

East Crawley County Local Committee

17th May 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.

Election of Chairman

1. Mr Burrett was elected Chairman for the 2011/12 municipal year.

Declarations of Interests

2. Mr Burgess declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 7, as a member of the Crawley Festival Committee, one of the applicants for Community Initiative Funding. He withdrew from the room during consideration of that application.

3. Mr Burrett declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8, Authority School Governors, as one of the applicants. He invited Mr Crow to chair the meeting for the consideration of that application, and took no part in the decision-making on the application.

Minutes

4. Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting held on 16th February 2011 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

5. Minute 187 refers. The Chairman read out a report from Brian Lambarth, West Sussex Highways, indicating that he had arranged for a colleague to carry out an inspection of North Road and a number of safety defects had been identified which had now been repaired. The condition of North Road will continue to be monitored and safety repairs carried out as necessary.

6. Minute 202 refers. The Chairman also reported back on Brian Lambarth's feedback regarding the street lighting policy. The current timings for street lights in Crawley are as follows:

A,B and C roads – lights are generally on from dusk until dawn;
D and unclassified roads – generally lights are on from dusk until midnight and from 05.30 until dawn. In some areas e.g. Broadfield and Bewbush lights are currently on all night. A map showing lighting regimes could be provided if requested.

7. A member of the public commented that the issues concerning zig-zag lines and school signs in North Road also needed looking into.

Highways

Crawley (Three Bridges) Controlled Parking Zone

8. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Operations Infrastructure and Divisional Manager Transport on the Crawley (Three Bridges) Controlled Parking Zone (copy appended to the signed minutes).

9. Miles Davy, Principal Transport Planner, introduced the report and provided details of the recent consultation. Ten formal responses had been received which had been summarised in Appendix B of the Committee Report. He advised that if the order to extend the Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) was made, it would be implemented later in the summer and he would write to all residents affected by the CPZ about obtaining permits and also to advise against parking on grass verges.

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

- Difficulties of enforcing no-parking on grass verges. Miles Davy advised it could be a matter for the Borough Council to enforce through by-laws if the verge in question was under its ownership. Mr Lanzer (Leader, Crawley Borough Council) advised that the Borough Council was looking at legislation to see what could be applied to prevent parking on grass verges. A member of the public referred to safety issues caused by the large dips created by cars parking on grass verges in St Mary's Drive.
- Possible displacement caused by the CPZ. Miles Davy advised that it was likely that displacement would take place if a scheme was introduced and he would monitor the situation. He also advised that a CPZ would not solve the parking problems as such but it was merely one of the tools used to manage parking problems.
- A member of the public was concerned that residents' permits would be sold to commuters. Miles Davy advised that permits would only be sold to non-residents if there is spare capacity, after the needs of residents had been fully met.
- The need to lobby Network Rail to provide more car parking at Three Bridges Station. The Chairman reported that this had been ongoing for many years. Miles Davy agreed to provide the Committee with the records of discussions with the rail operator at the next meeting.
- Members referred to the considerable parking pressures in Crawley and agreed that the proposed extension to the CPZ for Three Bridges was the best compromise.

11. Resolved – That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make an Order for a Controlled Parking Zone as advertised and bring the proposals into operation.

Consultation on parking issues in Pound Hill

12. Miles Davy provided an update for the Committee on a recent consultation on parking issues in Pound Hill. He advised that residents had been asked whether

they considered there were parking problems in the area and whether they wished the Highway Authority to consider proposals for managing parking in two specific areas, one within the Pound Hill North ward, and one within the Pound Hill South and Worth ward. As a result of the consultation it was clear that there was more support for further investigation in the southern area, but not so much in the northern zone. Miles Davy advised that he would be having discussions about the way forward with the local Members.

Community Initiative Fund

13. 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 1564/EC - The Siva Trust Ltd

14. The Siva Trust Ltd had requested £2,222.00 towards costs of a phased facilities enhancement plan. The Committee agreed that it could support some of the activities in the enhancement plan but other activities were outside the remit of the Committee's funding criteria. The Committee agreed to allocate £400.00.

Application 1566/EC - The Environment Centre

15. The Environment Centre had requested £1,714.13 for costs associated with the preparation and delivery of education sessions in local schools. The Committee 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.

Application 1569/EC - Crawley Festival

16. The Crawley Festival had requested £2,222.00 for various costs associated with the set-up and staging of the 2011 Crawley Festival. The Committee agreed to allocate £1,600.00. Funding to pay the fees of professional artists was outside the remit of the Committee's funding criteria.

Application 1572/EC - Cobnor Activities Centre Trust

17. The Cobnor Activities Centre Trust had requested £1,777.00 towards the cost for a one-off, week-long activities project for disadvantaged local young people. The Committee agreed to allocate £1,777.00.

Application 1602/EC - CAMEO Club

18. The CAMEO Club had requested £444.44 towards the cost of a holiday for members of the club. The Committee agreed to allocate £444.44.

Application 1613/EC - Parent and Family Care Foundation

19. The Parent and Family Care Foundation had requested £355.50 towards the costs of delivering a day of training to parents of children with special needs in Crawley. The Committee agreed to allocate £355.50.

20. Resolved -

- (1) That the East Crawley County Local Committee allocates the following funding: -
 - (i) £400.00 to the Siva Trust Ltd
 - (ii) £1,600.00 to the Crawley Festival
 - (iii) £1,777.00 to the Cobnor Activities Centre Trust
 - (iv) £444.44 to the CAMEO Club
 - (v) £355.50 to the Parent and Family Care Foundation.
- (2) That the decision on application 1566/EC (The Environment Centre) is deferred, awaiting further information, until the next meeting of the East Crawley County Local Committee.

Appointment of Authority School Governors

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

22. Resolved - That the following people be appointed or reappointed as Authority governors for four years:

Appointment

- (1) Mr R Brennan to Maidenbower Junior School;

Reappointment

- (2) Mr R Burrett to Thomas Bennett Community College.

'talk with us' - Open Forum

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

24. With regard to traffic offences e.g. cycling on pavements, particularly in the area of Three Bridges near to the railway station bridge, and using mobile phones whilst driving, members of the public were advised that these were a matter for police enforcement. Mr Lanzer stated that he would report these concerns to the police.

25. The need to impose a reduced speed limit in Balcombe Road was raised. The Chairman reported that this was a proposal on the Traffic Regulation Order priority list and the proposal was currently being assessed.

26. With regard to the EU Road Noise Initiative and progress with the required noise report, information on this was not available at the meeting but feedback on the matter would be provided for Cllr Keith Brockwell of Crawley Borough Council.

27. Regarding the issue of litter and the overgrown condition of the former Desmond Anderson school site, Mr Crow reported that a litter pick could be arranged and progress was being made with marketing the site.

28. Regarding the establishment of a West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board as proposed in the Government's Health and Social Care Bill, the Chairman reported that West Sussex was an 'early implementer' and the Leader of the County Council had taken a decision in March to form a Shadow West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board. The first meeting would be held soon followed by 'meetings in public' later in the year.

29. With regard to problems for pedestrians in the area near Tesco's in Hazelwick Avenue, members of the public felt that the area was very busy and a 40 mph speed limit was too high. The Committee noted the problems. Mr Crow stated that Members had previously been told by Highways officers that there was insufficient space to have a zebra crossing near the roundabout.

30. The issue of grass cutting in Northgate was raised. A member of the public felt the verges looked neglected. The Chairman reported that the County Council had delegated responsibility for grass cutting of verges to the Borough Council. Mr Lanzer agreed to discuss the matter with the Borough Council Cabinet Member.

31. Regarding obtaining parking permits for residents' visitors, a member of the public asked if these would be available from Post Offices. Miles Davy advised that he would raise the issue with the Borough Council.

Date of Next Meeting

32. 5th July 2011 at 7pm in Crawley Library.

Chairman

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.