

East Crawley County Local Committee

20 October 2015 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00pm, in the Longley Exhibition Room, Crawley Library, Crawley.

Present: Mr Burrett (Member for Pound Hill and Worth) - Chairman, Mr Crow (Member for Tilgate and Furnace Green), Mr Lamb (Member for Northgate and Three Bridges) and Mr Lanzer (Member for Maidenbower).

Welcome and Introductions

21. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and each County Councillor introduced themselves.

Declaration of Interests

22. None.

Minutes

23. Resolved - that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

24. The Chairman reported that the planning application for the proposed farmers' market at Three Bridges Station had been refused by Crawley Borough Council.

Progress Statement

25. The Committee received and noted a progress report on matters relating to East Crawley (copy appended to the signed minutes).

26. Mr Brian Lambarth (Area Highways Manager) updated the Committee on schemes on the Infrastructure Plan Priorities and Community Issues List. Issues to note included:

- The proposed pedestrian crossing scheme for Turners Hill Road would involve constructing a controlled pedestrian crossing at the Church Road junction, along with further speed surveys and the possibility of vehicle activated signs further to the east. This was scheduled for delivery in the next financial year. The Chairman confirmed that a wider scheme for the eastern end of the road would be looked at as a future priority scheme following the further feasibility work which needed to be carried out relating to the options available.
- In relation to speed reduction measures in Northgate, Mr Lamb stated that he was told this would be reviewed after the school expansion. Mr Brian Lambarth agreed to check this.

Community Initiative Funding

27. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law, Assurance and Strategy (copy appended to the signed minutes) which detailed applications for Community Initiative Funding. The Committee debated the respective merits of the projects for which funding was sought.

28. Resolved - that the Committee allocate funding as follows:

755/EC – Headway West Sussex, £596.65, towards equipment and stationery;

780/EC - Concordia Singers, £1,778.00, towards hiring the Hawth Theatre and other concert costs;

790/EC - Crawley Bobby Dazzlers, £467.00, towards the cost of costumes.

Three Bridges and Pound Hill parking review

29. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Highways and Transport & Service Manager for Transport and Countryside (copy appended to the signed minutes).

30. Mrs Jeanette Napper, Senior Technician, Parking Strategy Team, introduced the report and explained the proposals firstly in relation to Pound Hill and then Three Bridges. The Chairman invited comments from both Members of the Committee and the public that included the following:

- Mr Lanzer, as the local Member for Maidenbower (covering the Pound Hill element of the proposals), stated that he supported all the proposals for that area as detailed in the report.
- A local resident stated that the Pastoral Centre had a number of activities on Saturdays that would require people to park for longer than 2 hours. Mr Lanzer explained that the proposals only related to the shopping parade car park itself, but also that there was additional parking nearby. He did also confirm that if agreed tonight the proposals would be formally advertised for public consultation.
- Mr Lamb, as the local Member for Northgate and Three Bridges, confirmed that he had no opposition to the extension but was suggesting that a sub zone in Zone F should be progressed. Mr Lamb explained that problems associated with Three Bridges Station will cause displacement and the County Council had a responsibility to improve residents' parking.
- Regarding the proposal for a sub zone, questions were raised as to whether others could park in it on a Saturday. Mr Lamb asked officers to confirm if the sub zone could have the flexibility of allowing all in Zone F to park in the whole zone.
- It was also suggested that the term 'sub zone' was confusing and it should be either a new zone or an extended Zone F.
- A local resident asked if proposals could be extended into Northgate Avenue. Mrs Napper confirmed that junction protection could be considered and she would look into this further.

- A local resident raised concern that the informal consultation results seem to support a sub zone but officers were not recommending this for progression. She explained that the consultation was just a snap shot in time and the Committee must consider the detail and listen to the local people.
- It was confirmed that the position of the parking bays near Crossways would be looked at but Crossways itself was not included in the proposals.
- Another local resident provided the Committee with photographs of Forge Lane and the problems that could occur with cars parked on both sides of the road. Mrs Napper confirmed this would be looked at as part of the consultation.
- Some residents suggested that parking at the station should be improved. The Chairman confirmed that discussions had taken place with Southern Rail about improving car parking but that ultimately this was a decision for them and not within the County Council's control. It was also stated that even if more parking was made available people may still choose to use free on road parking if available.

31. Resolved - that the Committee authorised the Director of Law, Assurance and Strategy to formally advertise modified proposals, as described in Option 2 in Appendix C but with the addition that residents across both parts of Zone F can park across the whole of Zone F, and subject to there being no unresolvable objections after a formal advertisement, to bring the Traffic Regulation Order into operation.

32. Members agreed that if the addition that residents across both parts of Zone F can park across the whole of Zone F could not legally be incorporated then the scheme should progress to advert as detailed in the original text of Option 2.

33. It was noted that detailed plans will be submitted to the relevant Committee member for review/approval before commencing the formal consultation.

'Talk with Us' – Open Forum

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

- Mr Brian Lambarth, Highways Area Manager, agreed to inspect the white centre lines in Three Bridges Road as it was reported they needed renewing.
- Mr Lambarth also agreed to arrange an inspection of the white lines in Church Road at the junction with the Worth Way.
- Mr Lambarth also agreed to arrange an inspection of the cycle path in Northgate Avenue as it was reported that vegetation was overgrowing.
- Mr Lambarth also agreed to arrange an inspection of the subway at Northgate into Manor Royal as it was reported that constant standing water on the cycle path meant that cyclists have to use the footpath.
- Mr Thomas raised concern about West Sussex County Council's capital programme and a recent article by the Leader of the Council. He

expressed disappointment that it made no mention of the environmental responsibilities of the County Council when considering sustainable developments. He also raised concern about the level of borrowing. The Chairman responded stating that the County Council had to be reactive to anticipated growth and demographic change but also had a responsibility to be sustainable and consider the environment. He confirmed that a project entitled 'The Beautiful Outdoors' stressed the Council's commitment to the environment.

- Mr Burgess asked what consultation had been undertaken for the 30mph signs on Three Bridges Road. Mr Lambarth suggested that these had not been put in by West Sussex County Council so would investigate and report back.
- In response to a question about unoccupied buildings Mr Lanzer confirmed that the County Council does have a policy to reduce the number of properties it owns but that Centenary House, Crawley, was being retained in case it was required for a development scheme in the Town Centre.

Date of Next Meeting

35. The Chairman informed all that the next meeting would be held on 15 December 2015 at Crawley Library.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chairman