

North Chichester County Local Committee

24 January 2012 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7pm at Capron House, Midhurst

Present: Mr Michael Brown, Mr Chris Duncton, Mr Mark Dunn and Mrs Nola Hendon (Chairman).

Chairman's Welcome

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

Declaration of Interest

64. None.

Minutes

65. Resolved - that the minutes of the meeting of the County Local Committee (CLC) held on 27 September 2011 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

66. None.

Progress Statement

67. The Committee noted a progress statement which provided updates on matters arising from previous meetings of the CLC (copy appended to signed minutes).

68. The issue of village 'gateway' signs was discussed and it was noted that the South Downs National Park Authority had some influence on the design and colour of these signs. It was agreed that some guidance from the National Park Authority would be welcomed. **Action: Fiona Baker.**

Infrastructure Planning

69. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Communities and Infrastructure (copy attached to the signed minutes).

70. The Community Highway Officer introduced the report, which advised that the scope of the Infrastructure Plan was to identify local 'improvement' priorities. Improvements were regarded as additional physical infrastructure assets that offered new community benefits, beyond that typically associated with maintenance works. The Infrastructure Plan will be owned by the North Chichester County Local Committee (CLC) and will become the basis of recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport for the inclusion of local highways and transport improvements in the County Council's highway delivery plan – the Integrated Works Programme (IWP).

71. The Chairman invited the Elizabeth Brown, Vice-Chairman of Rogate Parish Council to address the Committee on behalf of the Rogate 20's Plenty Campaign. A copy of the petition summary was circulated to members of the Committee (copy attached to the signed minutes). In summary real concerns had been expressed by the residents of Rogate regarding the speed and size of the traffic travelling through the village and from the north and south roads into the village. 96% of respondents to the petition were in favour of the proposed 20mph speed limit through the centre of Rogate. Traffic had increased over the years and the roads into the centre of Rogate were narrow and twisted. The campaign had the full support of the Parish Council and it was believed that this would lead to greater safety without adversely impacting on travelling times. A number of local residents attended the County Local Committee meeting to indicate their support for the campaign.

72. Members of the Committee sympathised with the residents of Rogate as it was a similar story in other villages in the county, however they suggested that there was very little alternative for alternative routes and to reduce the size of the traffic. They considered that if the Committee agreed to support such schemes it could potentially be a long process to implementation. Members also added that the Police would be asked to comment and may object if it could not be proved that speeds would be lowered substantially.

73. The Chairman referred the meeting to Appendix A of the report which listed the proposed priorities for the CLC area. The Community Highway Officer advised that the list of schemes had come forward from the communities and six priorities had been identified. Members commented that the process was a good example of the County Council asking local people what they wanted. A question was raised regarding the list of Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs). The Community Highway Officer confirmed that the TROs on the list were new schemes put forward by local communities and that this was separate to the list of current TROs.

74. Resolved – that the North Chichester CLC recommends to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, the local highways and transport improvement priorities for the North Chichester CLC area Infrastructure Plan as set out below: -

- The introduction of 20's Plenty, subject to public consultation within various settlements across the North Chichester County Local Committee Area.
- Junction Improvement – South Harting Square (junction of B2146/ The Square and North Lane), scheme to remove the filter lane that serves left turn vehicle movements onto the B2146.
- School Safety Zones – Develop and deliver School Safety Zones at schools where they do not currently exist. Initial schemes:
 - a) Rake Church of England Primary School, London Road (measures may include; improved yellow backed school signage together with red anti-skid and slow markings);
 - b) Harting Church of England Primary School;

- c) Midhurst Church of England Primary School, Bepton Rd. (measures may include a new side access to school site and a crossing point with new dropped kerbs and tactile paving).
- Pedestrian Crossing Facility - A272, near the junction with Habin Hill (westside), Rogate.
- Safety measures and improvements to enhance the hamlet of Fisherstreet, and improve the safety of the Cripplecrutch Hill crossroads.
- Options Appraisal Study - Investigate the existing double white line system on the A272, through the village of Wisborough Green, as a result of concerns from the Parish Council of overtaking through the village.

North Chichester Community Initiative Funding

75. 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).

76. Resolved –

- (i) That the Committee agrees to merge the Parish Initiative Fund (PIF) with the Community Initiative Fund (CIF).
- (ii) That the Committee awards the following amounts: -

1686/NC Parish of Sutton & Barlavington, £650, towards re-roofing and renovation of a local bus-shelter. £750 had been requested.

1721/NC Milland Valley Memorial Hall, £500, to install cavity wall insulation.

1723/NC Ebernoe Community Group, £500, printing costs towards a community history project in the Jubilee year. £850 had been requested.

1729/NC Midhurst Town Council, £1,000, towards the purchase of a replacement playground slide. £2,500 had been requested.

1732/NC Lurgashall Parish Council, £750, contractor costs for conducting pond restoration works. £962.50 had been requested.

1736/NC Heyshott Playground Committee, £1,000, renovation costs for playground slide and contractor costs.

1762/NC Wisborough Green Parish Council, £1,000, for replacement junior swing-set as part of playground refurbishment. £2,949 had been requested.

- (iii) That the Committee defers the following applications pending further consideration: -

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 concert.

Appointment of Authority School Governors

77. 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).

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

Appointments: -

- Mrs E Hubbard to Hollycombe Primary School for a 4 year term

Re-appointments: -

- Mrs AL Raeside to Plaistow & Kirdford Primary School for a 4 year term
- Mr K Carter to Wisborough Green Primary School for a 4 year term
- Dr C Taylor to Fernhurst Primary School for a 4 year term

“Talk with us” (Community Voices)

79. 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 question was raised regarding the ownership of trees on the A272. The Community Highway Officer advised that an officer had drawn the landowners attention to the trees in question, however they were not currently at a level to interfere with the carriageway. It was suggested the residents should inform their local parish council of any potentially dangerous trees.
- Concern was expressed about the proposed reductions to local bus services in particular the threat to the Compass Travel 99 service from Petworth to Chichester via Duncton village. It was commented that the Bus User Survey had been almost entirely conducted on-line and that a large number of bus users did not use the Internet. It was also suggested that there had been no publicity on the buses themselves. Members advised that there had been over 6,000 respondents to the survey and that the survey had been publicised on the buses.
- Raised questions about a possible TRO for an extension to the double yellow lines of June Lane in Midhurst, particularly as there was a forthcoming development nearby which was likely to exacerbate the problem. The Community Highway Officer advised that it would be added to the Committee's list of outstanding TROs. It was noted that conditions about access to the site would be attached to the development approval by

Chichester District Council. It was advised that the planning application was yet to be considered.

- Concerns were raised regarding the lack of coach parking in Midhurst which affected the town's ability to attract tourism. It was suggested that there may be opportunities for parking arrangements to be agreed as part of the development of The Grange and also with the Midhurst Rother College. It was noted that the Academy was completely independent of the County Council and that The Grange was owned by Chichester District Council. Members urged the Town Council to work with the College. There was a general discussion about the capacity of towns being inadequate for parking for tourists and a suggestion that increased parking charges may be the only option.

Dates of Future Meetings

80. The next meeting of the Committee would take place on Tuesday 20 March 2012 at Duncton Village Hall, Duncton.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

CHAIRMAN