

North Chichester County Local Committee

23 June 2015 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7pm at the Lurgashall Village Hall, Mill Lane, Lurgashall, Petworth, West Sussex GU28 9ES.

Present: Mr Michael Brown, Mrs Janet Duncton, Ms Sandra James and Mr Gordon McAra.

In attendance: Fiona Baker (Principal Community Officer), Paul Matthews (Democratic Services Officer), Joel Sykes (Highway Manager) and Naomi Towns (Voluntary Services Relationship Officer).

Election of Chairman

1. Mr Michael Brown was elected Chairman of the North Chichester County Local Committee for the 2015-16 municipal year.
2. Mrs Janet Duncton was elected Vice-Chairman of the North Chichester County Local Committee for the 2015-16 municipal year.

Declarations of Interest

3. There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

4. Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 3 March 2015 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

5. There were no urgent matters.

Progress Statement

6. The Committee considered a report which provided updates on matters arising from previous meetings of the Committee (copy appended to the signed minutes). The Principal Community Officer (PCO) introduced the report and explained that:

- **A286 Vegetation cut-back**– Officers had met with West Lavington Parish Council, on examination, no highway vegetation was found to be obstructing visibility but letters had been sent to adjoining landowners outlining their obligations.
- **Resident's broadband event**– A broadband event had preceded the meeting and had been well attended.
- **Community Green Offer** – A list of services/functions that could be devolved locally had been produced (copy appended to the minutes).
- **Wheelbarrow Castle** – The Chairman had written to the Polo Club asking that the HGV's accessing the site use the road considerately.

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Prevention and Wellbeing Grants 2015-16

7. The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director Care, Wellbeing & Education and Director of Public Health and Social Care Commissioning (copy appended to the signed minutes) outlining the prevention and wellbeing applications for the North Chichester area.

8. Resolved that:

- (a) The following application be approved
 - (i) NL032 – 4SIGHT, £1,500.00
 - (ii) JP033 – Alzhemimers Society, £400.00
 - (iii) NI001 – Chichester Stroke Club - £750.00
 - (iv) DR001 – Cruse West Sussex, £100.00
 - (v) NL003 – Fernhurst Choral Society, £1,000.00.
 - (vi) NL025 – The Fernhurst Parish Luncheon Club, £600.00
 - (vii) NL004 – Lifecentre, £100.00
 - (viii) NL019 – Petworth Community Garden CIC, £2,800.00
 - (ix) TB01 – Sussex Association for Spina Bifda and Hydrocephalus £375.00
 - (x) JP032 – St Peters House Project, £300.00

(b) The following applications were declined:

NL008 – The Chichester Information Shop for Young People, £2,000.00 as the Committee felt that it did not meet the criteria.

TL006 - PBC Foundation, £8.12 as the Committee considered that the applicant could raise the small amount requested themselves.

NL012 – Rotary Club of Chichester Harbour, £250.00 as the Committee felt the application was Chichester centric.

9. Ms Sandra James suggested that the Chairman should be more guarded when making public observations about the merits of applications. The Chairman asked the meeting if anyone shared these concerns and there was no indication that this was the case. The Chairman noted Ms James comments and asked that they be recorded in the minutes.

North Chichester Community Initiative Funding (CIF)

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

11. Resolved –

The following application was deferred:

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743/NC – Redford Village Hall, £3,000.00 towards the costs of refurbishing the Village Hall, as the Committee wished to consider the application further.

Appointment of Authority School Governors

12. The Chairman explained that there were no appointments, reappointments or nominations to governing bodies for the Committee to approve but asked that the Committee note the list of North Chichester Authority Governor Vacancies (copy appended to the signed minutes).

Talk With Us

13. The Chairman invited questions from members of the public on issues and the following issues were raised and discussed:

- **Easebourne Primary School** – A resident from Easebourne explained that a petition asking for a signalised crossing at Easebourne Primary School had secured 2,900 signatures. Local residents were concerned about the speed and volume of traffic travelling along Wheelbarrow Castle and the danger this posed to pedestrians and other road users. Recently a child had nearly been run over and matters have worsened with the departure of one of the crossing guards. *The Chairman said that the Committee looked forward to receiving the petition and would ensure that it is taken as a separate agenda item at the September meeting.*
- **Broadband** - A District Councillor raised his concerns about the superfast broadband rollout in West Sussex and the level of coverage in rural areas. *The Chairman outlined that around 70% of West Sussex residents/businesses receive broadband on a commercial basis. That a £25million joint project will extend coverage to areas that fall outside the private sector's commercial broadband plans, meaning that by 2016, 90% of west Sussex residents/businesses will have access to fibre-based broadband speeds of 24Mbps.* Further to this, a resident suggested that coverage in rural areas would be significantly less than 90% and that some communities had no coverage at all. *The Chairman responded that it had always been accepted that it would not be possible to have 100% superfast coverage. An additional £2.5million had been allocated to raise the target threshold to 95% and in respect of the "hardest to reach" premises that they should have access to at least 2Mbps speeds.*
- **Road closure notification** - A Fittleworth resident asked about the road closure early warning procedures, as recently a road had been made "one way" without any prior notification. *The Highway Manager explained that prior notification of a road closure is mandatory, except in emergencies. However, the notification of traffic signals follows a different process and the notice of planned closures/roadworks can be found on the County Councils website. Works can start at any time within the period specified, which is why they might not always start on the day stated. Also, some types of work are weather dependent, so may be subject to date changes at short notice.*

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- **Community Green Offer** - A District Parish Councillor enquired about the list of functions that could be devolved locally ([copy appended to the minutes](#)), asking if it were a complete and final list and what the process was for Parishes to engage. A local resident sought clarification about the costs detailed in the "larger products" section of the list. *The Chairman explained that the list was a starting point and more functions would be added over time, as would details about the process. The costs detailed were in essence a menu of charges that the County Council would levy if Parishes wished them to provide a particular service, however it would be for Parishes to decide with whom they wished to contract.*
- **Options Appraisal study** – A Rogate Parish Councillor undertook to provide the Committee with feedback on the Rogate Options Appraisal Study at the next Committee meeting.

Date of the Next Meeting

14. It was confirmed that the next scheduled meeting of the Committee would take place on Tuesday 29 September 2015 at Duncton Village Hall, Duncton, Petworth, West Sussex GU28 OJY.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

CHAIRMAN