

Unconfirmed minutes subject to approval/amendments at the next meeting of the North Chichester County Local Committee.

North Chichester County Local Committee

21st June 2011 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7pm at Fernhurst Primary School.

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

Chairman's Welcome

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

Declaration of Interest

15. None.

Minutes

16. Resolved - that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7th April 2011 be approved as a correct record and that the Chairman signs them.

Urgent Matters

17. None.

Progress Statement

18. The Committee considered a progress statement which provided updates on matters arising from previous meetings of the CLC (copy appended to signed minutes). Mr Brown advised that he had also contacted Sussex Police to provide enforcement on the first Sunday of each month on the A285 Duncton and that the Police had provided a report following the event last month which confirmed that they had made 11 enforcements and would now enforce on a regular basis.

19. A local resident asked about progress regarding the positioning of the 'Welcome to Midhurst' sign at the top of Chichester Road. It was advised that this was the responsibility of Midhurst Town Council, however, the Chairman agreed that the County Council would look into the matter.

Civil Parking Enforcement Update

20. Chris Barrett, Parking Contracts Manager, provided a verbal update on Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) in the Chichester District, following its implementation in April 2010, in conjunction with Chichester District Council. He advised that the CPE Scheme was self-funded and that there was currently a full compliment of 13 Civil Parking Enforcement Officers. The scheme is intelligence led and relies on information from members of the public and local councillors to help target resources. He invited members and local residents to identify any 'hotspots' for investigation/enforcement action.

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21. Key issues raised: -

- Questioned why photographic evidence from members of the public could not be used to enforce penalties. Mr Barrett advised that the regulations did not provide for this, but that if a member of the public had photographic evidence the CPE Team could use it to target future enforcement if appropriate (but not enforce).
- Asked about restrictions for parking at junctions. Mr Barrett advised that local residents should contact the Police if people were parking dangerously and causing an obstruction where there were no double yellow lines or that alternatively they could lobby for junction protection to be implemented.
- Asked whether anything could be done, other than the introduction of double yellow lines, to ease the problems of visitors parking on verges, in some of the more rural areas. Mr Barrett suggested that bollards could be installed or trees planted to discourage people from parking. He advised that there was no way of enforcing parking restrictions unless there were parking restrictions backed by a traffic regulation order. In practice that usually means double yellow lines.
- Safety issues were highlighted concerning parking congestion around Midhurst Road Primary School and it was reported that a child had been hit by a car. Mr Barrett agreed to follow this up with Chichester District Council (CDC) and Sussex Police.
- Asked who was responsible for car park charges in Midhurst. It was confirmed that CDC were responsible for the off street car parks in Midhurst.

22. Resolved - that the Committee notes the update.

Priorities for Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs)

23. The Committee considered a report by Director of Operations – Infrastructure (copy attached to the signed minutes). The report outlined arrangements for Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) and asked the Committee to identify the three highest priority schemes for North Chichester in 2011-12. The Committee was asked to approve the priority order for implementing TROs within the North Chichester CLC area as set out in the Appendix subject to any adjustments made at the meeting.

24. The Committee discussed the report. Local residents raised issues including those that follow: -

- Questioned the comment against the Elsted Road TRO that it did not meet the speed criteria for 40mph. It was noted that if approved by the Committee as one of its top three priorities for implementation this may be progressed as an experimental TRO.
- Emphasised the need for a 20mph speed limit on Angel Street, Petworth, and questioned the safety criteria used to assess such a scheme. Members commented that the Police were driven by different guidelines to the County Council. Parish Councils were urged to consider national campaigns such as '20's Plenty' and 'Speed Watch'. It was also suggested that Community Support Officers were able to bring matters of public concern to the attention of the Police.

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- Concerns were expressed regarding speeding motorists on the Elsted Marsh.
 - Suggested that white lines on the road could encourage speeding.
 - Expressed dissatisfaction with the work of contractors as the white lines in Loxwood, due to be removed as an experiment, had only been partially removed.
 - Questioned the source of the TRO to introduce a weight restriction in Tipper Lane, Harting, as local farmers needed to use that route to move machinery as various times during the year which, due to the size of the machinery, was not possible using any other route.
 - Questioned the need for the proposed TRO in Southleys, Fernhurst, as this was a cul-de-sac, and did not require a waiting restriction.
25. Officers agreed to follow up, as appropriate, on the issues raised.
26. Resolved – That the Committee approves the priority order for implementing Traffic Regulation Orders within the North Chichester CLC area as set out below: -
- 1) Lamberts Lane & North Street, Midhurst - Disabled Bays (relocation into North Street)
 - 2) Elsted Marsh, Elsted - Speed Limit (40mph)
 - 3) Terwick Lane, Trotton - Width Restriction

North Chichester Community Initiative Funding

20. The Committee considered a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (copy attached to the signed minutes), which summarised Community Initiative Funding applications, received since the last meeting. The Committee was invited to consider the applications and allocate funding if appropriate.
21. The Committee discussed the applications and agreed the following: -
22. Resolved – That the Committee approves the following applications and amounts: -
- 1559/NC** Liaise @ Frontline, **£400**, towards training costs for two debt advisors.
- 1568/NC** Graffham Empire Lunch Club, £400 towards the purchase of a standard household dishwasher. The Committee did not support the application for venue rental costs as this falls outside of the CiF funding criteria. The request was for £2,381.99 for an industrial dishwasher and venue rental costs.
23. Resolved - That the Committee declines the following applications as they considered that both projects were already well supported by local businesses and had sufficient financial backing: -
- 1561/NC** Petworth Festival Ltd requested £2,000, towards costs of sourcing artists and animateurs.

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1603/NC Midhurst Music, Art and Drama Community Group requested £999, towards various costs for the 2011 Madhurst Festival.

“Talk with us” (Community Voices)

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

- Fiona Baker, Principal Highway Officer (Rural Team) Community Development and Big Society Team, introduced herself. She advised that she was the contact for all issues in the North Chichester area and would be attending future meetings of the CLC replacing Steve Johnson, the previous Highway Manager. (Fiona’s contact details: telephone: 01243 777921/email: fiona.baker@westsussex.gov.uk).
- Mr Duncton advised that the Rights of Way Team were looking for volunteers and that anyone interested should get in touch with Darren Rolfe (01243 753833).

Dates of future meetings

25. The next meeting of the Committee would take place on Tuesday 27th September 2011 at Loxwood Primary School. Future dates for 2011/12 were confirmed as: -

- 24th January 2012
- 20th March 2012.

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm.

CHAIRMAN