

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

North Horsham County Local Committee

12th September 2011 – At a meeting of the Committee at 7.00pm held at County Hall North, Chartway, Horsham.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Millson.

Chairman's Welcome

54. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

Declaration of Interests

55. There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

56. The Committee discussed the minutes. In relation to minute 40 (bullet point 1) the Chairman advised that a meeting had taken place, arranged by Horsham District Council, to discuss issues local to Langhurstwood Road with residents, Horsham District Councillors and County Councillors. A copy of the action points could be made available to members on request.

57. Residents of Merryfield Drive, Horsham, requested that an amendment be made to minute 27 (bullet point 2). The minute stated that they had made a plea for the implementation of double yellow lines, however the residents wanted it made clear that they had made a plea for the urgent implementation of the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and sought clarification of what was likely to be implemented.

58. Resolved - that the minutes of the North Horsham County Local Committee (CLC) meeting held on 13th June 2011 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendments: -

- Minute 27, bullet point 2: "Residents of Merryfield Drive, Horsham, made a plea for the 'urgent implementation of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and sought clarification of what was likely to be implemented', as they considered the current parking situation dangerous for local children using the road to travel to and from school each day."
- Minute 43 (bullet point 4): "Local residents expressed concerns that 'none' of the planned acoustic screening on the A264 had been installed."

Progress Statement

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

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60. He advised that an informal meeting of members of the Committee had taken place following the last formal CLC meeting to discuss the Committee's Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) priorities for 2011-12. He confirmed that Urgent Action had been taken by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to implement the Committee's priorities as follows: -

- (NH096) - Adversane / Billingshurst: Speed limit review
- (NH103) - Merryfield Drive, Horsham: Double Yellow Lines (NH072) & (NH015) - Broadbridge Heath: Various junction protection
- (NH100) - Rusper Village: 20mph speed limit and (NH012) – Horsham Road, Rusper: Junction protection

61. A further urgent action was agreed for TRO (NH088) to extend the parking restrictions on Park Terrace East, Horsham, subject to funds being transferred from Horsham District Council to West Sussex County Council in advance of any work being carried out. The Chairman confirmed that Section 106 monies would be made available from the Bridge House development in Horsham.

62. Local residents asked questions relating to the Progress Statement: -

- Questioned the probability of TROs being implemented if the legal costs could be covered by a third party. The Chairman advised that opportunities were available to progress TROs if resources could be found.
- Asked about the timescale for the installation of the Nuthurst School Safety Zone as the report contained a typographical error (2012-12). George Chisenga agreed to follow this up and confirm the correct date of implementation. **Action: George Chisenga.**

East Street Pedestrian Enhancement

63. George Chisenga, Gatwick Diamond Team Manager, Community Development & Big Society, provided an update on the East Street Pedestrian Enhancement scheme. He advised that he had met with officers at Horsham District Council (HDC) who were currently consulting with local traders. A statement of reasons would then be submitted to the County Council to progress the experimental TRO for the closure of East Street to general traffic during core times. It was noted that there had previously been an experimental TRO for the closure of the road, however this was prior to the new design of the road, essentially as a pedestrian area.

64. Members questioned whether the TRO would be implemented in time for the Christmas period. Mr Chisenga advised that the County Council was waiting for HDC to prepare the statement of reasons for the TRO and layout details so that the County Council's Traffic Engineers could progress the order. He confirmed that unless the information was received from HDC in good time he could not guarantee the TRO would be in place this side of Christmas.

65. Resolved – That the Committee notes the update.

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Infrastructure Planning Process

66. George Chisenga provided a verbal update on the Infrastructure Planning Process. He advised that each CLC would have its own set of priorities to approve for local improvement schemes each year. Funding would be provided from a number of sources e.g. capital or section 106 monies. The funding would be allocated to schemes accordingly. From 2013-14 schemes would not be included in the Infrastructure Works Programme (IWP) without the support of the relevant CLC. Priorities would be reviewed annually and many would be subject to review work to consider issues surrounding their feasibility.

67. The Chairman confirmed that the Committee would want to ensure a dialogue with Horsham District Council and the local Parish and Neighbourhood Councils when setting priorities for the local area.

68. Cllr David Holmes, Horsham District Council, commented that HDC was currently consulting with all parish councils in relation to the Community Infrastructure Levy.

69. George Chisenga advised that the Committee would consider a list of priorities to be reviewed and considered for progression, within available resources, at its next meeting in December 2011.

70. Resolved – That the Committee notes the verbal update.

Open Data

71. Martin Farrell, Performance Manager, West Sussex County Council, provided a short demonstration of how residents can access the 'West Sussex Data Store' a new system containing information about West Sussex, the Council and its services. He circulated a handout (copy appended to the signed minutes) which provided details on how to access the data store and provided some examples of open data being used. He explained that the objective of the data store was to make information available to the community and local businesses who could benefit from its use. He offered to provide training to anyone interested if required.

72. Members considered that the Data Store was a valuable resource and an opportunity for mass sharing of data/knowledge. They questioned the rules governing the use of data. Mr Farrell advised that if the data could be released under the Freedom of Information Act it would be made available on the West Sussex Data Store.

73. Resolved – That the Committee notes the presentation.

West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service – Proposed Merger

74. The Committee received a presentation (copy appended to the signed minutes) from Sean Ruth, Deputy County Fire Officer, West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service. The presentation advised that East Sussex and West Sussex Fire and Rescue Services were developing a business case on options to increase operational resilience and preserve frontline services to the public across West Sussex, East Sussex and the City of Brighton and Hove. A 12-week consultation process started

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on 14th July 2011 to provide the opportunity for residents, business and public organisations to give their views on a potential merger. It was noted that comments made at the meeting would be fed into the consultation and inform the County Council's decision in December.

75. Mr Ruth advised that the Combined Fire Authority would comprise of members of all three councils and the split was likely to be 12 from West Sussex County Council, 8 from East Sussex County Council and 4 from Brighton and Hove City Council.

76. A number of comments/questions were raised, including: -

- Asked about the likely location of the new combined control room. Mr Ruth advised that a bid for funding had been submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and that the funding decision affected the options for the location of the control room. If funding was not successful there was an option to retain the current control room in Chichester. If successful the A23 corridor was considered a preferred location as it was geographically central.
- Asked about plans to build a new fire station in Crawley/Horsham. Mr Ruth advised that the proposals to build a new fire station in Crawley on the existing site and a training centre on a new site at Broadbridge Heath had been overtaken by the proposed merger and would be a matter for the new authority if the merger went ahead. He advised that there was an existing training centre in Maresfield, East Sussex, and if the merger went ahead the new authority would need to look at whether the centre was adequate for the whole area or whether a new facility was required.
- Asked whether the closure of fire stations was likely. Mr Ruth advised that the new authority would be much better placed to continue to protect frontline services.
- Asked about staff views on the proposed merger. Mr Ruth advised that staff were generally positive about the merger and realised that West Sussex would have increased member representation on the new authority.

77. Resolved – That the presentation be noted and that the comments made be fed into the consultation process.

Talk with Us (Open Forum)

78. Inspector Paul Williams, Sussex Police, provided a short verbal update on local policing matters in the North Horsham area. He advised that the target to reduce crime by 3% had been partly met with a current reduction of 1.7%. Criminal damage had reduced by 15% and there had been a slight increase in anti-social behaviour.

79. Members asked what action was being taken to deal with scrap metal thefts locally. Inspector Williams said he was liaising with forces nearby and was optimistic of the outcome.

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

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- Concern was expressed regarding the potential effects of 'Not suitable for HGVs' signs which had recently been erected in Mannings Heath on Hammerpond Road and St Leonard's Road, as they were likely to divert heavy local traffic through the village. George Chisenga advised that the signs were advisory and therefore not enforceable and that local businesses could continue to use their usual route in and out of the village. The Chairman said he understood the concerns, however the local user in question was not disadvantaged as a result.
- Expressed concerns that 60mph limits were still in place on some local roads around Mannings Heath when a 50mph speed limit was now in place on sections of the A281 including Doomsday Lane to Mannings Heath.
- Advised that the Community Development and Big Society Team were currently talking to parish clusters with a view to delegating responsibilities. George Chisenga advised that letters had been written to all parishes. Committee Members agreed that they would like an update on this work at a future meeting.

81. The Chairman advised that he had received a letter from residents of Nowhurst Lane regarding their objections to the proposed waste site. He also advised that he had received correspondence from Mr Fletcher, a local resident, who had written to all Parish and Neighbourhood Councils in the area to highlight the opportunities regarding the 20s Plenty Campaign.

Community Initiative Funding (CIF)

82. 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).

83. Resolved – That the Committee awards the following amount: **1633/NH Earlesmeadow Residents Association**, £400, towards the purchase of various equipment items.

Appointment of Authority School Governors

84. 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).

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

Appointments: -

- Mr R M Chaplin to Heron Way Primary
- Mrs L West to Shipley Primary
- Mrs H Crooks to Queen Elizabeth II

Reappointments: -

- Mr O'Rahilly to Tanbrige House

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- Reverend B White to Greenway Junior
- Mr CJ Simmons to Shelley Primary

Dates of Future Meetings

86. The Committee's next meeting will be held on 5th December 2011 at 7.00pm in the Goodwood Room, County Hall North, Horsham.

The meeting ended at 8.50pm.

Chairman