

Unconfirmed minutes - subject to change until confirmed at the next meeting.

East Crawley County Local Committee

16th February 2011 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.30pm in Crawley Library, Crawley.

Present: Bob Burgess, Richard Burrett (Chairman), Duncan Crow and Bob Lanzer.

Chairman's Welcome and Introductions

173. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Members to introduce themselves.

Declarations of Interests

174. Mr Burgess declared a personal interest in agenda item 8, Authority School Governors, as his wife was a nominee as an Authority School Governor at Three Bridges Junior School.

Minutes

175. Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 30th November 2010 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

176. None.

Community Safety – Roads Policing

177. The Chairman welcomed Inspector Matt Webb and Sergeant Gavin Tyley, from Sussex Police to talk about roads policing in Sussex.

178. Inspector Webb informed the Committee that unfortunately no officers from the Roads Policing Team were available and both he and Sergeant Tyley were from the Neighbourhood Policing Team for Crawley.

179. In 1990 roads policing in West Sussex operated from four sites in the North of the County alone. From 1st April 2011, roads policing would only operate out of three sites across the whole of Sussex with the Department's HQ based at Haywards Heath. Roads Policing were responsible for deciding the priorities for enforcement action.

180. Decisions about where to carry out the enforcement action were based on a database of the number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) on each road. The KSI statistics, along with information from the public and other authorities about accidents was put into a matrix scoring system. The scoring was then ranked – green, low numbers of accidents (low risk); amber; or red, a number of KSIs in a three-year period (high risk).

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181. Inspector Webb said that although neighbourhood police teams did not normally have any involvement in roads policing, he would be seeking approval for the neighbourhood teams in Crawley to receive training on the use of speed cameras. If agreed, within the next six months this would enable them to carry out enforcement on local roads where residents were reporting problems with speeding but where they were not a high priority for the Roads Policing Team. A member of the public commented that the assessment of the roads appeared to take a long time. Inspector Webb commented the problem was not the matrix calculation but the finding of a suitable site for the enforcement work to take place that was sometimes the cause of the delay. In some cases there were no suitable sites. The approach to all speeding was "education, enforcement, [and/or change] environment" so other options also had to be considered to reduce speeds, such as education or changing road layouts.
182. In response to a question about the enforcement of legislation on mobile phones Inspector Webb explained that officers would not necessarily take action if they were going to another call. If not, they would respond if it were safe to do so. Each driver of police vehicles was given a permit to drive within certain limits:
- Red Permit – All drivers.
 - Amber – Initial pursuits on blue lights and two-tones.
 - Green – Specialist roads policing and firearms units used in the second phase of pursuits and who could deploy specialist equipment such as the stop-stick.
183. A member of the public commented that a number of people could be seen using mobile phones at the Three Bridges junction and asked whether the CCTV camera could be used to catch offenders. Although it might be possible to use it for that purpose, Inspector Webb suggested that the camera would be better deployed to catch other offences.
184. Inspector Webb said the Roads Policing Team held statistics on speeding offenders caught by mobile enforcement and the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership held data relating to the fixed camera sites. If people witnessed speeding or other anti-social driving they could report it through on Operation Crackdown on the Sussex Police website – www.sussex.police.uk - providing as much information as possible.
185. In response to a question about volunteers for Community Speed Watch, he said that the police trained the volunteers, provided the kit and assessed roads to see whether there were suitable locations for the volunteers to observe vehicles. The volunteers were not warranted so people who were logged as speeding were only sent letters of advice from the police, reminding them that if the police or a speed camera caught them they would be fined. Community Speed Watch could only operate on 30 or 40mph roads.
186. Members of the public commented on the lack of visibility of some cyclists and the problems with them jumping red traffic lights. Cyclists were required to use lights but enforcing this was not a high priority. Fixed penalty tickets could be issued for the offence if an offender was caught. Inspector Webb said that he did not differentiate between bad driving and bad cycling. While the consequences for a cyclist jumping a red light could clearly be worse than for a driver involved in a collision, he said that the impact on that driver should

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not be underestimated. The offence and level of fine were the same for drivers and cyclists and it was for magistrates to determine.

187. Mr Lambarth, Highways Manager, agreed to look at the reported problems with the pavements at the southern end of North Road. Inspector Webb agreed to look into the following issues:

- Speeding in Woodfield Road
- Parents outside schools setting down young children on the off side and into oncoming traffic.

188. The Chairman thanked Inspector Webb and Sergeant Tyley for the presentation.

Crawley (Three Bridges) – Various Roads: Proposals to introduce residents' parking controls and review existing waiting restrictions

189. The Committee received the report by the Director of Operations, Infrastructure and Service Manager – Transport on the proposals to introduce residents parking controls and review existing waiting restrictions in Three Bridges (copy appended to the signed minutes).

190. The Member for Northgate and Three Bridges supported the proposals.

191. It was noted that the Dyers Almshouses had been consulted. In response to a question about the sale of unused residents' parking permits, Mr Davy, Senior Transport Planner, stated that they would not automatically be made available to non-residents because the characteristics of the road were taken into consideration. He thought it unlikely therefore that permits for The Birches would be made available to non-residents.

192. Comments were made regarding parking on grass verges and the layout of parking bays in The Birches. Members noted that the off-street parking was the responsibility of Crawley Borough Council and that the current scheme had been installed as part of its residential environment improvement programme within the last 10 years. Although an initial request from County Council officers to amend the scheme had been refused by the Borough Council, Members agreed to ask the Borough Council to amend the off-street parking arrangements at The Birches. It was recognised that if accepted, any revised layout would have to take its turn in the Borough's residential environment improvement programme.

193. Mr Davy agreed to check with the Borough Council whether the yellow dispensation notices were being used correctly while the applications for permits were being processed.

194. Resolved

That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to formally advertise the proposals set out in the plans dated 02/11/10 in Appendix A and, subject to there being no objections, that they be brought into operation.

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Community Initiative Fund

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

196. Resolved

That 'Jackdoor' (application 1515/EC) be awarded £1000 to provide transport for vulnerable disabled people to enable them to participate in meetings, lunches and day trips to reduce social exclusion and improve their general well being.

Appointment of Authority School Governors

197. The Committee received the report by the Director Operations – Learning on the appointment of Authority school governors (copy appended to the signed minutes).

198. Resolved

That the following people be appointed or reappointed as Authority governors for four years:

Appointments

- i. Mr N Mort to Milton Mount Primary School
- ii. Mrs B Burgess to Three Bridges Junior School

Reappointments

- iii. Mr J Claybon to Oriel High School
- iv. Mrs E Sayers to The Oaks Primary School

'talk with us' - Open Forum

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

200. It was noted that the County Council's standard time scale for responding to complaints was 10 working days.

201. Regarding potholes, it was noted that the priority was to fill the deepest holes as a priority so others nearby may not be dealt with as quickly. Temporary repairs were often carried out in bad weather if there was a serious safety concern. This meant that the repair could not always be patched permanently and it was acknowledged that a more permanent repair would need to be made when the weather improved. The public were encouraged to report any they saw on either the County Council's website, www.westsussex.gov.uk, or on the hotline number, 01243 642105.

202. Mr Lambarth would confirm the policy regarding whether street lighting was switched off at night at the next meeting.

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203. It was noted that the County Council and Crawley Borough Council were applying to central government to be in the vanguard of projects to develop new ways of working with the new GP consortia that would replace the West Sussex Primary Care Trust from 2013.
204. Members considered that County Hall North did provide value for money despite the reductions in staff numbers that had recently been announced. The County Council had reduced its property portfolio across the North East of the County and as a result had made significant savings by bringing the staff together in one location. Some of County Hall North would be let out to businesses and the training suite was also available to hire. The County Council, all Borough and District Councils and the Sussex Police were mapping their property holdings to see where they could make appropriate joint use of their facilities.
205. Regarding recycling, it was noted that although packaging might indicate it could be recycled, whether it could be in practice depended on there being a market for that material. The guide given out to residents made it quite clear what could and could not be recycled.
206. In reply to a question about the former Desmond Anderson School site it was confirmed that it was on the market for housing development.

Date of Next Meeting

207. 17th May 2011 at 7pm in Crawley Library.

Chairman

The meeting closed at 9.30.