

Unconfirmed minutes of the North Chichester CLC for approval/amendment at the next meeting

North Chichester County Local Committee

29 September 2015 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7pm at Duncton Village Hall, Duncton, West Sussex.

Present: Michael Brown (Fernhurst), Janet Duncton (Petworth), Sandra James (Bourne) and Gordon McAra (Midhurst).

In attendance: Peter Lawrence (Principal Community Officer), Paul Matthews (Democratic Services Officer), Joel Sykes (Highways Manager)

Welcome and introductions

15. The Chairman welcomed the public to the meeting and introduced the members of the Committee and officers present, noting that Peter Lawrence was attending his first meeting having just taken over responsibility for community matters from Fiona Baker.

16. The Committee noted the excellent job Fiona Baker had done over a number of years in supporting the local community and wished her every success in her new role within the County Council.

Declarations of interest.

17. In accordance with the register of members' interests, the following personal interest was declared:

- Gordon McAra who had unwittingly signed the Easebourne signalised crossing petition (agenda item number 7).

Minutes

18. Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 23 June 2015 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

19. There were no urgent matters.

Progress Statement

20. The Committee considered a report that provided updates on matters arising from previous meetings of the Committee (copy appended to the signed minutes). Peter Lawrence (Principal Community Officer) introduced the Progress Statement, explaining that all three items on the report had been cleared as both the Easebourne School Crossing and the Rogate Traffic Study were agendas item for tonight's meeting and that the required changes to the junction at South Harting had been completed.

21. Resolved – that the progress statement be noted.

Unconfirmed minutes of North Chichester CLC for approval/amendment at the next meeting

Rogate Traffic Study

22. The Chairman welcomed Fiona Dix (a Rogate Parish Councillor) to the meeting and invited her to provide a verbal update on the Rogate Traffic Appraisal Study. The key points made were:

- The Study examined options for making highway improvements to Rogate Village,
- There was potential to use aspects of the Study as a blueprint for traffic management across the County;
- Initial proposals were quite wide ranging, and include road narrowing; the placement of permanent fixtures in the middle of roads; and the removal of central road markings, the effect of which, would encourage drivers to slow down on approach and transit through the village;
- Ballpark costs for total implementation were believed to be in the region of £500k but it was accepted that it would not be possible to do everything in the Study and that implementation may be phased;
- The Parish was now working with County Council Highways Officers to produce detailed realistic costings for a range of options;
- The Parish were raising funds (£10k from the current precept) that could be used for some of the soft landscaping, leaving the highways elements to the experts at the County Council; and
- The Parish was grateful for the help and support being provided and undertook to keep the Committee updated on developments.

23. The Chairman thanked Fiona Dix for the informative update and extended the Committee's thanks to all those who had been involved with the Study.

24. The Committee concluded that under current financial constraints full implementation of the Study was not possible but hoped that a start could be made on those elements that had only minimal costs, with a view to incorporating other aspects if funds became available.

25. Resolved:-

- (a) That County Highways Officers work with the Rogate Parish Council to implement those elements of the Rogate Traffic Appraisal Study that can be done at minimal cost; and
- (b) That the approach to traffic management identified in the Rogate Traffic Appraisal Study is recommended to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport as a model for use in other parts of the County.

Signalised Pedestrian Crossing at Easebourne Primary School

26. The Chairman informed the meeting that a petition seeking a signalised crossing at the entrance to the Easebourne Primary School had gathered over 2900 signatures, adding that petitions were an excellent way for individuals or groups to participate in the democratic process and the County Council had a specific process for handling them: where a petition had over 500 verified signatures the petitioner could request that it is heard at a County Council public meeting; and in this case, the lead petitioner had asked to present their case to the Committee; accordingly,

Unconfirmed minutes of North Chichester CLC for approval/amendment at the next meeting

they had been allocated 5 minutes at the meeting to do this; after which, a County Councils Highways Officer would have 5 minutes to exercise a right of reply.

27. The Chairman asked Joanne Asman (lead petitioner) and Jonathan Culley (Head teacher of Easebourne Primary School) to present the Easebourne signalised crossing petition to the Committee. The key points made were: -

- Easebourne school was a primary school with nursery provision;
- The school had capacity to grow (and had been approached by the County Council to increase its numbers) but fear about pupil safety may limit any future expansion;
- The fields adjacent to the school may be given over for use as a children's playground;
- The A272 and A286 were close by the school and Eastbourne street was seen as a cut-thorough;
- There was shared pedestrian and vehicle entrance to the school and everyone walking to the school cross at this point;
- Rush hours overlapped with school leaving times;
- The topography at the crossing point requires that traffic from both sides accelerate to crest the hill;
- Visibility was poor for oncoming vehicles and for those pulling out of the school entrance;
- The road was used by lorries, large farm vehicles articulated horse boxes;
- The street lighting and signposting was poor and road markings were in need of repair;
- The school did have two crossing guards but one resigned in June (and had yet to be replaced) and the other had been long-term absent; and
- The school was using volunteers to provide a crossing patrol but staggered drop-off and pick-up timings from 8am till 5.40pm meant coverage was not complete.

28. The Chairman asked Joel Sykes from the County Council Highways Department to exercise a right of reply. The key point made were:

- The funding available for improving road safety was driven by reducing and preventing accidents and the Council acted proportionately to the level of risk in justifying the decisions made.
- In response to the petition, a feasibility study had been undertaken that had identified that providing a signalised crossing would be possible but expensive as a number of significant problems would have to be overcome, including:
 - The signalised crossing could not be installed where the current School Crossing Patrol was situated. This was because the crossing point was only 10m from the junction with school entrance and the Department of Transport guidelines required that there be a minimum 20m distance for signalised crossings.
 - An extra footway (at least 10m) would have to be built on school side and as this is a steep banked area, a retaining wall may be needed and the County Council does not own the bank and therefore would have to buy the land, or go through a compulsory purchase process.
 - Current street lighting would have to be enhanced at an estimated costs £8-12k

Unconfirmed minutes of North Chichester CLC for approval/amendment at the next meeting

- The cost of providing a signalised crossing at the school was estimated to be in excess of £100k and significantly higher if land purchase were required.
- the County Council was already committed to providing a crossing over the A286 at its junction with Easebourne street at an estimated cost of £85K
- Highways officers will continue to work with the school on its safety zone

29. The Chairman thanked Jonathan Culley and Joel Skyes for their presentations and in the general discussion that followed the School was offered the use of County Council Highways Department "fixed" unmanned speed gun to measure traffic flow and speeds.

30. The Committee concluded that although it could well understand the local desire to have the crossing it was unable to support the petition as the significant works required meant that it was not viable at this time.

31. The Committee commended the petitioner for raising the issue and asked that Highways Officers continue to work with the School and local residents to improve road safety in the area.

32. Resolved that the CLC could not support the petition but thanked the school and the petitioner for the work they had undertaken and asked Highways Officers to work with the school to see what safety improvements could be made; including the citing of a County Council Highways unmanned speed gun at the School.

Midhurst Town Centre Parking Traffic Regulation Order

33. The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Residents Services and Director of Highways and Transport that seeks to vary parking restrictions in and around Midhurst Town Centre on: North Street; Lamberts Lane; June Lane; and Ashfield Close.

34. Resolved:

That the Director of Law, Assurance and Strategy be authorised to make the Order as advertised subject to the following revisions:

Proposal 3.1 (iii) (b) – North Street, north of Wool lane be deleted

Proposal 3.1(v) (b) – June Lane fronting the properties North Bank to Trilliums be deleted

North Chichester Community Initiative Funding (CIF)

35. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law, Assurance and Strategy that sought decisions on applications received under Community Initiative Fund scheme (copy appended to the signed minutes).

36. Resolved –

(a) The following applications were agreed: -

743/NC, £1,500 to Redford Village Hall to insulate and purchase double glazing for Redford Village Hall

Unconfirmed minutes of North Chichester CLC for approval/amendment at the next meeting

758/C, £2,000 to Wisborough Green Cricket Club, towards the cost of providing equipment and coaching for youth cricket

759/NC, £2,000 to Milland Recreation Ground Trustees towards costs of replacing the swings at Milland Recreation Ground

783/NC, £2,500 to the Octagon Defibrillator Project to purchase a defibrillator and 3 defibrillator cabinets

(b) The follow application was declined: -

777/NC Elsted & Teryford Parish Council, £191.30 to purchase a projector to view planning applications. The Committee considered that the application did not meet the CIF eligibility criteria.

Nomination for Authority School Governors

37. The Chairman explained that as of the 1 September 2015 the procedures concerning governor appointment had changed and County Local Committee's may now only nominate an eligible person as a local authority governor but it was for the governing body to decide if this nominee had the skills to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

38. The Committee considered a report by the Strategic Commissioner for Learning that set out proposed nominations to school governing bodies and the criteria for their appointment (copy appended to the signed minutes).

39. Resolved – Under the 2012 Regulations to nominate for:

- i. re-appointment Mr R Uffold for a four year term to Camelsdale Primary School;
- ii. re-appointment Mrs E Hubbard for a four year term to Hollycombe Primary School; and
- iii. appointment Mrs L Stevenson to Rogate CE Primary School for a four year term

40. The Chairman drew the meetings attention to the governor vacancy at Plaistow and Kirdford Primary School.

Talk With Us

41. The Chairman invited questions from members of the public and the following matters were raised and discussed:

42. David Burden (Petworth Parish Council) said that he was greatly heartened by the Committee's reaction to the Rogate Traffic Study, adding that his Parish was about to undertake a similar programme and looked forward to bringing the findings to the attention of the Committee.

43. The issue of HGVs navigating their way through Midhurst Old Town and other town centres was discussed. Residents expressed their concerns about width restrictions and the damage to roads and buildings that might be caused, indicating that Satellite Navigation devices were guiding large lorries down inappropriate

Unconfirmed minutes of North Chichester CLC for approval/amendment at the next meeting

routes. Janet Duncton reported that this had been raised at previous meetings and as a result the County Council's Highways Department had written to the Road Haulage Association, requesting that a further letter be sent.

Date of the Next Meeting

44. It was confirmed that the next scheduled meeting of the Committee would take place at 7pm on Tuesday 12 January 2016 in the Cowdray Room, Capron House, the Cowdray Estate Midhurst, West Sussex.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

CHAIRMAN