

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

## **North Chichester County Local Committee**

25 September 2012 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7pm at Lodsworth Village Hall.

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

Apologies received: Miss Nola Hendon.

### **Chairman's Welcome**

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

### **Declarations of Interest**

21. No interests were declared.

### **Minutes**

22. Resolved - that subject to an amendment to paragraph 19, bullet point 4, replacing 'Easebourne' with 'Midhurst', the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 19 June 2012 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

### **Progress Statement**

23. The Committee noted a progress statement, which provided updates on matters arising from previous meetings of the County Local Committee (CLC) (copy appended to signed minutes). The Principal Community Officer advised that with regard to the proposed pedestrian crossing in Rogate that she would be collecting feedback from the Parish Council who would subsequently take a decision as to whether to take the proposal forward. She confirmed that the request for a School Safety Scheme for Rogate Primary School had been included on the CLC's Infrastructure Planning catalogue list for future consideration/prioritisation.

24. With regard to the reported drainage problems on the A272 at Elsted Junction, Stedham, a representative of the Stedham and Iping Parish Council advised that the ditch in question was full of debris and had not been dug out sufficiently to resolve the problem. The Principal Community Officer advised that the County Council's system was reporting that the ditch had been cleared, however she advised that it would be inspected in conjunction with the contractor and she would try to ensure that the problem was rectified before the winter.

### **Midhurst Old Town Environmental Enhancement Scheme Update**

25. The Committee had before it a briefing note by the Principal Engineer, Improvements Team, which provided an update on the Church Hill and Market Square, Midhurst, Environmental Enhancement scheme.

26. The Chairman invited Sheila Ryan, Chairman of the Midhurst Society, to address the meeting regarding a local campaign about HGVs in Market Square,

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Midhurst. Ms. Ryan circulated a number of documents to members of the Committee, including photographs of HGVs navigating their way through Midhurst Old Town very close to some of the buildings. She advised that local residents and businesses were very grateful for the width restrictions recently put in place at the junction of West Street and the A286 and northwards from the Chichester Road.; however she suggested that a lot of foreign drivers were reliant on Sat. Navs. and that this contributed to the problem. She asked the Committee to give serious consideration to the installation of temporary black on yellow signs stating 'No wide vehicles – very narrow road' and provided examples of similar signs already in place in Winchester and Chatham. She suggested that the signs could be installed immediately at relatively low cost.

27. The Chairman thanked Ms. Ryan for her presentation. He said the County Council was promoting 'Active Communities' and suggested that it would be very helpful to the Committee if the campaign could demonstrate support from Midhurst Town Council. He suggested that Ms. Ryan attend the following meeting of the Committee in January with support and endorsement for the scheme. He advised that the Committee would then need to consider the proposal and research the costs and legal requirements etc. of the signage.

### **Infrastructure Planning Update**

28. The Committee had before it a report by the Executive Director for Communities and Infrastructure and Head of Community and Economic Development, which provided a progress update in relation to the local highways and transport priorities identified within the Local Infrastructure Plan for the North Chichester County Local Committee.

29. The report was introduced by the Principal Community Officer who advised that the updates for each scheme, including the timetable and budget allocation were set out in the appendix. She advised that the Rogate 20's Plenty Scheme was in fact on track for delivery in 2013/14 and that a meeting would be arranged with the Parish Council in the near future.

30. The Committee discussed the report. Questions were raised by Committee members and the audience, including: -

- The approximate cost to implement a 20's Plenty Scheme. *The Principal Community Officer advised that it was difficult to estimate the total cost but costs would include a formal Traffic Regulation Order process and public consultation process.*
- Why the South Harting Square junction improvement was not scheduled until 2013/14 to 2015/16 when plans had been worked up two to three years previously. *The Principal Community Officer advised that both junctions had been looked and that a safety audit had thrown up some issues, however the scheme was well on the way to the final design process and should be available for the next meeting of the County Council.*

31. Resolved – That the Committee notes the progress identified in respect of the existing priorities and associated areas of on-going work.

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### 32. **North Chichester Community Initiative Funding**

33. 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).

34. Resolved -

- (i) That the North Chichester County Local Committee approves the following application and amount: -

**1930/NC Hampers Green Community Centre, £712.44**, towards equipment and facilities upgrade.

- (ii) The following application was deferred until the next meeting of the Committee pending confirmation of additional funding from the South Downs National Park Authority: -

**1918/NC Shortcut, £2,500**, part-funding for a full feasibility project for the proposed off-road track.

- (iii) The following application was declined as the Committee agreed that the path should be maintained by the County Council as part of its routine maintenance programme.

**1913/NC, Midhurst Area Cycling, £300**, to contract a weed-spraying specialist to reduce path-side weed growth.

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

35. 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).

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

- Mrs SC Bennie to Petworth Primary School for a further 4 year term.
- Mr W D Taylor to Fittleworth School for a further 4 year term.

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

37. 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: -

- Concerns raised the issue of overhanging trees on the A272 towards Petersfield and on the A286 in Henley Village. *The Committee advised that responsibility for maintaining the trees rested with the landowner and that in experience it usually best dealt with through contact being made by the local town or parish council. He suggested that the residents contacted their local*

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*councils which in this case would be Woolbeeding and Redford Parish Council and Fernhurst Parish Council respectively.*

- Questioned why the County Council was maintaining a road in South Harting, with only 10 vehicle movements per day, for the second time in two years and expressed concern that the condition of the road had worsened following the work. *The Chairman advised that the County Council had a statutory duty of care to maintain all highways to a certain condition; however any concerns about the quality of the works undertaken would be taken back to the contractor by the Principal Community Officer.*
- Asked for clarification on Nola Hendon's position as a County Councillor as local town and parish councillors had been led to believe that Ms. Hendon would be resigning from her position and that there would be a pending bi-election. *The Chairman advised that the decision to resign rested with Ms. Hendon. She was currently unavailable for County Council business, however her neighbouring councillors, Mr Brown, Mr Mark Dunn and Mr Duncton were dealing with local business on her behalf at present. He also confirmed that the County Council did not have the power to disqualify a member unless they did not attend a meeting within six months. Ms. Hendon attended the full County Council meeting on 20 July 2012. Committee members encouraged town and parish council clerks to inform them of the dates of future town/parish meetings.*
- Raised concerns that the sight lines at the Easebourne crossroads, looking towards Midhurst, were being obstructed by overgrown vegetation. *The Principal Community Officer agreed to log this as a potential job.*
- Raised the issue of flooding on the road to Langley from the corner of Rake School towards the railway. *The Principal Community Officer agreed to check whether an enquiry had already been raised and if not to follow it up.*

### **Dates of Future Meetings**

38. It was confirmed that the next scheduled meeting of the Committee would take place on Tuesday 5 December 2012, 7pm Fernhurst Primary School.

The meeting closed at 8.12 pm.

CHAIRMAN