

## **North Horsham County Local Committee**

17 September 2012 – At a meeting of the Committee at 7.00pm held at County Hall North, Chartway, Horsham.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Millson.

### **Chairman's Welcome and Introductions**

32. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting. The Chairman congratulated Warnham CE Primary School for achieving a 'good' school rating in their recent Ofsted report and a letter would be sent conveying the Committee's congratulations. A letter had been received from Cootes Farm Community thanking the committee for the community initiative funding (CIF) they had been awarded.

### **Declaration of Interests**

33. Mr Sheldon declared a personal interest regarding item 10 for the application for CIF funding from the Horsham Debt Service. Mr Hellawell declared a personal interest regarding item 10 for the application for CIF funding from the Horsham District Scout Campsite.

### **Minutes**

34. Resolved - That the minutes of the North Horsham County Local Committee (CLC) meeting held on 25 June 2012 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman subject to an additional space after the second bullet point of minute point 23.

### **Urgent Matters**

35. There were no urgent matters.

### **Progress Statement**

36. The Committee noted a report which provided updates on matters arising from previous meetings of the CLC (copy appended to the signed minutes). The following points were discussed:

- Regarding the Park Terrace East Traffic Regulation Order, the Chairman informed the meeting that he had spoken to Tom Crowley, Chief Executive of Horsham District Council and an agreement had been reached with Tony Toynton, Executive Director for Communities and Infrastructure at WSCC to advance monies in order to progress the TRO.
- Dr Dennis referred to the Controlled Parking Zone Review Update and the reference that a consultation would take place later in the summer, he asked what the timescales were. Mr Catchpole highlighted that a consultation had taken place at Littlehaven Station and Ashley Road, Holbrook and a response was still awaited. Mr Catchpole believed that there was a large timescale between consultation and feedback and that there should be an

understanding of next steps. *The Principal Community Officer undertook to check the revised timetable.*

- The Chairman referred to a letter that he had received and concern over access to the proposed Martyn Long Centre and asking for access to Crawley Road. The Chairman invited Horsham District Council member Roy Cornell to update the meeting on the recent successful planning application for the centre. *Mr Cornell confirmed that the application had been approved with no conditions regarding access.* It was agreed that movement of construction traffic and access to the site needed to be considered. Mr Cornell asked for a meeting to be arranged between the district council and officers at WSCC highways to discuss the situation. *The Principal Community Officer undertook to follow this item up and it was agreed that it should be treated as a separate item from the Oak Tree Way TRO decision.* The meeting was informed, regarding the recycling point at Oak Tree Way that the ground was owned by Horsham District Council and banks operated by charity collectors had been contacted to remove their banks. There was a question what would be done with the land but he District Council would keep the CLC informed.
- Mr Sheldon highlighted that there had been another major accident at the Boars Head Junction. *The Principal Community Officer informed the meeting that this scheme would be included in the Infrastructure Plan update that would be an agenda item at the next CLC meeting.*
- Mr Hodgson informed the meeting that the Rights of Way Committee would consider the proposals for footpath alterations in Warnham at its October meeting. Warnham Parish Council was funding £25,000 towards the surfacing but there would be a considerable shortfall. Some local residents were not completely happy with the diversion.
- Mr Hodgson had met with Paul Addison at WSCC to discuss the roundabout at Newbridge Nurseries and some alterations had been made as a result.
- Regarding the installation of bus activated lights on Blackhorse Way; Mr Sheldon commented that the update provided had not addressed the issue that the Committee had raised. The Committee had referred to a crossing between West Walk and the Forum. *The Principal Community Officer informed the meeting that a review of the zebra crossing at the Forum would be added to the Infrastructure Plan priorities.*
- Dr Dennis commented that the response regarding Copnall Way was in conflict with County Council policies regarding encouraging residents to use public transport. He believed that the junction needed to be re-organised as the Carfax exit had a poor layout for buses, stating that there were budgets available for supporting the use of public transport. *The Principal Community Officer undertook to look into this again and that the CLC could include this as part of its Infrastructure Plan priorities.*
- Mr Sheldon asked if satisfactory estimates had been received from the Rudgwick Junior Cricket Club. *Helena Cox undertook to find out and supply an update to members.*
- Mr Catchpole enquired why there was a proposed route change for service 51 due to low trees and overhanging branches. *The Principal Community Officer believed that the trees were subject to Tree Protection Orders and undertook to provide members with specific details of the route change.* Mr Catchpole also informed that meeting that hard standing areas mentioned in the update were constructed, not awaiting construction, as he had arranged for them to be put in place. *The Principal Community Officer undertook to clarify this point.*

*Mr Catchpole took the Chair.*

## **Community Policing Update**

37. The Vice-Chairman welcomed Chief Inspector (CI) Sharon Parker and Inspector Clare McKnight, the Horsham Neighbourhood Policing Team Inspector, to the meeting. CI Parker reported that there was a downward trend with 197 less reported crimes than this time last year. Reports of criminal damage, violent crime and theft was down although there had been a small increase in burglaries, however the team had been very successful in arresting those responsible. A new CCTV camera for the town had been secured through Horsham District Council and police funding and would be located in Springfield Road. From 5<sup>th</sup> November 2012 Justina Beeken would be in post as Chief Inspector and would attend future meetings.

38. Inspector Clare McKnight reported on local initiatives, including: -

- Michael Marshall had been charged with a number of burglaries in the Cowfold and Partridge Green area and burglaries had now ceased in that area.
- The Neighbourhood Policing Team had a market stall on crime prevention in the town centre.
- Launch of Operation Autumn regarding trick and treating and fireworks.
- There had been a reshuffle of staff that had allowed one more PC and one PCSO in the town and backfilling of one PC in Roffey. This would provide extra resilience and visibility in the town. Three sergeants were now responsible for neighbourhood policing in the whole of the Horsham District rather than their specified areas (Horsham town, Horsham North and Horsham South). This too would increase the resilience of supervision within the district.
- Crime was down by 8%.

*Mr Watson returned to the Chair.*

39. The Chairman raised the frustration of residents in Parkside Mews, Horsham regarding inappropriate parking and asked if the Police could help in the short term to alleviate the problem. CI Parker informed the meeting that in the absence of a traffic regulation order, the police would only have powers if a vehicle was causing an obstruction (if an emergency vehicle such as a fire vehicle was unable to access the road) however, this was problematic to enforce as it would be difficult to determine which car out of two parked cars had caused the obstruction. The Principal Community Officer informed the meeting that this had been discussed at a Joint Action Group Meeting where it was agreed that a fire vehicle would try and access the road and signs had been put up on private land to discourage inappropriate parking. Residents present at the meeting stated that these signs had been torn down and that they believed the solution would be for the introduction of yellow lines. The Chairman highlighted that the introduction of yellow lines was a time consuming and expensive process and that the review of the Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) would probably be the best solution. Residents present asked what the likely timescales would be, having already received the consultation documentation. *The Principal Community Officer undertook to look into the timescales for the CPZ review.* The CLC acknowledged that there was a problem and Mr Sheldon asked

that it be noted that Gilligan Close, Horsham was also experiencing similar problems.

40. The Chairman thanked CI Parker and Inspector McKnight for their reports.

### **West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service: Proposed Public Stakeholder Consultation**

41. The Committee received a presentation by Gary Locker, Acting Area Manager, West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (WSF&RS) regarding the key points of the West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service consultation on savings proposals and Annual Service Plan (briefing note attached to the signed minutes). Members noted the following points:

- The WSF&RS was required to make £2½ million of savings. WSF&RS was still progressing projects with East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service which would provide financial savings even though plans for a formal merger had been dropped earlier in the year.
- One of the main aims was to reduce senior management posts by 25%. The numbers of officers who responded to incidents would be remodelled with a 6 appliance incident running concurrently with a 10 appliance incident rather than 10 and 10.
- Crewing for specialist vehicles would be on an alternate crew basis with retained crews filling the gaps.
- The size of the fleet has been scrutinised and a 10% reduction was proposed.
- In April next year there would be a full Fundamental Service Review to identify more savings which could be made.
- Support services within WSF&RS and WSCC were being looked at to see if functions could be combined.
- The Fire Protection department would be restructured and there would be a reduction in the number of hubs from 5 to 3, and to use the WSCC way of working for more flexible working arrangements.
- The preferred option for crewing Horley Fire Station was to move staff to Horsham; the crew would increase from 8 to 13 with two appliances and retained officers for the third appliance. Specialist vehicles would have alternate crews.
- The consultation finished on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2012. A four-week staff consultation would then follow.

42. Members of the audience, including local residents made comments and asked questions including:

- Mr Hodgson enquired whether there was an aspiration to relocate fire stations as there were a number that were not in optimum locations. *Mr Locker commented that the service had a legacy but it was something to consider in the future. The review aimed to avoid reductions to front line services and focused on most appropriate projects at this point.*
- The Chairman asked what the current situation was regarding the possible relocation of Horsham Fire Station. *Mr Locker responded that there was always an aspiration to secure capital investment to build more stations. The WSF&RS would review areas at risk when capital investment was available.*
- It was asked where capital funding would come from for a new fire station. *The meeting was informed that this would be WSCC rather than WSF&RS.*

43. Resolved – that the Chairman, on behalf of the CLC, writes to the Cabinet Member for Public Protection supporting the proposed saving proposals.

### **East Street, Horsham – Experimental Traffic Regulation Order Update**

44. The Committee considered an information report by the Executive Director for Communities and Infrastructure (copy attached to the signed minutes). The report provided an update on the experimental TRO approved by the CLC in March 2012 to introduce a prohibition of driving, waiting, loading and unloading in East Street and Market Square, Horsham between the hours of 10.30am and 4.30pm seven days a week and the and the relocation of designated loading bays and bays for blue badge holders. The order was made for a maximum period of 18 months, with the initial six-month period being the statutory consultation period. The consultation period would end on 26 October 2012.

45. The Chairman urged people to respond to the consultation period, highlighting that if there was overwhelming public support the TRO could be made permanent. Significant objections could result in a public enquiry.

46. Mrs Jupp raised concern that some cyclists were going too fast through the pedestrianised area and posed a risk to pedestrians. Mr Sheldon, as local member, commented that he had received no complaints regarding the dual use of East Street for cyclists and pedestrians so he believed that this was the exception rather than the rule.

47. Resolved – That members of the CLC encourage residents to respond to the consultation and do so themselves via the methods stated in section 2 of the report by the 26 October 2012 and that a press release is issued to publicise the importance of the consultation.

### **Talk with Us (Open Forum)**

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

49. Mr Roger Nash, Chairman of the Rudgwick Preservation Society, presented three questions to the CLC regarding a proposed footpath at the Windacres Farm site, Church Street, Rudgwick (copy attached to the signed minutes). Mr Nash asked the CLC to review the need and desirability of the proposed footway; acknowledge the genuine opposition to the creation of the footway; and take into account that there are alternative ways of improving the safety of pedestrians on Church Street, Rudgwick which could be funded by the S106 monies. *The Principal Community Officer stated that WSCC had responded to the initial consultation and were not in favour of the proposal and that it would not be a decision for the CLC to make whether the footpath was constructed or not as it was subject to planning approval by Horsham District Council. Mr Hodgson, as local member, stated that he understood the arguments for and against the scheme but was minded to support the view of the democratically elected parish council who supported the proposed footpath.* Mr Nash stated that the society had made a presentation to the Parish Council and Horsham District Council regarding their concerns and had felt totally ignored and commented that the residents of Church Street had not been

consulted. *The Principal Community Officer undertook to look into the background of this issue and report back.* Mr Nash invited Mr Hodgson to meet on site to discuss this issue which he undertook to do.

50. Mr David Sanderson, resident of Parkside Mews, Horsham had indicated prior to the meeting that he wished to raise the issue of in appropriate parking in Parkside Mews. As this issue had been discussed earlier in the meeting, residents asked for further details of the CPZ review and the Principal Community Officer undertook to find out what the timescales of the review would be.

51. Mrs Sarah Leadbetter, resident of Orchard Road, Horsham handed a petition to the Chairman regarding speeding traffic in Orchard Road and the surrounding roads. Mrs Leadbetter read a statement to the meeting (copy attached to the signed minutes) and highlighted that a residents meeting would be held on 9<sup>th</sup> October at the Business Centre, Forest Boys School to discuss the issue. The Chairman confirmed that the petition would go through the necessary processes and she would be contacted with the results. It was highlighted that as this was a bus route, bus companies would need to be consulted. *The Principal Community Officer suggested that the CPZ review could help with the introduction of staggered parking bays and undertook to find out if this road was part of the review.*

52. It was commented that even though the School Safety Zone had been installed at St Andrews School, Horsham there was an issue of the school bus, which needed to be looked at seriously. It was suggested that members liaise with District Councillor David Holmes regarding meetings that he had been involved in regarding the crossing at Blackhorse Way delaying buses.

53. It was asked if restaurant seating in East Street, Horsham required permission. The Principal Community Officer confirmed that it was subject to a license which was issued by Horsham District Council and it was understood that there were several pending. *The Principal Community Officer undertook to check timescales with Horsham District Council.*

54. Resolved – That the above issues are noted and that progress will be reported to the next meeting of the Committee as appropriate.

### **Community Initiative Funding (CIF)**

55. 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).

56. A representative from the Horsham District Scout Campsite summarised their application highlighting the importance to secure the campsite along Tower Road due to speeding vehicles. Members asked that the Horsham District Scouts use a competitive quote. Regarding the application from Horsham Debt Advice Service, members asked to receive a copy of the training manual used for the event.

57. Resolved –

- (i) That the following applications and amounts be approved: -

- **1915/NH** Horsham District Scout Campsite, £2,344, replacement fencing and boundary hedging.
  - **1917/NH** Horsham Debt Advice Service, £1,000, costs towards a one-off volunteer training programme.
- (ii) That the Parish Initiative Fund be merged into the overall Community Initiative Fund.

### **Appointment of Authority School Governors**

58. The Committee considered a report by Director Operations – Learning, which set out proposed nominations to school governing bodies and the criteria for their appointments and re-appointments (copy appended to the signed minutes).

59. Resolved - That Mrs C A King be appointed as an Authority School Governor at Warnham Primary School for a 4 year term.

### **Dates of Future Meetings**

60. It was noted that the Committee's next meeting will be held on 17 December 2012 at 7.00pm in the Goodwood Room, County Hall North, Horsham.

The meeting ended at 8.50pm.

Chairman