

## **North Horsham County Local Committee**

9 March 2015 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 p.m. at County Hall North, Horsham.

Present: Mr Catchpole (Holbrook), Dr Dennis (Horsham Hurst), Mrs Jupp (Billingshurst), Mrs Kitchen (Warnham and Rusper), Mrs Millson (Horsham Riverside), Mr Sheldon (Tanbridge and Broadbridge Heath) and Mr Watson OBE (Chairman and Southwater and Nuthurst).

Apologies: Mr Rae (Roffey)

### **Welcome and Introductions**

57. The Chairman welcomed all those in attendance to the meeting and highlighted that North Horsham CLC.

### **Declarations of Interest**

58. Regarding Agenda Item No. 10 Community Initiative Funding, Mrs Kitchen declared a personal and prejudicial interest regarding application 633/NH Phoenix Stroke Centre as a Trustee of the organisation and Mr Sheldon declared a pecuniary interest regarding application 656/NH Horsham Matters and any discussions around donating funds to the Food Bank as Chief Executive of Horsham Matters.

### **Minutes**

59. Resolved – that the minutes of the North Horsham County Local Committee meeting held on 15 December 2014 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

### **Urgent Matters**

60. There were no urgent matters.

### **Progress Statement**

61. Members noted the statement on matters arising from the previous meeting (copy appended to the signed minutes).

### **Community Policing Update**

62. The Chairman informed the meeting that unfortunately a representative from the Horsham District Neighbourhood Policing Team was unable to attend the meeting but highlighted the update on local policing issues (copy appended to the signed minutes). Mrs Millson raised the prevalence of a telephone scams and that the police had a useful booklet to ensure that residents did not fall victim to scams of that nature. The Chairman mentioned that the small increase in Sussex Police's council tax precept was to be invested in tackling cybercrime.

## Talk With Us

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

- Mr Roger Purcell from Warnham Parish Council, regarding Operation Watershed, stated that the Parish Council had been waiting for estimates from the County Council since November and until they were received they were unable to submit their application and asked for them to be provided as soon as possible. Mr Purcell also asked for an update on the Broadbridge Heath highway works, specifically the Warnham traffic management package, as he understood that the new road would be open before the existing bypass was closed to through traffic and an updated on the Andrews Farm, Station Road flooding problem as since the last meeting there had been a flash flood and a car had been flooded out. *The Chairman stated that an update regarding Andrews Farm was included on the progress statement and regarding the Broadbridge Heath highway works read the following statement:- ' The County Council are aware of local concern about the delivery of infrastructure projects associated with the West of Horsham Strategic Development Location. The County Council has just agreed a challenging budget for 2015/16 – the very fact that this is a one year capital budget reflects some of this level of challenge. We are currently reviewing all 2015/2016 schemes identified within the capital programme and the funding streams available as well as embarking on earlier preparations for 2016/17. We remain very mindful of the planned developments within the West of Horsham locality and would like to reply in detail after this review and further discussions with funding partners. I would also emphasise that the County Local Committee has asked for a similar update.'* In response, Mr Purcell commented that the County Council was selling land since the A24 improvements from the Great Daux roundabout to the county border had been rescinded and if a 2<sup>nd</sup> runway was to be built at Gatwick this scheme may be required so should the County Council not wait to sell the land. *The Chairman responded that the consequences of a 2<sup>nd</sup> runway at Gatwick would be a significant issue for highway infrastructure locally and government funding would need to be sought.*
- Mr Gevin White representing Lower Beeding Parish Council highlighted the inconsistency in West Sussex roads, highlighting that there were double white lines on at the A272/Maplehurst Road crossroads but not at the crossroads in Lower Beeding by the Wheatsheaf pub and there had been three accidents there. Mr White asked the CLC for support to try and stop articulated lorries travelling through the village and shared photographs with the CLC. Finally, Mr White asked for an update on the traffic regulation order (TRO) which was being progressed in the village. *The Principal Community Officer stated that the TRO was with a specific officer and an update would be sought. The Chairman stated that Mr White's other comments were noted.*
- A resident from Five Oaks, Mrs Peggy Davis, read a pre prepared statement (copy appended to the signed minutes) petitioning for various road safety measures including a reduction in speed limit, relocation of signs, double white lines through the hamlet and the installation of a vehicle activated

sign. In addition, Mr Rob Thompson, also a resident of Five Oaks, requested the installation of double yellow lines in a layby which, when cars parked there, caused an obstruction for vehicles accessing the A29 and for residents leaving their properties. There was a telephone box by the layby which was no longer in use so there was no need for the layby to be in use, residents parked on the opposite side of the road.

- Mr Anthony Fletcher informed the CLC that he was involved in promoting road safety and had an interest in 20mph speed limits. Mr Fletcher stated his surprise that traffic regulation orders (TROs) were rationed to 3 per CLC. *Mr Fletcher was informed that there was a currently a review to try and improve the process however, the progression of TROs took time and there were also financial implications to consider. 20mph schemes would be considered amongst other schemes and prioritised by the CLC.* Mr Fletcher commented that councils should look at costs and use precepts to change signs and stated that the Department of Transport wanted things to happen locally. *The Chairman commented that the County Council would work with any parish on TROs.* Members commented that 20mph speed limits may seem to be popular but the County Council would need to consult a lot of people and it could be complicated considering Horsham Town centre; and the broader picture needed to be considered as there could be a knock on effect of motorists rat running in roads outside of the 20mph scheme area.
- Mr Peter Lusher stated that he had reported obstructions on principle signs on the A24 to the County Council, he had received an immediate response from Jonathan Ullmer and the work had been carried out promptly and wished for his thanks to be recorded.

### **A264 Junctions to North of Horsham Development**

64. The Chairman informed the meeting that this item had come about after serious concerns were raised that the development would be isolated from Horsham town and sought to clarify what was happening and the way forward (position statement appended to the signed minutes). Member comment/questions were as follows:

- Mrs Kitchen agreed with the view of the Horsham Cycling Forum that there was nowhere near enough infrastructure in place and that the whole area in relation to motorists and cyclists needed to be looked at and infrastructure in place before work began on the development.
- Mr Catchpole stated that he agreed with Mrs Kitchen and raised concern of the impact of traffic on current roads and that lack of thresholds for improvements. Mr Catchpole commented that there were currently queues to leave Holbrook at peak commuting times and that this situation would only get worse. The road infrastructure should come first.
- Dr Dennis commented that this development was not very sustainable and the need for a cycle facility was of great importance.
- Mrs Jupp expressed her concern that the site would be isolated by the A264 which would have an impact on young families and they would need

to use their cars which would add to the congestion. In addition rural lanes would become rat runs with speed limits unable to be imposed by police.

- Mr Sheldon emphasised that members should be proactive rather than reactive, stating what was expected from the developer and the minimum which would be expected.
- The Chairman commented that he wanted this issue to be raised now as he was seriously concerned at the growth of development with no plan or vision of what should happen.

65. The Chairman invited a representative from the Horsham Cycling Forum to address the meeting who circulated a document entitled 'the case for safe, attractive and convenient underpass crossings of the Horsham A264 northern bypass prepared by the Horsham Cycling Forum (copy appended to the signed minutes). This was a one off chance to get it right and urged the council to be robust with its demands on the developers, there needed to be good on site infrastructure with multiple underpasses under the A264 which was the best technical solution, best solution for community integration and best solution in the long term. It would be expensive however; there could be much higher accident costs where more people are walking/cycling. There would be health benefits for residents by encouraging cycling and walking. The importance of receiving money up front from the developer was emphasised and that providing infrastructure for walkers and cyclists was as high a priority as car infrastructure. *The Chairman reassured the meeting that members wished to raise this at early stage and that it was a high priority, work was yet to begin with the development however, it was important to gain the maximum benefit and members would pressure where they could.* It was agreed that the Chairman would send a note to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport stating this intent.

66. A local resident informed the meeting that Liberty, the housing developer, planned to take a space in Swan Walk and asked if a huge development would block busy local roads. *The Chairman responded that they didn't know what impact it would have as it would depend on the zoning or phasing of the development.* A member of the public commented that Liberty should be asked to lobby Network Rail to open the crossing at Warnham, which would have an alleviating effect on the local road network.

### **Horsham Parking Review**

67. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Highways and Transport and Service Manager for Residents & Environmental Services (copy appended to the signed minutes), which was introduced by Mr Miles Davy, Lead Professional in the County Council's Parking Strategy Team. In response to an earlier issue raised by Mr Anthony Fletcher, Mr Davy began by stating that this review of parking in Horsham had already presented the opportunity to incorporate a number of additional TROs across the town centre. Mr Davy then outlined the results from two public consultation exercises held in 2014/15 and put forward recommendations that some proposals to be progressed for further consultation whilst others be dropped. Mr Davy also highlighted that an e-

petition had been received asking that there be no further extensions to the current parking zones.

68. Residents from St Christopher's Close were present at the meeting and stated their objections to proposals to introduce parking restrictions in a layby which residents informed the CLC was indicated in their deeds as privately owned land. In response, Mr Davy commented that previous research suggested that the County Council had established highway rights over that land that was why it was included in the proposals. He suggested that the residents may well own the subsoil but that the surface highway was the responsibility of the Highway Authority. Residents asked if signage could be provided to state that parking in the layby was for residents only but in response, Mr Davy stated that this would not be possible as there were guidelines for local authorities set out by the Department for Transport regarding what signage can be used for particular restrictions. Mr Davy stated that he was keen to find a solution and that he had already considered an option to run double yellow lines along the carriageway whilst retaining the current arrangements in the layby. It was concluded that members defer the proposal for St Christopher's Close and confirm with legal services the rights over the layby before it could be included in the formal consultation.

69. A representative from the Horsham Cycling Forum asked if TROs regarding contraflows in a number of locations could be included in the proposals. Mr Davy stated that the current parking review was only looking at waiting restrictions but his team were currently exploring whether broadening the scope of future parking reviews might be possible and this would be discussed with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport. Moving forward, Mr Davy confirmed that the Horsham Cycling Forum would be included in future discussions if/when a review took place again in Horsham.

70. Dr Dennis wished to note that proposals in Nelson Road were trying to address access and obstruction although he appreciated that residents would like to retain the flexibility of parking. It was commented that proposals for Ashleigh Road would have a knock on effect on Wimblehurst Road although it was mentioned that it would not be a bad thing to move parking there as it could reduce the speed of traffic using it. Mrs Millson asked if Fletchers Close was being included in the proposed parking scheme extension in the Elm Grove area. Mr Davy confirmed that it was included and also undertook to look at the mitigation of yellow lines in other roads. Mr Sheldon enquired about the proposal for no loading in the Causeway and that there was the need for loading at the rear of the town hall. Mr Davy responded that the proposed disabled bays behind the town hall had been relocated as a result of the East Street scheme and that there was a need to keep the area to the west free of traffic because of a forthcoming cycle route.

71. The Chairman informed members that a petition had been received regarding the proposals for double yellow lines in Park Terrace West stating that the proposals would have a negative effect. The local member Dr Dennis was inclined to agree and it was decided that this proposal would be left out of the formal proposals. It was commented that there were access/visibility issues at the junction of Elm Grove/Oakhill Road and it was agreed that an extension to the proposed yellow lines would form part of the consultation.

72. Resolved – that the Director of Law Assurance & Strategy be authorised to formally advertise modified proposals, as described by Option 1, excluding St Christopher’s Close, until clarification on ownership between residents and the County Council had been confirmed and excluding the proposals for double yellow lines on Park Terrace West; and subject to there being no objections after a formal advertisement, bring the Traffic Regulation Order into operation.

### **Community Initiative Funding**

73. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law, Assurance and Strategy (copy appended to the signed minutes), which detailed applications for Community Initiative Funding.

74. As Mrs Kitchen had declared a personal and prejudicial interest regarding application 633/NH Phoenix Stroke Centre and Mr Sheldon had declared a pecuniary interest regarding application 656/NH Horsham Matters, the Chairman asked them to leave the room whilst the applications were discussed.

*Mrs Kitchen and Mr Sheldon left the room.*

75. Members discussed the applications and decided that the applications should be granted.

76. Resolved – that the applications **633/NH** Phoenix Stroke Club, £250.00, to purchase a printer and **656/NH** Horsham Matters, £6,000.00 for skateboard ramps were approved.

*Mrs Kitchen and Mr Sheldon returned to the room.*

77. Members were informed that the Springboard Project due to additional quotes had asked that a further £470 be added to the grant application. Members discussed the remaining applications.

78. Resolved -

a) The following awards were made:

**549/NH** Horsham & Mid Sussex Voluntary Action, £2,000.00, to purchase IT infrastructure and communications system plus website.

**560/NH** Bennetts Rd Allotments Association, £1,908.00, to replace barbed wire with fencing.

**561/NH** Horsham Garden Music Festival, £2,359.00, to cover events costs. This would be a one off grant from the CLC for this event.

**562/NH** The Billingshurst Women’s Hall, £3,600.00, to produce surveyors report and architects drawings for hall refurbishment and mobility access.

**588/NH** West Sussex Mediation Service, £500.00 for promotional materials.

**598/NH** Jack and Jill Pre-School, £1,500.00, to purchase kitchen equipment.

**643/NH** Springboard Project, £6,470.00 to purchase air conditioning and install double glazed doors

**646/NH** Headway West Sussex, £3,400.00 venue, travel, advertising and training costs. This would be a one off grant from the CLC for this project.

b) The following applications were declined:

**498/NH** Hanover Band, £261.43 towards the costs of purchasing musical instruments to be lent to school children as the committee was aware that there may opportunities for partnership working to provide the instruments.

**630/NH** Slinfold Cricket Club, £24,000.00, to purchase new cricket nets as the committee felt that the amount asked for was outside the remit of the Community Initiative Funding and that an alternative funding source may be more appropriate.

**640/NH** Slinfold Minibus Club, £20,000.00 towards a replacement minibus as the committee felt that the amount asked for was outside the remit of the Community Initiative Funding and that an alternative funding source may be more appropriate.

79. As Mr Sheldon had declared a pecuniary interest regarding discussions relating to the Food Bank the Chairman asked him to leave the room whilst the allocation of the CIF underspend was discussed.

*Mr Sheldon left the room.*

80. Members discussed the allocation of the CIF underspend and decided that the remainder should be donated to the local Food Bank.

81. Resolved - that the Committee agreed to donate £3,430.25 to support the local Food Bank.

*Mr Sheldon returned to the room.*

### **Appointment of Authority Governors**

82. The Committee considered a report by Strategic Commissioner for Learning (copy appended to the signed minutes) which set out the criteria for the appointment of authority governors. Mrs Millson asked that it be noted Kingslea Primary School, included in Appendix B, was in her electoral division rather than Dr Dennis's.

83. Resolved - that the North Horsham County Local Committee reappointed Reverend Dr R Coldicott to Holbrook Primary School for a four year term.

**Date of Next Meeting**

84. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Monday 6 July 2015 in the Main Conference Room, County Hall North, Horsham.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

**Chairman**