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 6, Application 1634 (Three Bridges Forum), as a member of the Steering Committee, and left the room for the consideration of the application.

Minutes

34. Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th May 2011 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

35. Minute 10 refers. The issue of parking on grass verges was raised. Mr Lanzer stated that he would contact Dr Bloom, in his capacity as Chairman of the Crawley Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny Commission, to ensure that parking on grass verges and possible solutions were considered as part of the work of a Scrutiny Panel which would be looking at issues around parking enforcement in the Autumn.

Highways

Pound Hill, Worth Road – proposed speed cushions (Road Hump Regulations) and signal-controlled puffin crossing

36. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Operations Infrastructure on proposals to install speed cushions and a signal-controlled puffin crossing on Worth Road (copy appended to the signed minutes).

37. Ian Moorey (Accident, Investigation and Prevention, Lead Professional) introduced the report and advised that this was a deferred proposal and that in the light of comments made in the Stage 2 safety audit certain aspects of the scheme had been amended including the layout and improved pedestrian crossing facilities. He advised that 15 letters of representation had been received.

38. The following issues were raised in the discussion that followed: -

- The Committee supported the much-needed proposal to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists on a road with heavy traffic use.
- Ian Moorey provided clarification on the exact location of the three crossing points.
- The Committee asked whether the scheme would be completed within the budget available. Ian Moorey commented that the County Council had just started a new term contract for construction works and no specific costs were yet available. However, he was hopeful that the proposed scheme could be built to the current estimate.
- One member was concerned that the number of speed cushions was too high. Motorists become frustrated and tend to speed up between each

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speed cushion and then again when they leave the restricted area. There was also an environmental cost due to the increased amount of fuel used by motorists as a result of acceleration and deceleration between speed cushions.

Ian Moorey advised that the placing of speed cushions had to comply with DfT guidelines and although any scheme will have disadvantages as well as advantages, schemes were designed to avoid too much stop/start by motorists. Traffic calming measures have to be consistent.

- The Committee discussed the number of responses to the consultation carried out in 2009 and the second consultation in 2011 and considered that the low number of letters of objection received during the recent consultation was a clear indication of support for the scheme from local residents.
- The Chairman reported on the reason for the delay and deferral of the scheme. It had been deferred as funding had been used to finance winter maintenance of the roads due to severe winter weather. Ian Moorey confirmed that finance was available for the scheme in the 2011/2012 financial year, there was indicative funding for 2012/2013 and combined it is believed that this should be sufficient as outlined in the Committee Report.

39. Mr Lanzer proposed an additional recommendation, seconded by Mr Burgess, to investigate the possibility of finding additional funding from Section 106 money to expedite the scheme.

40. The Committee voted on both recommendations; the recommendations were supported by three members, and one member abstained.

41. Resolved – That

- (1) the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make the orders to enable the scheme containing the proposed speed cushions (under the Highways Act 1980, Highway (Road Hump) Regulations 1999) and the Puffin Crossing (under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984) to be implemented between February and May 2012 subject to confirmation of funding at a later date.
- (2) the availability of Section 106 money to expedite the scheme is investigated.

Community Initiative Fund

42. The Committee considered a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services on the Community Initiative Fund (copy appended to the signed minutes).

Application 1566/EC - The Environment Centre

43. The Environment Centre had requested £1,714.13 for costs associated with the preparation and delivery of education sessions in local schools. The Committee had deferred this application at its last meeting as it was concerned that there was insufficient information about the activities for the Committee to conclude that they were over and above those activities provided in Crawley schools via the mainstream curriculum and therefore requested further information. Additional information received from officers at the Borough Council supplied the necessary

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evidence that the activities provided by The Environment Centre were unique, and together with good feedback from schools, the Committee agreed to allocate £1,714.13.

Application 1631/EC – 7th Crawley Scout Group

44. The 7th Crawley Scout Group had requested £1,270.80 towards items of storage equipment for renovated garages. The Committee agreed to allocate £1,270.80.

Application 1634/EC – Three Bridges Forum

45. Mr Burgess left the room during consideration of this application.

46. The Three Bridges Forum had requested £500 for artwork and leaflet production, and also for the purchase of an oak sapling to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The Committee agreed to allocate £500.

47. Resolved - That the East Crawley County Local Committee allocates the following funding: -

- (i) £1,714.13 to the Environment Centre
- (ii) £1,270.80 to the 7th Crawley Scout Group
- (iii) £500 to the Three Bridges Forum

Priorities for Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs)

48. The Committee considered a report by the Director for Communities and Infrastructure on priorities for TROs (copy appended to the signed minutes).

49. Les Gillingham (Principal Community Highway Officer) introduced the report and gave an explanation of the background and reasons for the suggested TROs.

50. The Chairman referred to the current list of TROs set out in Appendix B to the report and explained that the proposal for Copthorne Road in Appendix A was now part of a more extensive scheme and suggested that as this was already included on the current priority list it should not also be included in the priority list for 2011/2012.

51. The Committee discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the extent and exact location of a 30 mph speed restriction in Balcombe Road. One member expressed the view that 40 mph worked well and 30 mph was too restrictive and would criminalise safe drivers. The local member for the area reported on comments received from residents who were in favour of a 30 mph speed restriction. It was suggested that the section between Stone Court and Turners Hill Road be restricted to 30 mph and the rest of Balcombe Road remain at 40 mph, although the local member requested that the area between Ridley's Corner and Turners Hill Road also be considered as part of the work to be progressed on this matter.

52. The Committee voted on the priority list; three members supported the proposals for Balcombe Road and Milton Mount Avenue and noted that the Copthorne Road proposals were already under consideration. One member abstained.

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53. Resolved – That the East Crawley County Local Committee approves the following priority order for implementing TROs within the East Crawley CLC area: -

- (1) Balcombe Road, Pound Hill – speed limit between Stone Court and Ridley's Corner
- (2) Balcombe Road, Pound Hill – waiting restrictions around Hillside Public House
- (3) Milton Mount Avenue/Cobbett Close - waiting restrictions

'talk with us' - Open Forum

54. The following answers were given in response to questions about matters affecting Crawley residents.

55. With regard to problems for pedestrians in the area near Tesco's in Hazelwick Avenue, the Committee noted the problems. The Chairman stated that members had previously been told by Highways officers that there was insufficient space to have a zebra crossing near the roundabout. Les Gillingham agreed to look at this issue again and report back.

56. Exiting Tilgate Parade: A problem of inadequate vision for drivers was raised. It was noted that this issue had already been raised as part of the consultation which Crawley Borough Council had been undertaking in advance of the proposed improvement scheme at the Parade.

57. The cycle path between Winchester Road and K2 was reported to be overgrown, and a resident enquired whether the County Council was responsible for maintenance. The Committee explained that this was a question of land ownership and agreed to report back on the matter.

58. The problem of petty crime and litter (particularly between 12 noon and 2 pm) in the Memorial Gardens was raised. A resident considered that this was a time when the Police and PCSOs were not on patrol and asked if something could be done to address this. Mr Lanzer stated that wardens could only patrol a limited area at one time and a plausible reason for increased litter at that particular time of day was that it was lunchtime. He agreed to report back to the Borough Council on the issue.

59. A resident asked if the County Council still had a dedicated Cycling Officer and, if not, questioned the County's commitment to cycling and promoting a policy of sustainable transport. The Chairman explained that following a restructure, many officer roles, and ways of working in the Communities and Infrastructure Directorate, had changed. The former Cycling Officer was still working for the County Council, in the Community Solutions Team.

60. Tushmore Gyratory: a resident raised the issue of traffic building up between the various sets of traffic lights and whether a traffic engineer could investigate the problem. Les Gillingham advised that he had spoken to the Traffic Signals Team Leader who had explained that the roundabout was running at full capacity.

61. The Chairman of the Countryside Access Forum for West Sussex asked about a report in a local newspaper claiming that there was a proposal to sell Tilgate Park. She was concerned about the public rights of way through the Park. The Chairman

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stated that it was a case of misleading journalism and that the Borough Council was planning improvements to facilities in the park, and that it was certainly not for sale.

62. Hazelwick Road/Mill Road: a resident expressed the view that the one-way system should be in place along the entire length of Hazelwick Road, rather than just the section to the north of the junction with Mill Road. The Chairman suggested that this could be addressed with a TRO, if it was felt to be desirable. Les Gillingham agreed to look into the matter and report back.

Date of Next Meeting

63. 3rd November 2011 at 7pm in Crawley Library.

Chairman

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.