

East Crawley County Local Committee

11th September 2008 - At a meeting of the East Crawley County Local Committee at the Hazelwick School, off Bycroft Way, Three Bridges, Crawley.

Duncan Crow	Member for Tilgate & Furnace Green
David Dewdney (Chairman)	Member for Pound Hill, Worth & Maidenbower
Gillian Joyce	Member for Northgate & Three Bridges
Henry Smith	Member for Pound Hill, Worth & Maidenbower

Also in attendance:

Councillor Mrs Eade, Councillors Burrett and Boxall from Crawley Borough Council.

Robin Davison	- Democratic Services
Michael Lemmon	- Democratic Services
Ralph Wright	- Highways and Transport
Annie Alexander	- Adults and Children's Services
Sue Braysher	- Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Performance and Contracting, West Sussex Primary Care Trust

Declarations of Interest

19. Mr Smith declared a general interest, as his wife was a member of Crawley Borough Council and its Cabinet member for Housing.

20. Mr Crow declared an interest as a nominee for the Local Authority School Governor at St Andrew's C of E Primary School Furnace Green and Mr Dewdney declared an interest as a nominee for reappointment as a Local Authority Governor at Hazelwick School (agenda item 8 – Appointment of Local Authority School Governors).

Minutes

21. Resolved – that subject to the following amendments, the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd May 2008 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman:

➤ Minute 5, first bullet point – Add the following sentence after "...it might need to be re-advertised."

' The Committee noted the likelihood of additional commuter parking in Hardy Close if the residents declined the opportunity for Hardy Close to be included in the TRO'.

- Minute 5, penultimate bullet point – Amend “Gatton’s” to “Grattons” and “Somerfield” to “Somerville”.

Urgent Matters

22. None.

North East Review of Health Services

23. The Chairman welcomed Sue Braysher, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Performance and Contracting at West Sussex Primary Care Trust (PCT), to the meeting.

24. Mrs Braysher informed the meeting of the reasons why the review was being undertaken. During the Fit for the Future (FFF) consultation in 2007 residents and stakeholders had expressed their concerns that insufficient notice had been taken of services in the North East of the County. They had felt that the FFF consultation had been too focussed on Chichester and Worthing. Sir Graeme Cato had also recommended that a review be undertaken of the area for the same reasons.

25. Representatives from the PCT, two GPs, a community nurse, a public health doctor and a lay representative would carry out the review. The Panel would be chaired by Sir Graeme Cato and would hold monthly meetings until December 2008. Its recommendations would be made to the PCT Board on 27th November and the Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee of West Sussex County Council on 1st December 2008.

26. The Review covered the Crawley Borough and the districts of Horsham and Mid Sussex. It was being carried out in three phases:

- Phase 1 – GP services
- Phase 2 – Community services
- Phase 3 – Hospital services

and would consider the current health of the population and future needs; access to health services (including hospital care); gaps in services; expert advice and the views of local people. The closing date for Phase 3 of the consultation was 15th December 2008.

27. As a result of the consultation there were a number of key issues for the Panel to consider:

- Rurality and travel
- GP appointments
- Shortage of therapies
- Inadequate social care
- Long –term conditions
- Mental health gaps
- Access to maternity
- Paediatrics
- Services for older people

28. The Chairman commented that it was good that the Panel had clearly identified areas for improvement but asked whether there was a gap between the resources available and what had to be delivered. Mrs Braysher commented that there would always be finite resources and currently there were shortages of staff with the skill sets available to enable the service to move from 9 to 5 working to 24 hours a day – 7 days a week working.
29. She said that it was important for the PCT to commission the work needed in the most effective way, including joint working with other agencies and to reduce the bureaucracy involved.
30. In response to a question about the return of some services to Crawley Hospital, Mrs Braysher said that there was a need to maximise the use of that hospital and therefore the PCT was looking at various options. These included the return of diagnostic services and cancer treatments (after the initial treatment at a major treatment centre) including radio and chemotherapies. Day surgery had recently reopened at Crawley Hospital and she asserted that where possible services should be provided locally rather than at East Surrey Hospital.
31. Mrs Braysher was pleased to say that the waiting times for treatment had been reduced to 18 weeks from referral by a GP and she believed that the public would feel the service was more responsive.
32. In reply to a question about concerns being raised regarding accident and emergency services and maternity services, Mrs Braysher said that the Panel had received many comments about them and were the major themes of the review.
33. A member of the public said that he was concerned that people who worked in Crawley but who were not registered with a GP in the town could not access their services. He had understood that people in this position would be able to access GP services through the Health Centre but this had not happened. Mrs Braysher replied that tenders were being evaluated now and would provide services in addition to those provided by the walk in centre.
34. Asked whether she would confirm that the Panel would consider the possibility of a district general hospital in Crawley, Mrs Braysher replied that the Panel would be considering all responses from the public including those proposing a district general hospital.
35. As far as maternity services in Crawley were concerned, Mrs Braysher commented that the Panel would be considering the provision of services within the area covered by the North East Review and not simply in Crawley.
36. The Committee considered that as the largest number of patients treated at the East Surrey Hospital was actually from West Sussex it should be the West Sussex PCT that was the lead commissioner for services. Mrs Braysher replied that the lead commissioning arrangements were determined by contract value and it was very finely balanced between the two PCTs. Stakeholder views including those of West Sussex County Council would be considered by the Panel.

Chairman's Update

37. Crawley Household Waste and Recycling Centre – The Committee was pleased to note that from 8th September 2008 the temporary facility would now open on Wednesdays as well as at weekends. It was noted that the reason why the temporary site was not open all week was down to the licensing of the land. It was hoped that the hours would be extended further.
38. No clear cause for the fire had been found as much of the evidence had been destroyed in trying to put the fire out. It was assumed that the fire had started accidentally. Structural surveys of the fire-damaged building had indicated that the damage might not be as serious as originally feared and therefore it was hoped that the permanent site might reopen by 1st April 2009. The cost of rebuilding would be borne by the insurance.
39. The permanent site had been achieving a 60% recycling rate and it was noted that the current arrangements would be having an effect on that rate. However, the County Council was sufficiently ahead of its targets before the fire that it should not miss them as other recycling sites around the County could be used. In addition Crawley Borough Council's green waste collection scheme was very successful in reducing the green waste going to the site.
40. Opening of the New Library in Crawley – The Chairman informed the meeting that it was anticipated the new library would open before Christmas 2008 although a definite date had yet to be agreed.
41. He was also pleased to report that a room in the new library would be named after the late Bill Buck. Mr Buck had been a champion of the Library Service during his time as a County Councillor and the Chairman said that it was most appropriate for this to be recognised.
42. The new library would be using sustainable wood chip sources for heating and would meet the environmental standards for new buildings throughout.
43. Ofsted Inspections – Pound Hill School and Three Bridges Junior School – The Chairman was pleased to report that the Pound Hill School and Three Bridges Junior School had both achieved a Grade Three, Satisfactory, inspection. The Chairman also took the opportunity to congratulate schools in Crawley for their exceptional exam results.
44. Highways Issues – The Highway Manager reported that the latest estimate for the proposed 20mph safety zone for Grattons Drive would now be twice the original and absorb all the S106 funds available from the Linden Homes development. Consequently there would be a funding shortfall for the Somerville Drive traffic calming. However he advised the Committee that he had been assured that funding from the S106 agreement arising from the Hazelwick Mill Lane development would be available to fund the Somerville Drive scheme during 2009 when a consultant could be appointed to design and implement the works.

45. Members of the public expressed their disappointment and asked whether alternative sources of funding, for example from the St Mary's Drive advisory cycle route, could be found to enable the Somerville Drive scheme to proceed in the current financial year. The Highway Manager explained that this was not possible, as the St Mary's Drive scheme was currently not programmed until 2012 at the earliest and was funded from an entirely different budget. It simply was not appropriate to vire money from the cycle route budget or another capital highway budget to subsidise a project in the S106 programme as this would have a knock on effect on schemes in those programmes. As the Committee had identified Grattons Drive as the first priority it would be necessary to use all the available funding to implement the whole scheme.
46. The Chairman concurred and said that a scheme could not be partially implemented. The Milton Mount School Safety Zone (SSZ) came well down the SSZ priority list. He said he would like the County Council and the School to consider modifying the school entrance and for the School to encourage parents not to drive their children to the school.
47. A member of the public asked why the proposal to introduce Local Authority Parking Enforcement in Crawley would not now take place until 2012. He said it was having a detrimental effect on the Mill Road area in Three Bridges. The Chairman commented that it was the lack of off street parking at the Three Bridges railway station that was the main problem. He understood that there was a possibility that a multi storey car park might be built next to the station. The Committee noted that Civil Parking Enforcement would be introduced in Crawley no later than 2010.
48. Youth Matters – 'talk with us' event 22nd May 2008 – The Committee noted that about 200 young people had attended the event at the K2 Leisure Centre on 22nd May 2008. The young people had identified a number of issues that affect them in Crawley during the Question Time and through the video booth.

Partnership for Older People Project (POPP)

49. The Chairman introduced Annie Alexander, the Partnership for Older People Project (POPP) Lead from Adult and Children Services. The Project was about making life better for older people. Consultations had shown that older people wanted befriending services, help with gardening and shopping, transport, one stop shop for advice, social opportunities, home maintenance and practical help services.
52. POPP was a pilot project to test person-centred and joined up approaches from health, social care and voluntary sector agencies in order to promote health, well being and independence for older people, prevent unplanned acute hospital admissions and delay admissions to residential care. Members noted that West Sussex was awarded £3.4 million by the Department of Health for this project.
53. Members also noted that POPP had delivered: the establishment of Community Partnership Teams (CPTs), the setting up of Neighbourhood Network Governance, boosted the infrastructure of the third sector and developed a database and website that detailed local services.

54. In Crawley the Community Partnership Team had been in place since 17th March 2008 and was based in Centenary House, Crawley. Most contracts had been awarded to a consortium led by Crawley Council for Voluntary Service and included amongst others, Age Concern West Sussex, the Diego Garcian Society, 4Sight, the Sikh community, Swallows over 50 and the Women's Royal Voluntary Service. The voluntary organisations had formed a network, the Crawley Older Peoples Partnership (CROPP) and this would govern the work of the POPP locally. Even though this was a pilot study, consideration had been given to how this could be sustained after the study finished.

55. As a result of this work it should mean that older people would, amongst other things:

- Have a single point of access to services
- Have better information about services to meet their needs
- Be able to maximise their income by ensuring that they had all their benefit entitlements
- Have support to enable them to obtain the services they needed
- Access to more preventative and 'low level' services
- Reduce acute admissions to hospital or residential services.

Community Initiatives Funding

56. The Committee received the report by the Head of Democratic Services on an application for Community Initiative Funding (copy appended to the signed minutes)

57. Resolved – that application number 696 from the Crawley Millennium Concert Band for £500 towards replacement music stands be approved.

Appointment of Local Authority School Governors

58. Mr Dewdney declared an interest in agenda item 8(d) and stood aside as the Chairman for this item. The Committee elected Mr H.E.M Smith as Chairman.

Mr H.E.M. Smith in the Chair

59. Resolved- That

- Mr R McMurray be appointed as a Local Authority School Governor at Thomas Bennett School for four years;
- Mr D Crow be appointed as a Local Authority School Governor at St Andrew's C of E Primary School, Furnace Green for four years;
- Mrs C Julian-Wesson be re-appointed as a Local Authority School Governor at Three Bridges Junior School for four years with effect from 19th December 2008;
- Mr D Dewdney be re-appointed as a Local Authority School Governor at Hazelwick School for four years with effect from 30th September 2008.

Mr Dewdney in the Chair

Sponsored Roundabouts

60. The Committee agreed to defer the item to the next meeting of the Committee.

Public Question Time – ‘talk with us’

61. A member of the public commented that local residents were pleased that the tarmac between 213-217 The Birches had been resurfaced.

62. Referring to back to the Chairman's update a member of the public asked whether the traffic regulation order (TRO) for parking restrictions at Three Bridges East would be for 'timed parking' or residents parking. The Highway Manager replied that the TRO would be applied in Mill Road, Crabbet Road and Kimberley Road comprising double yellows at junctions, and limited waiting in other areas. There would not be a residents parking scheme.

Date of Next Meeting

63. The next meeting would be held on 11th December 2008 at 7pm at Hazelwick School.

Chairman

The meeting ended at 9.10 p.m.