

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

North Horsham County Local Committee

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

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

Apologies for absence were received from Dr. Dennis and Mr Hodgson.

Chairman's Welcome and Introductions

62. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting. The Chairman congratulated Tanbridge House School for achieving an 'outstanding' school rating and Colgate Primary School, Itchingfield Primary and The Forest School for achieving 'good' school ratings in recent Ofsted reports.

63. The Chairman informed the meeting that he had attended a briefing regarding Strategic Development West of Ifield. He wished to make members aware that an additional 2,500 houses could be built there and that a relief road would be required and need to be funded somehow.

Declaration of Interests

64. Mr Sheldon declared a personal and prejudicial interest regarding item 11 and the application for CIF funding from Horsham Matters as Chief Executive of the organisation. Mr Sheldon also declared a personal interest regarding item 11 and the application for CIF funding from the Horsham Debt Advice Service.

Minutes

65. Resolved - That the minutes of the North Horsham County Local Committee (CLC) meeting held on 17 September 2012 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

66. There were no urgent matters.

Progress Statement

67. 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 Oak Tree Way, Mrs Millson informed the meeting that she had met with one of the businesses in Redkilm Way regarding the significant parking problems for businesses there. They were very keen for a meeting to be held with all the business in the trading estate, to include Horsham District Council to try and progress this. As the recycling units had now been removed there was space for 6-8 cars with an existing dropped kerb for two of those spaces.

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Mrs Millson had written to the Chief Executive of Horsham District Council to ask for permission for the businesses to use those spaces. The businesses would contribute to dropping the rest of the kerb.

- Mr Catchpole commented that the CPZ update stated that the consultation responses would be provided when available and asked that a date be provide to members. *The Principal Community Officer undertook to find out this date.*
- The Chairman mentioned regarding the parking problem in Parkside Mews that there was still an opportunity for residents to independently fund a TRO in the road.
- Mrs Millson commented that she was present at a well-attended meeting of the Orchard Road Group and unfortunately there were no obvious solutions as what could be done was expensive and there was no funding available. The local PCSO had arranged speed checks but these had been postponed due to icy weather. *The Principal Community Officer highlighted that there was a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) in the area.*

Community Policing Update

68. The Chairman welcomed Sergeant James Makepeace on behalf of Inspector Clare McKnight, the Horsham Neighbourhood Policing Team Inspector, to the meeting. Sergeant Makepeace reported on local initiatives, including: -

- Chief Inspector Howard Hodges had replaced Chief Inspector Sharon Parker as the Horsham District Commander and would attend the next CLC meeting and those thereafter.
- There had been an increase in PC's in the town with four, each responsible for their own area of the town. Regarding Parkside Mews the local PC had arranged for a fire appliance to drive down there further to the comments made at the last meeting regarding access problems.
- Criminal damage rates had fallen. However, town thefts continued to increase, Sergeant Makepeace reassured members that these figures reflected the proactive work of the PC's in the town to ensure that perpetrators were charged.
- There had been an increase in fraud with a number of forged bank notes being used in the town. Sergeant Makepeace showed members an example of the forged notes and confirmed what to look out for.
- There was an issue of 5/6 flats occupied by vulnerable people in the town being used by others for drug use, especially the use of mephedrone. Four of the six perpetrators were now on remand.
- There had been issues of burglary in the area but the perpetrator was now on remand. Sergeant Makepeace concluded that Horsham was the safest place to live in the county.

69. Mrs Jupp asked if a series of burglaries in West Chilton Lane had been resolved. *Sergeant Makepeace informed the meeting that they had and resulted in two arrests.* Mrs Jupp added that there had been no police presence at recent parish council meetings including Billingshurst Parish Council. *Sergeant Makepeace agreed to chase that up.*

70. The Chairman thanked Sergeant Makepeace for his report.

East Street, Horsham – Experimental Traffic Regulation Order

71. The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director Customers & Change and Head of Highways and Transport (copy attached to the signed minutes). The Chairman informed the meeting that residents and a District Councillor, on behalf of the Leader of Horsham District Council, had asked prior to the meeting that they be able to address the CLC on this issue and would be given three minutes each to do so. The Chairman invited Peter Bradley, Service Manager (Engineering Solutions) to introduce the report. Mr Bradley informed the meeting that the restrictions in East Street had been incremental and culminated in an experimental order for a period of 18 months taking effect in April 2012. There had been many supportive comments made however there had been objections. These objections fell into two types; loading/unloading and relocation of disabled bays. Mr Bradley commented that bearing in mind the objections, an additional TRO could be made to make access easier to the new disabled bays outside the Olde Kings Head pub during core periods, with a possible change to the surface paving in the scheme. The County Council, in accordance with the Equality Act, had a duty to assess the impact of the scheme. There were those with protected characteristics who had objected to the scheme however, there would be an impact on businesses if the scheme were removed and therefore members needed to consider if the benefits outweighed the dis-benefits. There had been significant investment in East Street. There was a requirement that if a scheme had any objections due to loading then it should go to a public inquiry. Mr Bradley informed the meeting that there were three options available to the CLC; withdraw the scheme, proceed to public inquiry or consider an alternative. If the decision was made to go to public inquiry the costs would be shared with Horsham District Council.

72. The Chairman invited Mr Davis to address the CLC. Mr Davis stated that he was speaking on behalf of his wife who was able to drive to Horsham town centre in a specially adapted car. He believed that over the year's access to the town had been reduced. Mr Davis did not see that there was a benefit of a 'café culture' due to the country's climate and the scheme removed accessibility for his wife. He believed that there was a lack of insight to those with protected characteristics and that there was an obligation under the equality duty to do the right thing. Mr Davis stated that the relocated disabled bays to a cobbled surface were unfavourable and that his wife had to exit her car in the middle of the road. In conclusion, Mr Davis stated that he believed that West Sussex County Council and Horsham District Council were outside the scope of the law and had therefore acted unlawfully. Mr Davis stated that he would be contacting the Equality and Human Rights Commission the next day if it was decided not to rescind the scheme.

73. The Chairman then invited Mr Owles to address the CLC. Mr Owles commented that that the surface in the Carfax where disabled bays had been relocated was a significant issue for those with a spinal issue such as himself. There was insufficient policing of the original TRO as vehicles drove right through East Street, he had been told that Horsham District Council had no funds for enforcement of the TRO. Mr Owles believed the 'café culture' idea was ridiculous and could only be used for half of the year. Very few disabled people could get out of the house before 10.30am which was when the restrictions began and after 4.30pm it would be dark in the winter. Mr Owles commented that the 'café culture'

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could be limited to two hours in the middle of the day and that the current length of time was unreasonable. Mr Owles concluded that equality rights were being breached and that he would do everything in his power to fight the scheme as he had done in 2008.

74. Cllr Helena Croft read out a statement on behalf of Cllr Ray Dawe the Leader of Horsham District Council. Horsham District Council supported economic aspirations of the town and had jointly invested in this scheme. The council wished to create a positive visitor experience and make the town a popular eating destination in the county. Delivering the scheme had involved significant investment and funds had been invested by local traders. The refurbishment had been an overwhelming success and had encouraged safe pedestrian use of the road. Four restaurant licenses had been granted with seven more preparing submissions. The District Council fully supported the temporary TRO becoming permanent and believed not to proceed would be a retrograde step. The District Council would work proactively with objectors and believed that there were reasonable alternative disabled parking available.

75. The Chairman invited further comment from the public. A Horsham District Councillor stated that it was essential to maintain the local economy. The Government had replaced part of the District Council's funding formula rate with a greater focus on business rates and therefore if revenue from business rates fell then this would impact on council tax payers. He believed that if going to public inquiry was the only way to get the scheme tested then it should be done. He concluded that his wife was a blue badge holder and was in favour of the scheme. A fellow Horsham District Councillor added his support to his Leader and colleagues and stated that East Street was an attractive street with successful businesses.

76. The Chairman thanked those who had contributed and said how it showed their passion and great belief in their views. There was significant support and opposition and highlighted that the proposal was to seek an independent opinion through a public inquiry. The Chairman commented that access to the alternative disabled spaces were not ideal and a solution should be sought. The surface of cobbled stones was not ideal but they originally been used to deter motorists travelling too fast. The Chairman highlighted the three options and asked members for comments.

77. At this point Mr Sheldon declared a personal and prejudicial interest as Chief Executive of Horsham Matters which had recently opened a shop in East Street, Horsham and therefore was required to leave the room for the remainder of the item.

Mr Sheldon left the room.

78. Members of the committee made comments and asked questions including:

- Mrs Millson commented that it was an extremely difficult situation as this scheme was extremely good for pedestrians but an abled person's view would be different to a disabled persons view. Mrs Millson declared a personal interest as her mother was a blue badge holder and she used the disabled parking bays in the town. Her mother struggled to walk from the

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relocated bays to certain shops in East Street and therefore she understood the points that had been made. Mrs Millson asked if parking could be provided in Anchor Court and Talbot House as this could possibly be a better solution. *A representative from Horsham District Council stated that the car park in Anchor Court and Talbot House was owned by the District Council and spaces were used by business. The District Council would consider if it would be possible to make spaces available for blue badge holders.*

- Mr Catchpole stated that he was a great supporter of the scheme and that finding alternatives would result in another consultation and if there were still objections the scheme would be back to square one. He believed that it would be good for all opinions to be aired publically and to allow for a professional summary of the pros and cons. Mr Catchpole stated that he supported the recommendation.
- Mrs Jupp commented that she was concerned from a disabled access point of view and that it was a shame that more could not be done.

79. The Chairman concluded that the local authorities had worked hard with those who had raised objections and in certain cases there was no easy solution. The County Council had a duty to protect the interests of all users and therefore recommended that the CLC instruct an independent inspector to make a judgement for the CLC to consider at a future meeting.

80. Resolved – that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services requests an Independent Inspector to hold a public inquiry into the proposed permanent TRO.

Mr Sheldon returned to the room.

Authorisation for an application to Stop Up part of the highway at Black Horse Way, Horsham, West Sussex

81. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Business Change and Community & Economic Development Manager (copy attached to the signed minutes). The report explained that as a consequence of a review of the highway boundary position in Black Horse Way, Horsham it had been confirmed that the structure of the Bus Station had been constructed upon land which continues to form part of the public highway. In view of this and in order to regularise the position, the affected part of the highway required to be 'Stopped Up'. Members understood the reason for the report and recommendation and had no comments to make.

82. Resolved – That authorization is given to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to make an application to the Magistrates Court to Stop Up the part of the public highway as shown on the plan contained in Appendix A.

An Overview of the Highways Infrastructure Works Programme Consultation and progress with North Horsham County Local Committee Local Infrastructure Plan Priorities

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83. The Committee considered an information report by the Director of Business Change and the Head of Community and Economic Development Divisional Manager, Strategic Planning (copy appended to the signed minutes). Steve Bicknell, Principal Community Officer highlighted that the junction improvement at Boars Head had been delayed to March 2013, as the community led agreement with the parish council had not been possible and therefore it was now the County Council's responsibility to progress. Mrs Millson enquired what the status was of the Forest School Safer Routes to School scheme as the original had been extremely unpopular. *The Principal Community Officer stated that this scheme had gone back to the drawing board.* Mrs Jupp asked about the William Penn School Safety Zone scheme as she had not seen the design. *The Principal Community Officer undertook to check on the status of the design and ensure Mrs Jupp had a copy for comment.*

84. Members noted the contents of the report.

Talk with Us (Open Forum)

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

- Jane Apostolou representing the Horsham Town Community Partnership informed members of the detail of the Riverside Walk Project. The project planned to install signage, improve footpaths, and install benches and information boards to create a green corridor around the town. The project intended to promote the use of open space and was for community use. The project had received support from Horsham District Council and other key stakeholders with an exhibition held the week before. The project had been invited to apply for grant funding from Biffa and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The project would apply for £44,000 from Biffa, £4,000 had been secured from Horsham District Council. The project hoped to apply for funding from West Sussex County Council for resurfacing the Boardwalk with estimated costs of £70,000 in one area and £75,000 in another. Funding from Biffa could not be used for resurfacing costs. The project would like to apply to the Big Society Fund and understood they required a County Councillor to put forward their application. There were issues of land ownership which was currently being investigated. Members were asked to formally support the project so that the team could indicate this in their applications which were due to Biffa on 27th January 2013 and to the National Lottery on 21st January 2013. In addition Neil Clark from the Horsham Cycling Forum stated that the Riverside Walk was a good place to cycle and had links into the Horsham-Crawley cycle route. It was asked if successful funding from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund could be used for the project because of this. *The meeting was informed that the Local Sustainable Transport Fund money could not be diverted from already confirmed projects.* Members agreed that a letter from the Chairman, on behalf of the CLC, would be sent to the Horsham Town Community Partnership stating the CLC's support for the scheme.
- Roger Purcell, on behalf of Warnham Parish Council, thanked the County Council for progressing footpath proposals and for the use of the Vehicle Activated Sign which had been operating in the village. Mr Purcell raised the

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parish's traffic consultation survey and that he was aware a response was in draft. Mr Purcell asked about finger post direction signs and whether the County Council had a pattern for the cast iron sleeve brackets which could be shared with the parish council. Mrs Millson mentioned that Manning Heath Parish may have a pattern and Mr Purcell could speak to the clerk at Nuthurst for further information. The Clerk of Billingshurst Parish Council who was present offered to send details to Mr Purcell of a company which they had used. *The Principal Community Officer also undertook to check highway depots and whether the foundry used by the County Council still had the pattern.* It was agreed that if a pattern was found all parish councils should be informed of its availability.

- Mrs Millson raised an issue on behalf of a member of the public in her division. It was asked whether a safe crossing could be installed from the Manton Court retirement accommodation to the bus stop in Kings Road. Mrs Millson was aware that there was an outstanding potential crossing in Kings Road near the school and asked if a compromise could be reached. *The Principal Community Officer informed members that this could be included in their Infrastructure Priorities that would be discussed at the next meeting.* The Chairman concluded that it would good to provide some kind of crossing facility in Kings Road.

86. 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)

87. 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).

88. As Mr Sheldon had declared a personal and prejudicial interest regarding application 1977/NH Horsham Matters the Chairman asked him to leave the room whilst the application was discussed.

Mr Sheldon left the room.

89. Members discussed the application and decided the application should be granted.

90. Resolved – that the application **1977/NYH** Horsham Matters, £5,000, towards provision of a night shelter be approved.

Mr Sheldon returned to the room.

91. Members discussed the remaining applications and the following points were made:

- Members queried application 1975/NHY from Colgate Primary School and decided to defer a decision on the application. Members requested further information on the total cost of the project and a more detailed breakdown of

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costs. Concern was raised that this could open the floodgates for further schools to apply to the CLC for similar schemes.

- A representative from Billingshurst Parish Council explained application 1893/NH in greater detail. It was suggested that the application for thermostatic controls could be provided by the government's Green Deal initiative and that details were available on the internet. Members had concerns that Billingshurst Parish Council was one of the largest parishes in the CLC area and a precepting authority. The CLC was informed that the Billingshurst Centre was separate to the parish council and the parish council was contributing £10,000 in the next financial year to the centre. Members agreed to support funding for the scaffolding tower.
- Members queried application 1989/NH from the Friends of Station Road Gardens as £2,000 was asked for as a deposit to apply for S106 funding which seemed unusual. There was also a query of whether the County Council owned the fence. The Principal Community Officer undertook to ascertain who owned the fence. Members agreed to defer the application until further information was received.

92. Resolved –

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

- **1967/NH** St John Ambulance, £1,400, towards the purchase of a new awning.
- **1972/NH** Horsham District Archaeology Group, £1,500 for the purchase of new equipment.
- **1973/NH** Coolham Village Hall, £2,500, towards the cost replacing the flat roofs.
- **1983/NH** Billingshurst Parish Council, £888.00, for a Scaffolding Tower.
- **1984/NH** Horsham Debt Advice Service, £1,000, towards upgrade of pc equipment.
- **1986/NH** Matt Davis (to be administered by Broadbridge Heath Parish Council), £1080, towards repairing and extending dirt jumps.

(ii) That the following applications be deferred to a future meeting and further information requested: -

- **1975/NH** Colgate Primary School, £1,700 towards works as part of the School development plan.
- **1989/NH** Friends Of Station Road Gardens (Billingshurst) Ltd, £2000, towards replacement of fencing.

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Appointment of Authority School Governors

93. 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).

94. Resolved - That the Mr Ben Martin be appointed as an Authority School Governor at Billingshurst Primary School and the following reappointments for four year terms:

- Mr R.J. Crow to Shipley C.E. Primary School
- Mr D. Stillwell to Colgate Primary School
- Mr B.D. Joels to Slinfold Primary School
- Mr D Smith to Southwater Infant Academy

Dates of Future Meetings

95. It was noted that the Committee's next meeting will be held on 11 March 2013 at 7.00pm in the Goodwood Room, County Hall North, Horsham.

The meeting ended at 9.15p.m.

Chairman