

**North Horsham County Local Committee**

10 March 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 Sheldon (Tanbridge and Broadbridge Heath), Mr Watson OBE ( Chairman and Southwater and Nuthurst).

Apologies: Mrs Millson (Horsham Riverside), Mr Rae (Roffey)

**Declarations of Interest**

97. None declared at this stage (but see also minute 113).

**Minutes**

98. Resolved – that the minutes of the North Horsham County Local Committee meeting held on 16 December 2013 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

**Urgent Matters**

99. The Chairman informed members that two Community Initiative Funding applications had been received following the publication of the agenda. Owing to the urgency of the funding requests he agreed that these be considered with the other applications at agenda item no. 10.

**Progress Statement**

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

**Streetlighting Update**

101. The Specialist Services Team Manager provided members with an overview of the contract to replace all streetlighting in West Sussex, which had been awarded to SSE. He stated that the principle of the contract was to achieve significant savings in energy consumption and also to reduce light pollution.

102. The Team Manager acknowledged that engagement with local communities had occasionally not been well managed in the past and stated that a uniform approach had now been adopted regarding the provision of information in advance of works via letter drops and timelines for works. SSE's Customer Service Centre was able to deal with resident queries, either centrally or through referral to locally-based teams. An appeals process was also in place for any complaints not satisfactorily resolved. These would be escalated to the County Council by SSE for further analysis.

103. Members made comments, including those that follow:

- Welcomed the update and that lessons had been learned regarding the timely provision of information to affected residents as a number of local communities had endured unsatisfactory experiences when their street lighting had been changed. – The Team Manager acknowledged that the County Council had not provided enough support at the start of the project and stated that unifying the customer journey would simplify the process for residents.
- Queried the process for reporting poor quality repairs. – The Team Manager stated that, as with other utilities, repairs must match previously existing works. If this was not the case then residents should report the issue using the contact details provided on local leaflet drops. Disputed works would then be assessed by SSE. If residents are unhappy with the outcome of this then it would be escalated to the County Council to reassess.
- Noted that replacement lighting appeared darker in some local areas. – The Team manager responded that there had been changes in national standards and the categorisation of roads. The use of energy-saving lighting initially appeared dimmer as, although the lighting was at same level as previous, it had a lower wattage and was untinted.

### **Horsham Cycling (Local Sustainable Transport Fund)**

104. The Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) Programme Manager introduced a report by the Director of Communities Commissioning (copy appended to signed minutes) which outlined progress on the LSTF funded projects following the County Council's award of £667k.

105. Members made comments, including those that follow:

- Requested that local members were consulted regarding the proposed Horsham Cycle Route Path as it passed through their divisions. – The Programme Manager undertook to organise local member meetings, if required.
- Expressed concern regarding the height of the North Street subway and potential conflict in access sharing between pedestrians and cycle-users. However, it was also recognised that increased usage might increase safety for pedestrians, if managed properly.

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

- A Forest Neighbourhood Councillor expressed concern regarding the use of subways on the proposed route and requested the Programme Manager consult with the Council. – The Programme Manager undertook to contact the Council outside of the meeting.
- A member of the Horsham Cycling Forum stated that they were disappointed as to the Council's level of engagement with the forum during the LSTF process and requested a meeting to discuss lessons learned. – The Programme Manager confirmed that a meeting would be scheduled.

### **Talk with us – public question time**

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

- A local resident queried why a Pegasus crossing was scheduled for installation at the Tesco's roundabout on the A264 as the road was due to be closed. – The local member for Tanbridge and Broadbridge Heath confirmed that the road would not be closed and would provide access to the new housing development although there would not be any thru-traffic. The Principal Community Officer undertook to provide an update for the June meeting of the CLC.
- A local resident sought advice regarding overgrown footpaths on the A281 between Mannings Heath and Lower Beeding. - The Principal Community Officer agreed to take this issue forward.
- Several local residents expressed concern regarding the local media's reporting of the Horsham Football Club potential relocation. – The Chairman responded that Horsham District Council were the planning authority and should be contacted regarding any planning issues. The County Council were the highways authority and had a duty to consider the impact of the proposals on any affected bridleways or waterways.
- A Lower Beeding Parish Councillor stated that the opportunity to redesign Handcross Hill to reduce levels of traffic in Lower Beeding had been missed during the ongoing works on the A23. – The Chairman responded that plans had been in development for a long period of time and there had been considerable discussion as to how this could be managed to prevent rat-running.
- A member of the Horsham Cycling Forum introduced the Forum's proposals for a Southwater – Horsham Cycle Link, which would substantially shorten the route and avoid the Hop Oast roundabout, which was dangerous for cyclists. She requested that consideration be given to the re-erection of the A24/Broadbridge Heath footbridge near the roundabout to assist pedestrian and cyclist crossings. She also noted that Section 106 funding would be forthcoming following local developments along the route and requested an early stage review to secure funding for safe travel. – The Chairman responded that the Forum should remind Horsham District Council as to the role of S106 funds for these types of work.

### **Infrastructure Plan Priorities**

108. The Committee considered a report by the Communities Commissioning Director and the Economic Development Manager (copy appended to signed minutes) which provided information on the process for adding Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) to the Infrastructure Plan.

109. The Principal Community Officer introduced the report and informed members that the earliest timescale for the works progressing was the second half of the 2014/15 financial year. She also stated that the local Parish Council

were opposed to the Wyvern Place scheme and that a meeting to discuss their objections was scheduled.

110. Resolved – that the North Horsham CLC:

(1) Agreed to the inclusion of the package of TRO priorities (as set out in Appendix A) within the IP, subject to the deferral of Warnham - Wyvern Place pending further consultation with local stakeholders, which appear technically deliverable and have evidence of community support, and will be programmed for delivery alongside other IP priorities.

(2) Agreed that the TRO package of priorities will be reviewed annually recognising that additional TRO proposals can only be added if funds are identified, see paragraph 1.7 of the report.

(3) Noted the issues requiring further investigation (e.g. technical and/ or evidence of community support) prior to considering a TRO solution and any subsequent prioritisation in the IP as set out in appendix B and agreed to progress with this work.

### **Community Initiative Funding**

111. The Committee considered a report by the Head of Law and Governance (copy appended to the signed minutes), which detailed applications for Community Initiative Funding. The Committee also considered two additional funding applications, which were received following the publication of the agenda.

112. The Chairman informed members that owing to an administrative error the amount of remaining funding outlined in the report was incorrect and that £21,449.02 was remaining for allocation. The Committee debated the respective merits of the projects for which funding was sought.

113. In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, Mr Catchpole declared a prejudicial interest as a member of the Holbrook Youth Club Management Committee and left the room for the discussion and voting on application 321/NH.

114. Resolved - that the following awards are made:

**201/NH** Parish of Nuthurst Local History Society, £1,089, to enable digital presentations by the Society.

**208/NH** West Sussex Mediation Service, £1,500, towards the purchase of bespoke software to improve community mediation.

**265/NH** Horsham Lifesaving Club, £1,127, towards course fees, pool hire and a defibrillator trainer.

**289/NH**, 5<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Horsham Weald Scouts, £4,916.62 towards costs of refurbishing Scout HQ.

**310/NH** Amber Pre-School, £400, towards the purchase of new equipment.

**314/NH** Horsham Amateur Operatic and Drama Society, £500, towards the costs purchasing storage racks and boxes for costumes.

**316/NH** St Andrews Methodist Church, £4,916.62, towards setting up a café and jobs club.

**321/NH** Holbrook Community Centre, £4,549.78, towards the cost of carpets and vinyl flooring.

**322/NH** Together In Mind, £2,450, towards support of TIM, outings, art workshops etc.

b) The following applications were declined

**290/NH**, Horsham in Bloom, £2500, towards the costs of hosting "simply gardening" events - as the Committee was unable to prioritise the project within the available funds.

**303/NH** Dementia Day Club West Sussex CIC, £1125, to advertise and run circle dancing for Music for Memory - as outside of the funding criteria.

**311/NH** The Grace Ayre Foundation, £9,998, towards hire of friendship coordinator and assistant - as outside of the funding criteria.

**313/NH** Cognitive Help and Therapy (chat), £4,273, towards expenses for a new project - as outside of the funding criteria.

c) The following application was deferred for consideration at the Committee's June meeting

**304/NH** Friends of Station Road gardens, £3612.75, to purchase a garden shed (with disabled access).

### **Appointment of Authority Governors**

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

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

a) Appointments:

Dr Clare Ann Topham to Rudgwick Primary School for a four year term  
Ms Sylvia King to Arunside Primary School for a four year term

b) Re-appointments:

Mr GA Clark to Shelley Primary School for a four year term  
Mr AN Baldwin to Holbrook Primary School for a four year term  
Mr GD Parr to The Weald School for a four year term

c) Defer:

Mrs Wendy Shepherd to Castlewood Primary School as the school had been notified of potential additional candidates.

**Date of Next Meeting**

117. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on 23 June 2014 in the Main Conference Room, County Hall North, Horsham.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Chairman