

**East Crawley County Local Committee**

3 July 2012 – 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 Interest**

33. Mr Crow declared a personal interest in Item 9 - Appointment of Authority Governors to Schools, as one of the nominees. Mr Crow took no part in this item.

34. Mr Burrett declared a prejudicial interest in that part of Item 10 - 'talk with us' – Open Forum, which related to the discussion about the former Seeboard site, as he lives close to that site. Mr Burrett left the room when the discussion about the possible development of the former Seeboard site was taking place.

**Minutes**

35. Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2012 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

36. The following omissions from the 'talk with us' section of the minutes were noted:-

- Woodfield Road – Mr Burgess acknowledged that the highways issues in Woodfield Road would become an important issue for the Committee in terms of its future infrastructure planning work.
- Lamp post outside Crawley Library – George Chisenga (Gatwick Diamond Team Manager) agreed to investigate the matter.
- Infrastructure Plan - an update report would be taken to the next meeting.

**Urgent Matters**

**West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service: public and stakeholder consultation 2012**

37. The Chairman reported that a decision had been taken by the Cabinet Member for Public Protection to undertake a 10-week consultation on new savings proposals for the West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service for the financial year 2013/2014. As the East Crawley County Local Committee (CLC) would not meet again until 8 November, after the consultation had finished, the District Commissioner for Crawley and Mid Sussex, Peter Martin, had been invited to talk to the meeting.

38. Mr Martin advised that plans to merge the West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (WSFRS) with East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service had not been pursued mainly due to a lack of essential information from HM Government on future grant allocations. Savings of up to £2.5m still need to be made and a number of savings proposals are described in the public consultation that will run from 12 July to 21 September 2012.

39. Mr Martin highlighted the key points included in two work streams, cost saving proposals and investment opportunities. Cost saving proposals included a reduction in senior management posts and a review of middle manager roles. A review would be carried out of crewing arrangements for specialist vehicles and the size of the vehicle fleet. There are plans to change response arrangements in the Horley/Crawley area and for a redeployment of resources to help improve operation response times in rural areas. Mr Martin outlined the advantages of a merger of the Horley and Crawley crews to create a more flexible and effective service. Mr Martin asked members of the public for feedback on the proposals and described ways in which the public could respond to the consultation.

40. The Committee and members of the public discussed the presentation and asked questions including: -

- Whether the merger for the Sussex Fire Control Centre would still go ahead? Mr Martin advised that there will be one mobilising centre for East and West Sussex based at Haywards Heath Fire Station.
- Whether the proposed financial savings were achievable? Mr Martin believed that they would be.
- The future resources at Horley. There were ongoing negotiations with Surrey Fire and Rescue Service about the changes to Horley and Crawley Fire Stations. A number of potential options were being explored for Horley including a review of the current crewing and governance arrangements.
- Mr Martin confirmed that there would be no fire station closures and that there would be a review of the retained crewed fire engines at Crawley and Worthing.
- Would there be increased risk following the arrival of Airbus A380 services at Gatwick if resources at Horley were reduced? Mr Martin confirmed that there would be sufficient back-up to the Gatwick Airport Fire Service from the surrounding area.

41. The Committee thanked Mr Martin for his presentation and it was agreed that the CLC members would forward their comments to the Chairman during the consultation process and these would be forwarded to the WSFRS.

## **Highways**

### **Proposed Signalled Controlled Pedestrian Crossing, Worth Park Avenue, Pound Hill, Crawley**

42. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Communities and Infrastructure and the Divisional Manager Highways Commissioning on a proposal for a signalled controlled pedestrian crossing in Worth Park Avenue, Pound Hill, Crawley (copy appended to the signed minutes).

43. The Chairman reported that the decision on the proposal had been deferred from the last meeting in order to obtain more clarity about the feasibility of

Locations 2 and 3 as described in the report. George Chisenga introduced the report.

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

- Location 1 – safety issues. Some members of the Committee had concerns about pedestrian safety if the crossing was placed at Location 1. Other members considered that Location 1 had been proposed following advice from professionals and this advice should not be disregarded, particularly the pedestrian count which had indicated that the location was a high priority site. Some members felt that figures for the pedestrian count at Location 1 had been skewed by the number of Hazelwick schoolchildren crossing the road adjacent to the roundabout at Ridley's Corner.
- There was a risk of duplication of pedestrian crossings if the crossing was located further west nearer to a school crossing point.
- Concerns were expressed about the problems of traffic backing up at pedestrian crossings and at school crossing patrols causing queues further back.
- Some members considered that pedestrian crossings can have a calming effect on traffic and that this would be greater if the crossing was located further west.
- There was a need to find the most suitable location for the pedestrian crossing in relation to the bus stop and bus shelter.

45. The Chairman proposed rejecting the recommendation for the pedestrian crossing to be located as advertised and that new proposals be worked up for Locations 2 and 3 including new pedestrian counts and appropriate resident consultation. Mr Burgess seconded the proposal.

46. The Committee voted on the proposal. There was an equality of votes and following a second vote by the Chairman the proposal was agreed.

47. Resolved –

- (1) That the proposal for the installation of the signalled controlled pedestrian crossing on Worth Park Avenue, Pound Hill, Crawley, as advertised, is rejected at this stage.
- (2) That the scheme is deferred from the current year's programme to enable new indicative proposals to be worked up for Locations 2 and 3 including new pedestrian counts and safety analyses followed by appropriate resident consultation.

## **Traffic Regulation Order – Street Hill and Blackwater Lane**

48. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Communities and Infrastructure and the Head of Engineering Solutions for waiting restrictions to be implemented in Street Hill and parts of Allyington Way and Church Road, Worth, and in Blackwater Lane, Pound Hill (copy appended to the signed minutes).

49. The Chairman explained the background to the report and the reasons why the Committee was being asked to re-consider the need for a Traffic Regulation Order for waiting restrictions to be implemented on Street Hill. He also referred to line markings that had been laid in error since the issue was discussed at the CLC meeting in November 2011.

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

- The Chairman reported that as a consequence of the lines being laid in error, it appeared that some residents had found that their concerns about displacement parking in Saxon Road had not been realised.
- The parking problems for the visitors to the Church were discussed. The Chairman reported that a single yellow line was not considered by officers to be appropriate as the location had been identified as a dangerous place to park, and in this event it would not be safe to allow parking at certain times to allow church-goers to park.
- The Committee agreed that an extension of the restrictions further up Street Hill would need to be considered separately in the future, should any displacement effects resulting from the current proposal deem that to be necessary.

51. Resolved – That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services is authorised to make and seal and bring into effect the Traffic Regulation Order based on the August 2011 proposal, along with the additional proposals relating to the junction of Street Hill and Church Road, and to Blackwater Lane. See Section 3 of the Committee Report and Appendix D for details.

## **East Crawley County Local Committee Area Infrastructure Plan**

52. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Communities and Infrastructure and the Head of Community and Economic Development on progress in relation to the local highways and transport priorities identified within the Local Infrastructure Plan (copy appended to the signed minutes).

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

- Why was the estimated budget for the cycle path in Worth Park Avenue so high in relation to the cost of the other priority schemes? George Chisenga advised that there were land acquisition issues.
- Traffic management chicane removal in Billinton Drive, Maidenbower – there was some discussion about the advantages of the chicanes in

terms of improving safety for pedestrians and cyclists against the problem of congestion that they cause. The Committee agreed that this needed a proper public consultation so that the issue of whether chicanes really are the best and most modern method of traffic calming could be discussed.

- Pedestrian Crossing Facility (signalised) in Hazelwick Avenue, Three Bridges – the Chairman hoped that this would be built in the 2013/2014 financial year. A member of the public expressed concern about the length of time it was taking to deliver the schemes.

54. Resolved – That the report be noted.

### **Community Initiative Fund**

55. 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 1884/EC – Crawley Mela Association**

56. The Crawley Mela Association had requested £645 towards the cost of bringing a Lithuanian community dance and music troupe to perform at the Mela. The Committee agreed to allocate £645.

57. Resolved - That the East Crawley County Local Committee allocates the following funding:- £645 to the Crawley Mela Association.

### **Appointment of Authority Governors**

58. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Learning on the re-appointment of Authority Governors (copy appended to the signed minutes).

59. Resolved – That

- (1) Mr D Crow is re-appointed as Authority Governor to St Andrew's Church of England Primary School for a four-year term.
- (2) Mrs G Lawton is re-appointed as Authority Governor to Northgate Primary School for a four-year term.

### **'talk with us' - Open Forum**

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

61. Planning application for the development of the former Seeboard site in Russell Way, Three Bridges - the Committee was asked whether it would be objecting to the scheme. If the development went ahead there would be heavier traffic. Mr Lanzer took over as Chairman for this discussion as Mr Burrett had left the room in accordance with the Code of Conduct. Mr Lanzer reported the CLC would not be asked to give a view but the County Council was a consultee as Highway Authority. He stated that although there was a need for more housing in Crawley, he felt that the density of housing in the proposed scheme was too high.

62. Flooding in the car park at Northgate Parade – it was noted that progress had been made and this was welcomed.

63. Interval between meetings of the East Crawley CLC - the Clerk advised that in the 2013/14 municipal year the intervals between meetings would be more equal in length.

**Date of Next Meeting**

64. 8 November 2012 at 7pm in Crawley Library.

**Chairman**

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.