

## **North Chichester County Local Committee**

**20 March 2012** – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7pm at Duncton Village Hall, Duncton.

Present: Mr Michael Brown (Chairman), Mr Chris Duncton, Mr Mark Dunn.

Apologies were received from Miss Nola Hendon.

### **Chairman's Welcome**

81. The Chairman welcomed the public and representatives from the District and Parish Councils.

### **Declarations of Interest**

82. No interests were declared.

### **Minutes**

83. Resolved - that the minutes of the meeting of the County Local Committee (CLC) held on 24 January 2012 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

### **Progress Statement**

84. The Committee noted a progress statement which provided updates on matters arising from previous meetings of the CLC (copy appended to signed minutes). The Principal Community Officer advised that wood could be used for the village gateway signs if requested. She also confirmed that the request for an extension of the Double Yellow Lines on June Lane, Midhurst would be picked up in an existing Traffic Regulation Order later in the year.

### **Better Connected**

85. Tim Ratledge, Portfolio Manager, Business Change, gave a verbal presentation on the County Council's 'Better Connected' initiative to improve Broadband services in West Sussex. He advised that the Chichester district was home to three of the four exchanges in the UK still with dial up, meaning that a significant proportion of businesses and residents were being left behind. He explained that the aim of the project was to have access to superfast Broadband to 90% of premises in the county by April 2015. The County Council would be seeking private sector investment of at least equal to the funding provided by central Government and the County Council. The more demand that could be stimulated the more potential that providers could be persuaded to extend their plans reducing the area to be provided for by 'Better Connected' funding. He advised that a prioritisation framework was being used to look at where services were to be provided and in what order using a range of criteria, balanced by need and informed by demand.

86. The Chairman invited questions from the audience. A question was raised about the relationship with commercial companies and how much would be funded by the Government. *Mr Ratledge advised that £6.36m had been allocated to the*

*county by central Government if the County Council could provide match funding. It was hoped that the new provider, once secured, would also match fund or close to. The County Council would provide an infrastructure for businesses and communities that would not be supported by the rollout. He added that technological solutions could not always be mapped to a size of settlement and therefore solutions did not always appear logical.*

87. Local residents were encouraged to complete the demand registration forms which were available at the meeting and on the County Council's website at: [www2.westsussex.gov.uk/CustomerInsight/Broadband%20registration%202011/broadband\\_registration\\_online.htm](http://www2.westsussex.gov.uk/CustomerInsight/Broadband%20registration%202011/broadband_registration_online.htm)

88. Resolved – That the Committee notes the verbal presentation.

## **Highways and Transport Matters**

### **Dodsley Lane, Easebourne – Proposed Reduction to Existing Speed Limit**

89. The Committee considered a report by Director of Communities and Infrastructure (copy attached to the signed minutes). The report advised that in September 2010 the Committee had agreed to use the new County Council policy on village speed limits and prioritise the progression of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) revoking the existing 40mph speed limit on Dodsley Lane, Easebourne and to impose a new 30mph speed limit on the same length of road.

90. The Principal Community Officer introduced the report. Peter Bradley, Engineering Solutions, was also in attendance to answer questions. The Committee discussed the report.

91. The Chairman of Easebourne Parish Council confirmed that the Parish Council had responded to the consultation although the report advised that a response had not been received. He asked whether any other engineering measures would be put in place.

92. The Chairman apologised to Easebourne Parish Council for the omission. He advised that funding was not available for additional measures and that the decision to request a 30mph limit was in the knowledge that this would be the case. He asked about the timescale for the works to be carried out.

93. Mr Bradley added that speed humps and cushions would not be suitable for an 'A' road. He advised that if the Committee agreed with the proposals that the relevant works should be completed within the next four weeks. He advised that there would be some temporary signs for approximately six months reminding drivers of the reduced speed limit, but that repeater signs were not permitted due to the existing street lighting which indicated a restricted road.

94. The Chairman of Easebourne Parish Council thanked the Committee for its support and made a plea to Sussex Police that there would be sufficient enforcement of the new speed limit.

95. Resolved – That the North Chichester CLC authorises the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to proceed with the proposals to revoke the existing 40mph speed limit on Dodsley Lane, Easebourne and for the

road to become a restricted road by virtue of street lighting for all but 220m at its northern extent where there are no street lights, at this point the road will be subject to a 30mph speed limit. In effect, the speed limit will change from a 40mph speed limit to a 30mph speed limit on the same length of road.

### **Elsted Road, Elsted Marsh - Proposed Reduction to Existing Speed Limit**

96. The Committee considered a report by Director of Communities and Infrastructure (copy attached to the signed minutes). The report advised that the speed of traffic on Elsted Road, Elsted Marsh had caused concern for local residents for many years. As a result, at its meeting in June 2011 the Committee agreed to investigate the possibility of a 40mph speed limit as one of its Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) for 2011/12. The report recommended that the Committee asked the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to make an exception to the Speed Limit Policy and authorise the Director Communities and Infrastructure to progress a 40mph speed limit on Elsted Road, Elsted.

97. The results of the speed surveys identified that the road did not meet the County Council's Speed Limit Policy for a 40mph speed limit in its current condition and asked the Committee to consider and agree one of the following options: -

- that Elsted Road, Elsted remain derestricted; or
- to authorise the Director Communities and Infrastructure to progress a 50mph speed limit on Elsted Road, Elsted; or
- to agree that the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport be asked to make an exception to the Speed Limit Policy and authorise the Director Communities and Infrastructure to progress a 40mph speed limit on Elsted Road, Elsted.

98. The Committee discussed the report. Members questioned the exact stretch of road which would be subject to a 40mph speed limit. Mr Bradley confirmed that the exact boundaries would be agreed in consultation with the Parish Council and local community.

99. Local residents expressed concerns about the speed of some drivers on this stretch of road and the dangers posed to their children and themselves when accessing their properties. Members urged local residents to report drivers via 'Operation Crackdown' run by the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership and Sussex Police (leaflets were available at the meeting) and advised that one in four reports resulted in action being taken.

100. The Chairman of Elsted and Treyford Parish Council advised that the Council and local residents were very supportive of a 40mph speed limit of Elsted Road and thanked the County Council for amending the policy. He also thanked the Community Officers and Traffic Engineers for their co-operation and said that their help had been outstanding. He also thanked the Committee for its support.

101. Resolved – That the North Chichester CLC agrees that the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport be asked to make an exception to the Speed Limit Policy and authorises the Director for Communities and Infrastructure to progress a 40mph speed limit on Elsted Road, Elsted

(with the exact boundaries of the reduced speed limit to be agreed in consultation with Elsted Parish Council).

### **North Chichester Community Initiative Funding**

102. The Committee considered a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which sought decisions on applications received under the CIF scheme (copy appended to the signed minutes).

103. Resolved –

(i) That the Committee awards the following amounts: -

- **1749/NC Milland Defibrillator Fund, £300**, protective equipment for community defibrillator.
- **1752/NC Midhurst Community Partnership, £2,000**, to make St. Anne's Hall toilet facilities disabled accessible.
- **1756/NC The North Singers, £882**, to cover musical accompanist costs for 42 rehearsal sessions **and two concerts**.
- **1757/NC, North Hall Management Committee, £500**, for the purchase of ten bridge/multipurpose tables.
- **1786/NC, Midhurst Museum Association, £289**, additional glass display cabinet for the museum.
- **1805/NC Henry Warren Village Hall, £200**, various itemised costs towards the Jubilee and Olympic community celebration. £400 had been requested.
- **1820/NC Creative Dementia Support C.I.C, £2,500**, towards equipment, marketing costs and widening access to the service.

(ii) The following application was declined: -

- **1735/NC, Midhurst Town Council, £450**, towards a diamond jubilee celebration as the Committee considered that the Town Council should use its precept and the application was therefore outside of the funding criteria.

### **Appointment of Authority School Governors**

104. The Committee considered a report by Director Operations – Learning, which set out proposed nominations to school governing bodies and the criteria for their appointment (copy appended to the signed minutes).

105. Resolved that the following four-year term appointments and re-appointments be made:

(i) Appointments: -

- Dr A Tate to Northchapel Primary for a 3 year term.
- Mrs S Barrett to Easebourne Primary for a 4 year term.
- Mrs J Oomen to Midhurst Primary for a 4 year term.

(ii) Re-appointments: -

- Mrs F Dix to Rogate School for a 4 year term

### **“Talk with us” (Community Voices)**

106. The Chairman invited questions from members of the public. Questions were asked and comments made to which responses were given, including those set out below: -

- A resident referred to the South Chichester Community Action Pilot and asked whether the same opportunities would be apply to the North Chichester area. The Principal Community Officer advised that the County Council has developed four Community Action Pilots which had focused on work with town and parish clusters. One of the areas covered was South Chichester. The Community and Economic Development Team were leading the piece of work. The Chairman requested that this form an agenda item for the next meeting of the Committee.
- Requested that the parking restrictions (Double yellow lines) proposed for Marley Lane, Lynchmere be extended northwards towards Arnolds Garage. The Chairman advised that this was a Traffic Regulation Order priority for the Committee for this year and that the details had been agreed in conjunction with Lynchmere Parish Council. He advised that the consultation was due to close the following day and therefore there was still time for any comments and objections to be formally received.
- Questioned the removal of the cats eyes on the A283 at Northchapel and whether they were being replaced. The Principal Community Officer advised that the contractors were carrying out a review and that she would follow up this particular request and report back to the local member.

### **Dates of Future Meetings**

107. The next meeting of the Committee would take place on Tuesday 19 June 2012, 7pm at Rogate and Terwick Village Hall, Rogate.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

CHAIRMAN