

East Crawley County Local Committee

4 March 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

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

Declaration of Interests

61. Mr Burrett declared a personal interest in relation to agenda item 7 - Community Initiative Funding - as a Trustee of Crawley Open House.

Minutes

62. Resolved - that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

63. The Chairman stated that a late Community Initiative Fund application from Crawley Celtic and Irish Cultural Society had been received after the agenda had been published but that he had agreed for it to be considered alongside the other applications at agenda item 7.

Progress Statement

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

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

- The proposed Three Bridges Station improvement scheme had been agreed by Crawley Borough Council.
- The pedestrian guard rails at Milton Mount School had now been installed.
- The location for a new crossing in Maidenbower Drive had been agreed but funding had not yet been secured.

Crawley (Three Bridges and Pound Hill) Parking Review

66. The Committee considered an information report by the Director of Highways and Transport (copy appended to the signed minutes).

67. The Chairman welcomed Jeanette Napper and Miles Davy from the Parking Strategy Team who introduced the report. Ms Napper went through the report and the officer recommendations Zone by Zone. After a summary of each Zone the Chairman opened the meeting to questions from the Committee and public. Issues to note included:

Zone F:

- Mr Lamb as the local Member for Zone F supported the officer recommendations.
- Comments were made that the consultation process was taking too long. Mr Davy explained that the process was usually in 3 stages. Firstly residents and business are asked if they actually want proposals to be considered, secondly some proposals are put forward for detailed comment and the third stage is the formal statutory consultation period. Mr Davy did suggest that that stages 1 and 2 could be combined in the future but this does have risks of working up proposals that are not wanted or appropriate for a particular area.
- A resident suggested that the response rate of 26% was low and asked what would be done to ensure a higher response at the next stage of consultation. Mr Davy confirmed that consultation materials are sent to every resident within the proposed zone boundary and that it was difficult to assess what more could be done. At the next stage officers would also hold some public exhibitions as well as put notices in the local press, on the County Council website and social media sites.
- A resident asked if there would be enough spaces to meet residents' demands in the proposed sub zone? Mr Davy confirmed that no scheme can guarantee a space but officers do manage the issue of permits in order to ensure the fairest allocation possible.

Zone G:

- Mr Lanzer as the local Member for Zone G stated he supported the officer recommendations but would need to be clear on the implications of including Saturdays.
- A resident stated that at present it is difficult for residents and their visitors to find spaces at the weekends and they are concerned that the proposals would restrict this even more. Mr Davy stated that it was not the aim to further restrict parking and as part of the proposals they would seek to maximise the parking capacity by seeking to change or remove lengths of yellow lines.
- The issue of running parking bays across private driveways was raised. At present the parking bays extend across private driveways in the majority of cases within the Crawley parking scheme in order to maximise the parking capacity during the daytime. There is an issue about whether enforcement is undertaken, particularly overnight and this does not seem

to be consistent. Mr Davy stated that it is rare for residents to park deliberately across a neighbour's driveway but if evidence of regular obstructions can be provided then yellow lines can be considered by officers.

- A resident of Moat Walk stated that due to its proximity to two schools, it is often used by parents and drives and pavements are often blocked. Mr Davy stated that WSCC can make a request for patrols and enforcement at specific times and they can also work with schools to promote safer routes to school.

Zone H:

- Mr Burrett as the local Member for Zone H stated that he supported the officer recommendations on the premise that some parking restrictions in Burns Road are added.
- A resident of Grattons Drive welcomed the proposals as yellow lines on one side of the road had resulted in more parking on the other side.
- Mr Davy confirmed that these proposals could be advertised for a three week formal consultation period in advance of any other proposals in other areas. If more than 5 objections are received the proposals would come back to the CLC for a decision but if fewer than 5 objections were received then an officer decision could be taken to implement the proposals.

68. Resolved that, as detailed in the previously circulated report, the East Crawley CLC agrees to plans being drawn up to potentially extend the Residents' Parking Scheme into study Areas F and G, to review the existing Zones F and G to include the possibility of extending the days of restriction to include Saturdays, to produce plans for study Area H to show potential yellow line restrictions (including Burns Road), and once plans have been drawn up to undertake a full Design Consultation with residents in the above areas.

Community Initiative Funding

69. 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.

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

475/EC – Gurjar Hindu Union, £2222.23 towards the costs of staging a dance and drama performance at the Hawth Theatre.

481/EC – Young at Heart Over 60's Club, £222.23 towards the costs of a coach trip for club members.

503/EC – Hanover Band, £261.43 towards the costs of buying musical instruments to lend to children.

524/EC – St Catherine's Hospice, £804.45 towards the costs of training volunteers.

569/EC - CAMEO Club Crawley, £215.52 towards the costs of coach hire for an outing.

583/EC - Crawley Festival, £2,667.00 towards support for the Festival.

589/EC - The Friends of Three Bridges Primary School, £2,044.00 towards the purchase of 2 Covered Bike Shelters.

611/EC - Golden Lion Children's Trust, £262.00 for tickets for children to attend the South of England Show.

652/EC - Crawley United Reformed Church, £7,076.00 to install a sound system and hearing loop.

657/EC - Springboard Project, £782.00 towards repair and resurfacing of wheelchair and pushchair ramps.

669/EC - Celtic and Irish Cultural Society, £2222.00 towards a children's Education & Entertainment Arena.

71. The Committee also resolved that the remaining £725.24 should be donated to the local food bank, which was administered by Crawley Open House. Mr Burrett did not take part in this decision as he had previously declared a personal interest as a Trustee of Crawley Open House.

'Talk with Us' – Open Forum

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

- Concern was raised about the democratic process in relation to the Cross Keys walk-in centre that was briefly discussed at the last meeting. Mr Lamb stated that the NHS is separate to West Sussex County Council but that the Council can scrutinise NHS functions via its Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee.
- A resident reported that parking and lorries mounting the grass verges in Woodside Road, Northgate is damaging both the grass and the pavement. Mr Lamb confirmed that the County Council and the Borough Council are looking at a trial area to see if parking on grass verges can be resolved. The Highways Manager, Mr Brian Lambarth, stated that he would arrange for the pavement at Woodside Road to be inspected for safety defects.
- A resident stated that following some tree removal in Forge Road, Three Bridges, shoots have reappeared and the green has not been repaired. Mr Lamb agreed to follow this up.
- A request was made to ensure that the Three Bridges Station Improvements include some trees or green elements. It was suggested that Mr Lamb discuss this with the officers at Crawley Borough Council.
- It was noted that no school governor applications were on the agenda this evening. Mr Burrett stated that with school governing bodies

reconstituting and more schools becoming academies there are fewer applications coming forward to the Committee.

- It was felt that permitted development to convert premises over shops to residential use may cause more parking problems in the Town Centre. Although Members welcomed such space being used for housing they shared concerns about the parking but commented that Councils had little control over this.
- A resident asked how many parking permits for Zone C are issued to those living outside the Zone area. Mr Davy confirmed that there was a limited number of roads where permits are sold to non-residents but they are only issued if there is excess capacity and this can be reviewed if it becomes a problem. Mr Davy stated that Crawley Borough Council holds the data.

Date of Next Meeting

73. The Chairman informed all that the next meeting would be held on 17 June 2015 at Crawley Library.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

Chairman