

North Horsham County Local Committee

15 September 2014 – 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), Mr Rae (Roffey), Mr Watson OBE (Chairman and Southwater and Nuthurst).

Apologies: Mr Sheldon (Tanbridge and Broadbridge Heath),

Declarations of Interest

23. None.

Minutes

24. Resolved – that the minutes of the North Horsham County Local Committee meeting held on 23 June 2014 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

25. None

Progress Statement

26. A Denne Neighbourhood Councillor requested that the Neighbourhood Council also be included in discussions regarding highways and infrastructure issues relating to the West of Horsham development.

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

Talk With Us

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

- A resident of Southwater requested consideration be given to the installation of acoustic fencing on an exposed section of the A24 at Southwater. He added that the road surface was deteriorating and that this was exacerbating the noise. – the Chairman agreed that this should be included on the Communities Issues List for prioritisation at a future meeting and also suggested the resident contact the local Parish Council to explore the availability of S106 funding for this purpose.
- A resident of Lower Beeding highlighted a potentially unsafe local crossing owing to restricted sight-lines and a reduced width stretch of pathway. – The Engineering Solutions Manager stated that it was important to develop an understanding of the history and context of the crossing. The Chairman undertook to take this forward with the Strategic Planning Manager.

- The Independent Representative for Patient & Public Involvement at Horsham Hospital raised the issue of inadequate on-site parking for patients and staff, particularly given the likely increase in local demand and further services to be offered at the hospital. – Members agreed that parking availability was an issue but stressed that potential solutions were complex, would require significant partnership working with other land-owning organisations and would be long-term. It was agreed that this could be discussed at the 15 December meeting as part of a wider item on the Clinical Commissioning Group's '5 Communities' Plan.
- A local resident queried whether the County Council owned any land at the Hop Oast Roundabout. – The Member for Roffey stated that the County Council owned a stretch of land, off Worthing Road, which was currently subject to discussion with Horsham District Council for a potential reconfiguration of access by refuse lorries to the depot.

Safety on Rural Roads

29. The Engineering Solutions Manager introduced the item and explained that there had been 1912 collisions on the County's road network over the past five years. Of these, 5.6% had occurred on the rural road network (C and unclassified roads). Less than 1% of pedestrian injuries had occurred on the rural network over the same period.

30. He emphasised that whilst low, these figures were unacceptable but added that measures to address them were complex. Blanket speed limits and physical measures would need to be applied across the network to make roads safer as accidents did not occur in the same places. Changing driver behaviour was crucial to improving road safety and reducing dangerous and anti-social driving for rural communities.

31. The Senior Professional Advisor informed members of an ongoing pilot scheme in Southwater, which worked with local residents, community stakeholders and partner organisations to tackle poor and dangerous driving. Key to success of the pilot was coordinated work to promote awareness of safer, more considerate driving and utilising key, locally embedded organisations and individuals to encourage the community to take pride in their driving.

32. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer stated that a key task was to further develop understanding of what works in addressing long-term behaviour change and to successfully capture this. He emphasised the importance of a joined-up multi-agency approach, as in many cases poor driving was symptomatic of other, more complex issues.

33. Members made a number of comments, including those that follow. They:

- Noted that whilst pilot schemes could be successful in villages, this wouldn't necessarily address issues for widely dispersed rural populations. It was suggested that signed, rural 'zones' could be considered for rural areas, similar to the New Forest. – The Engineering Solutions Manager responded that blanket reduction zones had been trialled elsewhere but led to only around a 1-2 mile per hour reduction in speed. He added that

many drivers make their own assessment of suitable speed and would ignore a lower limit if they didn't perceive it as accurate.

- Queried the role of the Police in addressing behavioural change. - The Engineering Solutions Manager stated that the Police had to effectively manage limited resources and therefore had to prioritise incident black-spots. They were keen to support community activism, such as Community Speed Watch teams. The Senior Professional Advisor added that the police actively engaged in work with communities, for example they had recently targeted enforcement in a local area following feedback from communities. This was particularly beneficial as it had tackled behavioural issues of local drivers and regular road users.

34. Members of the audience made comments, including those that follow:

- A representative of Horsham District Cycling Forum raised a number of road safety concerns for cyclists using rural roads relating to dangerous driving, high speeds and that the safety of routes could not be ensured across the journey. She advocated lower speed limits, limiting access on some local roads and a range of physical changes to the carriageway. – The member for Roffey responded that speed limits and engineering solutions would not lower speed and physical solutions could also negatively impact on the safety of the carriageway. It was more important to address driver behaviour, in combination with high-profile enforcement and targeted usage of speed devices.
- A local resident emphasised that these issues were not limited to rural roads and that A and major roads were also affected. He recommended the CLC should lobby nationally on this issue.

35. The Engineering Solutions Manager stated that a review of the County Council's Road Safety Strategy would be starting shortly and the issues raised in the discussion could be used to inform this process.

Community Initiative Funding

36. 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.

37. Resolved - that the following awards are made:

401/NH Billingshurst Community Partnership Ltd, £2,000.00, towards the costs of printing and distributing "Billingshurst Today and Tomorrow Community Lead Plan 2014-2019" .

409/NH, Shipley Parish Council, £720.00 towards the cost of purchasing a designed website for the Parish Council.

411/NH, St John's Church, £970, towards the costs of a WW1 Remembrance exhibit (including publicity).

Appointment of Authority Governors

38. The Committee considered a report by Director of Communities Commissioning (copy appended to the signed minutes)

39. Resolved - that the North Horsham County Local Committee make the following appointments and reappointments

a) Appointments:

Mrs Christine Elizabeth Prosser to St John's Catholic Primary School for a four year term

Dr Ian King to The Forest Secondary School for a four year term

b) Reappointments:

Mr G Lozzi to Horsham Nursery School for a four year term

Mr B Glockling to Arunside Primary School for a four year term

Mr RC Wilton to Kingslea Primary School for a four year term

Mrs M PA Gander to Leechpool Primary School for a four year term.

Date of Next Meeting

40. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Monday 15 December 2014 in the Main Conference Room, County Hall North, Horsham.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Chairman