

North Horsham County Local Committee

13th June 2011 – At a meeting of the Committee at 7.00pm in the Goodwood Room, County Hall North, Chartway, Horsham.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Jupp.

Chairman's Welcome

1. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

2. Following the decision that County Local Committee's (CLCs) would elect their own Chairman annually the Committee agreed that Mr Watson OBE be re-elected as Chairman and Mr Catchpole be re-elected as Vice-Chairman of the North Horsham CLC for the 2011/12 municipal year.

Declaration of Interests

3. There were no declarations of interest at this point, but see minute 16.

Minutes

4. Resolved - that the minutes of the North Horsham (NH) County Local Committee (CLC) held on 14th March 2011 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

5. The Chairman informed the meetings that he had agreed to take an urgent matter under item 7 on the published agenda – Consideration by the Committee to recommend the approval of section 106 monies towards the following Highways scheme - Harwood Road, Horsham, Controlled Crossing.

Progress Statement

6. The Committee noted a report which provided updates on matters arising from previous meetings of the CLC (copy appended to signed minutes).

Highways and Transport Matters

(i) Rusper Road – Traffic Regulation Order

7. The Committee had before it a report by the Executive Director Communities and Director of Communities and Infrastructure (copy appended to signed minutes). During the 2009 prioritisation of outstanding Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) requests, the CLC agreed to prioritise the progression of a TRO to introduce waiting restrictions in Rusper Road and various roads off it. The original report was

presented to the CLC on 14th March 2011 and following further comments raised at the meeting a decision was made to defer the scheme pending further discussion.

8. George Chisenga, Highway Manager, West Sussex County Council, advised that the comments made by local residents at the Committee's meeting on 14th March 2011 had been considered and the TRO amended following objections to the double yellow lines on Rusper Road into Gateford Drive as this still met the objectives of the TRO and safety issues.

9. Concerns were raised by local residents regarding the longer-term strategy for parking in the area. Particular concerns were raised regarding parking and access in Lower Barn Close and issues with other local roads. The Highway Manager agreed to investigate the issues raised.

10. Mention was also made regarding the car park of the Plymouth Brethren Chapel in Littlehaven, as one of the planning conditions stated that the car park should be made available for use by local residents. Mrs Millson, advised that to the best of her knowledge, the planning condition had not been activated in the first five years and therefore it had now lapsed.

11. Mr Hellowell and Mr Hodgson joined the meeting at this point.

12. Mr Hodgson declared a personal interest item 9, West Sussex Waste Plan and Shortlist of Strategic Waste Sites, as his company owns property in Blackbridge Lane, Horsham and he has views of the proposed site at Brookhurst Wood from his home.

13. Resolved - That the North Horsham County Local Committee, having considered the comments from the objectors, authorises the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to make the Traffic Regulation Order, as amended.

(ii) Arunside School and St. John's Primary School – School Safety Zone

14. The Committee considered a proposal for a School Safety Zone (SSZ) improvement at both Arunside School and St. Johns Primary School, Horsham. The agenda advised that the County Council had proposed a SSZ with advisory 20mph signage in Blackbridge Lane to be delivered in the summer of 2011 as part of its 2011/12 programme. However, due to central Government grant funding being withdrawn for the programme last year, it was necessary to defer all future proposed SSZ improvements. SSZs are intended to improve traffic conditions and child safety in the area outside of the school by encouraging road users to drive with increased care and awareness of the school environment together with support our Behavioural Change approach through the School Travel Plan process. The Committee was advised that the improvement required in the region of £10,000 and was potentially deliverable during 2011/12 subject to funding approval and consultation. A drawing of the proposed scheme was attached as an appendix (copy attached to the signed minutes).

15. The Committee was asked to recommend to the Deputy Leader that £10,000 of Section 106 funding be allocated to the above scheme from DC/1198/07.

16. The Committee discussed the proposal. Local member Mr Sheldon confirmed that local residents were in support of the scheme. The Committee requested that the possibility of signage to indicate the end of the 20mph zone be investigated. George Chisenga, Highway Manager, confirmed that the 20mph zone was advisory only.

17. The Committee requested that the TRO to apply double yellow lines in Blackbridge Lane, Horsham, be bolted on to the existing Elm Grove TRO.

18. Ms. Slight, Headteacher at Arunside School asked for a clear indication of when the scheme would be implemented and requested that a crossing between Arunside School and St John's Primary School be considered at a later date as there were increasing numbers of after school/breakfast clubs outside of the SSZ hours. The Highway Manager agreed to investigate the issues raised.

19. Resolved – That the Committee agrees to recommend to the Deputy Leader that £10,000 of Section 106 monies be allocated to the Arunside School and St. John's Primary School safety zone.

(iii) Urgent Item - Controlled Crossing on Harwood Road, Horsham

20. The Chairman informed the meeting that approval was being sought from the North Horsham CLC to allocate £4,808 of available section 106 money to help fund a proposed controlled crossing on Harwood Road, Horsham. The proposed safety scheme would support improved accessibility and safety for Leechpool School. The improvements were identified through the school's Travel Plan in association with the School Travel Advisor together with consultation and engagement with the wider community.

21. The Chairman advised that the scheme was anticipated to cost in the region of £70k and there was much support from the school community who had already seen the scheme deferred in the past. It was programmed for construction summer 2011.

22. Resolved – That the Committee agrees to recommend to the Deputy Leader that £4,808 of section 106 monies be allocated to the Harwood Road. Horsham safety scheme.

(iv) Priorities for Traffic Regulation Orders

23. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Operations Infrastructure (copy attached to the signed minutes). The report advised that the number of requests for new Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) has increased in recent years and there has been a widening range of reasons behind such requests. Given the limited resources available, this increased demand has resulted in a lengthening waiting list. The Committee was asked to approve the priority order for implementing Traffic Regulation Orders within the North Horsham CLC area as set out in the Appendix subject to any adjustments made at the meeting.

24. George Chisenga, Highway Manager, advised that the first TRO on the list – A281 Brighton Road – Monks Gate, would be centrally funded by the Accident Investigation and Prevention Team. He also advised that the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport had reviewed the process for

prioritising TROs and had recommended some changes. The changes had subsequently been discussed and agreed by CLC Chairmen and would be implemented in September 2011. It was noted that there were some discrepancies between CLC areas which would be reassessed and a decision made on how to proceed.

25. The Committee discussed the list of TRO priorities. Members considered that the methodology was sensible and clear, but disagreed with some of the scores awarded. George Chisenga, Highway Manager, advised that the forms were not designed for self-assessment and for consistency were completed centrally as they could be operator sensitive.

26. Members commented that in 2010/11 they had given fourth priority to the TRO to extend the 9am-5pm restriction on Park Terrace East, Livingston Road and Queens Street, Horsham, on the basis that one of the Crawley CLCs may not prioritise as many as three TROs. George Chisenga, Highway Manager, confirmed that a fourth TRO had been recommended in case one of the top three were unable to be implemented within the timescale.

27. The Committee heard representations from local residents who made comments and asked questions including: -

- Suggested that opportunities for consolidation of TROs on the priority list be investigated.
- Made a plea for the TRO to implement double yellow lines on Merryfield Drive to be prioritised for implementation by the Committee as they considered the current parking situation dangerous for the local school children using the road to travel to and from school each day.
- Suggested that letters be sent to Parish Councils confirming that groups of residents or Parish Councils could potentially progress TRO schemes if they were willing to make a financial contribution (approximately £5k per TRO).
- Mrs Tofts of Park Terrace East, Horsham, circulated some background information to the Committee, which included letters from Francis Maude, MP for Horsham, and planning conditions for the Plymouth Brethren Chapel in Littlehaven (copy attached to the signed minutes).
- Commented that an undertaking had been given by the Horsham District Council Development Control Committee a year ago, that a 30mph speed limit in Langhurstwood Road, Horsham would be seriously considered.

28. Members suggested that temporary junction protection on Merryfield Drive, Horsham should be investigated.

29. George Chisenga, Highway Manager, confirmed that four points were added to the score of all TROs that remained on the list each year. Members suggested that there was a need to be honest with that some of the schemes at the bottom of the list were highly unlikely to be implemented.

30. Members expressed concerns that the implementation of some of the TROs to restrict parking would shift the problems in to other areas. It was agreed that the Controlled Parking Zone review due to be undertaken over the next couple of years should address the wider parking issues in the area.

31. The Committee agreed that there was a need to review the list of TROs for the North Horsham area and for further discussions on the scoring process, prior to a decision on the top three priorities being taken.

32. Resolved – That the Committee resolves to defer the decision on the priority order for implementing Traffic Regulation Orders within the North Horsham CLC area to enable further consideration by the Committee of the scoring process used to assess the priority of TROs.

Potential Changes to Supported Bus Services

33. The Committee considered a report by the Service Manager, Transport Division, Transport and Communities, West Sussex County Council (copy attached to the signed minutes). A revised version of the list of affected routes, included with the report, was circulated to Committee members (copy attached to the signed minutes).

34. Local residents raised concerns about reduction/withdrawal of particular local services. Bill Leath and David Crockford in attendance. Some reassurance was given that commercial bus companies were looking at alternatives and that some fare increases were likely to be modest. Committee agreed comments would be forwarded to Bus Working Group as part of consultation.

35. Specific issues raised: -

- Asked about the proposed Horsham Schools fare increase. Mr Crockford confirmed that Compass Travel and Sussex Coaches were looking at adjustments which it was hoped would lead to a modest fare increase.
- No. 98 Roffey – Southwater evening service – particularly used at weekends – requested that the County Council look at a partial withdrawal. David Crockford advised that Metrobus was looking at the commercial viability of this service.
- Commented that the County Council had a duty to support walking routes and other leisure opportunities, as well as social inclusion and access to employment.
- Considered that a reduction in bus services would lead to further parking problems in the area. Mr Crockford advised that resources were in place to look at cycle schemes amongst others and that if there was a commercial solution, the County Council was committed to utilising buses as much as possible.
- Expressed concern that the withdrawal of the No. 86 service from Horsham to Haywards Heath would have an affect on local residents' choice of school. David Crockford responded that there was unlikely to be a large impact on choice of school as it was hoped that a commercial replacement would be found.
- Expressed concern that the decision had been made to cut £2m from the budget prior to the impact being fully assessed.
- Questioned which services were affected on the No. 65 route Oakhill to Horsham and commented that the service was used by a lot of local residents with bus passes and would lead to further use of cars if the service was reduced. Mr Crockford confirmed that 0827, 1723 and the 1753 services were affected by the proposals (this information was provided on the revised list circulated to members).

- Commented that the No. 17 service from Horsham to Henfield and Brighton was used by students using after school clubs.
36. Resolved - That the comments made by Committee members and local residents at the meeting be submitted as part of the formal consultation.

West Sussex Waste Plan and Shortlist of Strategic Waste Sites

37. The Committee considered a report by the Strategic Planning Manager (copy attached to the signed minutes). Mike Elkington, Strategic Planning Manager, West Sussex County Council, introduced the report which advised that a formal decision was made by the County Council on Friday 13th May 2011 to commence the preparation of a West Sussex Waste Plan which would include the allocation of strategic waste sites that would help to meet shortfalls in capacity for the transfer, recycling, treatment, and disposal of all waste in West Sussex.

38. From a 'longlist' of potential waste sites, a shortlist of nine preferred waste sites for new built waste management facilities had been identified. Two sites were located within the North Horsham County Local Committee (CLC) area: Nowhurst Business Centre, near Stroud Green and Brookhurst Wood, nr Warnham. In addition, an extension to the existing non-inert landfill site at Brookhurst Wood was also a preferred site as part of the strategy to 'retreat' from the disposal of waste to land. Detailed assessments of these sites were attached to the report.

39. Technical work required to assess the preferred sites was currently ongoing. A decision about which sites should go forward as allocations in the Waste Plan would be made by County Council in October 2011.

40. Members and local residents made comments including: -

- Expressed concerns about the potential for increased traffic problems on Langhurstwood Road if the site at Brookhurst Wood went ahead.
- Questioned the need for new site at Brookhurst Wood and asked the Committee to support the rejection of the proposal. Mr Elkington advised that they were currently proposals subject to further technical work and that not all sites may go forward as allocations in the draft Plan.
- Questioned why new waste sites were planned when people were recycling more of their waste. Mr Elkington advised that there was a need to plan for all waste arisings in the County and that there is a need for increased recycling and treatment of commercial and industrial waste in order to move away from the current reliance on landfill. Forecasts were being updated to 2031 to assess future need.
- Suggested that a specific alternative site at Brookhurst Wood should be considered. Mr Elkington confirmed that the site was allocated for built use in the Horsham LDF but that there was a need to ensure that it was available and deliverable. The landowner did not want it to be used for waste facilities and, therefore, the site was not on the shortlist. He also confirmed that it was the responsibility of the private sector to bring forward any allocated sites.
- Questioned why landfill sites were not distributed more evenly across the County. He clarified that there were a number of constraints on location

linked to geology which led to the infilling of former clay pits which were located in the north and north-east of the County.

- Questioned whether waste from other counties was brought into the West Sussex. Mr Elkington confirmed that the Council was only looking at waste generated in West Sussex.
41. Resolved – That the comments made by Committee members and local residents at the meeting be submitted as part of the formal consultation.

Talk with Us (Open Forum)

42. A number of questions had been submitted to the Committee in advance of the meeting: -

43. Denne Neighbourhood Council questioned progress on a Bus Shelter at the Needles for which Section 106 funding had been identified. The Chairman informed the meeting that this was currently being investigated by officers and a response would be provided.

- CI Mark Trimmer, Sussex Police, advised on the recent changes to the opening hours of Horsham police stations.
- Denne Neighbourhood Council – requested an update on the progression of the Needles bus shelter installation. The Chairman advised that the ITS and Traffic Monitoring Team had been in touch with Horsham District Council who were investigating whether any section 106 money was available for the scheme. He advised that the Community Development & Big Society team confirmed that if the scheme was not yet committed then it would be for the Infrastructure Planning (IP). The IP work involves elected members working as a CLC to confirm community priorities and then for officers to progress them with any available funding.
- Warnham Parish Council requested updates on a number of issues including the review of highways issues regarding the Broadbridge Heath development by Countryside Properties. *The Chairman advised that planning issues were the responsibility of HDC who would consult WSCC on highways issues.*
- Local residents expressed concerns that only part of the planned acoustic screening on A264 had been installed. George Chisenga, Highway Manager, agreed to follow this up.
- Concerns were expressed by a local resident about current capacity issues at secondary schools in Horsham. The Committee requested a briefing on school places at a future meeting.
- A request was made for a School Safety Zone at St Andrews School, Nuthurst. George Chisenga, Highway Manager, agreed to follow this up.

Community Initiative Funding (CIF)

44. 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).

45. Resolved – That the Committee awards the following amounts: -

- **1560/NH**, Faygate Baby & Toddler's, **£1,000**, towards the purchase of equipment for the baby and toddler group, subject to receipt of a satisfactory business plan. £2,594 had been requested.
- **1607/NH**, Horsham Debt Advice Service, **£600**, towards the purchase of new computing equipment.
- **1626/NH**, Coolham Village Hall Management Committee, **£1,500**, towards the purchase of 12 new replacement tables for the village hall. £1,750 had been requested.

Appointment of Authority School Governors

46. 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).

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

- i. Mrs M Reed to Rusper Primary for 4 years
- ii. Reverend Dr R Coldicott to Holbrook Primary for 4 years.

Dates of Future Meetings

48. The Committee's next meeting will be held on 12th September 2011 at 7.00pm in the Goodwood Room, County Hall North, Horsham.

The meeting ended at 9.45pm.

Chairman