

North Horsham County Local Committee

5 December 2011 – At a meeting of the Committee at 7.00pm held at County Hall North, Chartway, Horsham.

Present: Mr Catchpole, Mr Hellawell, Mr Hodgson, Mrs Jupp, Mrs Millson, Mr Sheldon and Mr Watson OBE (Chairman).

Apologies for absence were received from Dr Dennis.

Chairman's Welcome

87. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

Declaration of Interests

88. Mr Hodgson declared a personal interest, as his wife was a candidate for an Authority Governor re-appointment to be considered by the Committee.

Minutes

89. Resolved - That the minutes of the North Horsham County Local Committee (CLC) meetings held on 27 July 2011 and 12 September 2011 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

90. The Chairman invited Bryan Steele, Development Worker with Horsham Churches Together (HCT), to address the meeting. Mr Steele advised that HCT represented 32 churches from across the denominations in Horsham and the surrounding towns and villages. He advised that following the need for a new secondary school in the Horsham area as identified by the County Council, HCT would be preparing a Free School application in partnership with Oasis Community Learning. The school would primarily be for residents of Southwater and would have an open admissions policy. HCT were seeking to move into a phase of public consultation. The target opening of the school was September 2014.

91. The Chairman thanked Mr Steele for the update.

Progress Statement

92. The Committee noted a report, which provided updates on matters arising from previous meetings of the CLC (copy appended to the signed minutes). The Chairman highlighted some of the issues in the report.

93. The Chairman referred to the update on the pedestrianisation of East Street, Horsham. George Chisenga, Team Manager, Community Development and Big Society, advised that it was proposed the street would be pedestrianised at certain core times and that an experimental Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) would run for a maximum of 18 months with a consultation period for the first six months. The Chairman said there had been a suggestion that closure times extend into the evening during the summer months. Mr Chisenga agreed to seek clarification on the practicality of this suggestion and report back. The Committee requested an

update to the March 2012 meeting on the status of TRO priorities agreed by the CLC earlier this year.

94. Committee members raised concerns that they had not been consulted on the proposed £500k investment on improvements to West Street, Horsham, due to be considered by the Policy and Resources Select Committee on 8 December 2011. Mr Chisenga agreed to follow this up and report back to members.

Infrastructure Planning Priorities for North Horsham CLC Area

95. The Committee considered a report by the Director Communities and Infrastructure (copy attached to the signed minutes). The report highlighted those local highways and transport improvement priorities put forward by Committee members and recommended that they be approved in order to establish the Infrastructure Plan for the North Horsham County Local Committee area.

96. The Committee discussed the report. Members agreed to identify the installation of an acoustic barrier on the A264 Langhurstwood Road as a priority. Mr Chisenga advised that funding had been secured from the Biffa development, however a further £30k was tied up in a Section 106 agreement and as yet this development had not progressed and therefore payment had not been triggered. Members agreed the proposal to seek the allocation of County Council capital funds in the short term on the basis that these funds would be reimbursed to the Capital Programme when the Section 106 funds were received. The scheme is programmed for delivery in 2013-14.

97. Representatives of Colegate Parish Council voiced concerns regarding the safety of local residents using the Metrobus service to Holmbush Farm as the buses were stopping in a lay-by on the A264 as opposed to using the farm entrance. They advised that stopping on the other side of the road was also a problem. The Parish Council suggested putting in a footway or creating a bus lay-by. It was noted that County Council school buses were still using farm entrance. Mr Chisenga agreed to look in to the issue and report back.

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

- Junction Improvement - Boars Head, Horsham.
- Forest School (Comptons Lane) - Safer Routes to School Project (options include, pedestrian crossing points on Comptons Lane, cycle parking facilities, and a bus lay-by).
- Cycle Network – Pedestrian and Cycle route improvements from Broadbridge Heath and Slinfold to Christs Hospital via the Downs Link and neighbouring access links.
- School Safety Zone - William Penn School, Coolham.
- Cycleway Network Improvements - concentrating on key destinations: Installation of safe, sheltered and secure cycle parking storage facilities (including lockers for clothing) at key destinations (1. Horsham Town East - Piries Place Car Park, 2. Horsham Town North – Bowling Alley Complex/ Horsham Park area, 3. Horsham Town West – Sainsburys Area, Carfax Service Yard).

- A24 Safety Improvements (Hop Oast to Ashington) - crossovers and better signage at Buck Barn.
- Speed Reduction - Langhurstwood Road, Horsham.
- Provision of acoustic barrier on A264 west of Langhurstwood Road, Horsham.

Nuthurst - A281 50mph Speed Limit

99. The Committee considered a report by the Director Communities and Infrastructure (copy attached to the signed minutes). The report advised on the results of a speed limit review on the A281 Nuthurst (Brighton Road) undertaken following an objective set by the Department of Transport for traffic authorities to review the speed limits on their A and B roads, and to implement any necessary changes by 2011. Following informal consultation, and support from the Local County Councillor, the proposed speed limit change was advertised by formal public notice between August and September 2011.

100. The Committee discussed the report. A representative of Forest Neighbourhood Council suggested that a review of speed limits on other roads in the area was more important as it was difficult to drive at more than 50mph along the stretch of road concerned. Members suggested that a lower speed limit would be very difficult to enforce and highlighted that accident levels on this stretch of road were significantly above average.

101. Resolved – That the CLC, having considered that the resulting benefits to the community outweigh the concerns raised, authorises the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to proceed with the proposals as detailed in the report to introduce the proposed 50mph speed limit.

Talk with Us (Open Forum)

102. Chief Inspector Mark Trimmer, Sussex Police, provided a short verbal update on local policing matters in the North Horsham area.

- CI Trimmer advised that he would be retiring from the Police in January 2012.
- Reported an increase in crime in the Horsham district for the first time in a number of years. The figures showed an increase of 2.7% in the quarter to 28 November 2011. This included an increase in the amount of drug offences detected but also an increase in the amount seized. A large increase in fraud and forgery with 212 crimes recorded since 1 April 2011. There had, however, been a decrease in the numbers of burglaries and incidents of criminal damage.
- Countrywatch – a new community radio scheme was due to go live in the Horsham district on 15 December 2011 which was similar to the Shopwatch scheme and would allow local businesses to link directly to the Police.

103. Members raised the issue of metal theft including phone cables locally. CI Trimmer advised that this was a national problem and was generally serious and organised crime which was difficult to detect and therefore to catch the offenders. CI Trimmer advised that the Police were working with regional teams to address the problem. He advised that some offenders were coming from abroad with stolen equipment very often out of the country before the theft had even been reported. BT and British Rail were putting in measures to try and reduce thefts.

104. The Committee thanked CI Trimmer for his hard work in the community and for his support to the Committee and wished him all the best for the future.

105. The Chairman invited general questions/comments from members of the public present at the meeting: -

- Concerns were raised regarding a proposed Gypsy and Traveller site in Fewhurst. A recent Horsham District Council (HDC) study had shortlisted a number of sites in the district including a site at Fewhurst. Members advised that this was a matter for Horsham District Council as the planning authority, but that the County Council would be consulted on Highways issues – a response would be provided by Highways Engineers. It was advised that there would be a public consultation period as with any planning application. N.B. Subsequent to the meeting HDC confirmed that they intend to carry out some focused consultation with local communities through the Parishes (as well as with the Gypsy and Traveller community) in the next couple of months on the study itself, looking at the methodology, potential future policy approach, as well as the potential sites themselves. They are also doing further detailed investigation into the potential sites, with the aim of publishing a Council consultation sites document anticipated in spring 2012.
- Nowhurst residents raised objections to the proposed Waste Site at Nowhurst. The Chairman confirmed that CLCs had been consulted and that the Committee's comments made at its meeting in June 2011 had been submitted. He advised that a decision was due to be taken by Full Council in 2012.
- A question was raised about the County Council's policy on the maintenance of road signs (mandatory and advisory), including the process if member of public reports an issue.
- Concerns were raised that School buses were parking in the bus lay-by outside the Elite Garage in Mannings Heath causing health and safety issues for bus users boarding and alighting.
- A plea was made to improve the safety of the Blackhorse Way, Horsham pedestrian crossing which would also avoid delays to public transport. A suggestion was either a pedestrian controlled crossing or detection of approaching buses and pedestrians stopped. Concerns were also raised regarding people parking on double yellow lines in Blackhorse Way. It was agreed that this should be forwarded to the Civil Enforcement Officers at Horsham District Council.

106. It was agreed that the issues raised would be followed up by officers and responses provided.

Community Initiative Funding (CIF)

107. 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).

108. Resolved that -

(i) The following applications and amounts be approved: -

1724/NH Friends of Station Road Gardens, £5,000, towards alteration work to increase site accessibility for the Gardens.

1727/NH, 4Sight, £250, towards sensory impairment educational packs for local schools.

(ii) The following application was deferred until the next meeting: -

1728/NH, Rotary Club of Horsham, £1,700, towards itemised materials costs for the Club's charity project, as Committee members felt they needed further information.

(iii) The Committee also agreed to merge the Parish Initiative Fund with the Community Initiative Fund.

Appointment of Authority School Governors

109. 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).

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

Appointments: -

- Mrs H Hards to Holbrook Primary for a 4 year term
- Mr R White to Itchingfield Primary for a 4 year term

Reappointments: -

- Mrs GMK Hodgson to Warnham CEP for a 4 year term
- Mr JSB Crombie to Queen Elizabeth II for a 4 year term
- Mr I Howard to Castlewood Primary for a 4 year term
- Mrs LJ Bishop to Northolmes Junior for a 4 year term
- Mrs C Baker to All Saints CEP for a 4 year term

Dates of Future Meetings

111. It was noted that the Committee's next meeting will be held on 12 March 2011 at 7.00pm in the Goodwood Room, County Hall North, Horsham.

The meeting ended at 9.05 pm.

Chairman

