

North Horsham County Local Committee

12 March 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

112. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

Declaration of Interests

113. Mr Sheldon declared personal interests in the following Community Initiative Funding (CIF) applications: 1816/NH, 1817/NH and 1818/NH. Mrs Jupp declared a personal interest in CIF application 1811/NH.

Minutes

114. Resolved - That the minutes of the North Horsham County Local Committee (CLC) meeting held on 5 December 2011 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

115. The Chairman advised that a number of late CIF applications had been received. The Committee agreed to consider these along with the applications outlined in the report under agenda item no. 8.

Progress Statement

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

117. Members referred to a progress list of current TROs circulated to members of the Committee. They questioned the status of a number of TROs that did not appear on the list, including the 20mph speed limit for Rusper. A member referred the Committee to an email sent to County Councillors by the Cabinet Member of Highways and Transport which advised that there were currently delays in progressing a number of TROs. The Team Manager (Gatwick Diamond), Communities and Economic Development, advised that the list covered only current TROs. He reiterated that there was a large backlog and that the County Council had employed an external consultant to help tackle the problems. It was agreed that officers would follow up the status of the TROs referred to by Committee members.

Community Policing Update

118. The Chairman welcomed Chief Inspector (CI) Sharon Parker and Sergeant Rachel Carr to the meeting. CI Parker advised that she had now been in post for two months following the retirement of CI Mark Trimmer and had already seen evidence of strong partnership working with the community and District/County Council. She highlighted some current crime statistics and local initiatives, including: -

- Crime had risen in the Horsham district over the last quarter, mainly due to thefts, however there had been a reduction in the burglary of people's homes. Local residents were being encouraged to reduce opportunities for thefts/burglaries by taking security measures e.g. locking sheds.
- Metal theft was on the rise.
- The 'Safe Place' scheme had been launched which was a joint County Council and Sussex Police initiative that provided a place of safety in towns, cities or villages for anyone with a learning disability whenever they felt threatened or unsafe. Scheme members carried a card that could be presented at participating businesses and shops, displaying the person's name and the contact number of someone they trusted that the store could contact in an emergency. Almost 30 scheme members had signed up in Horsham.
- Launch of Redeeming Our Communities - a national charity aiming to be a catalyst for community transformation by promoting partnerships and opening up more opportunities for the reduction of crime and disorder, and enhanced community cohesion. Volunteers in the local area were already making a difference by, for example, providing places for children after school.

119. Sergeant Rachel Carr highlighted local initiatives in the Horsham area: -

- Launch of Neighbourhood Watch Committee which joined the Street and Area Coordinators. Sergeant Carr encouraged anyone interested to get involved.
- Billingshurst – Sussex Police had donated money for Street Pastors – a separate charity to promote reassurance among the local community - working hard to maintain reductions in crime in the area.
- Community Safety Partnership – alarms/crime prevention advice. Safety event being held at Tesco in Broadbridge Heath soon.

120. The Chairman thanked CI Sharon Parker and Sergeant Rachel Carr for the updates. It was noted that this would be a regular item on future agendas.

Highways and Transport Matters

East Street, Horsham – Experimental Traffic Regulation Order

121. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Communities and Infrastructure (copy attached to the signed minutes). The report advised on proposals to promote an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order to introduce a further experimental core time scheme in East Street and Market Square, Horsham. The scheme would prohibit traffic between 10.30am and 4.30pm every day, make amendments to the location of the loading/unloading and relocate the two blue badge parking bays to the Carfax (outside the King's Head).

122. In 2009 the North Horsham CLC approved funding for works on a joint project with Horsham District Council to introduce a shared space environment in East Street, Horsham. The Committee also approved the introduction of a prohibition of driving in East Street and Market Square at all times, except for loading, unloading and blue badge holders and creation of dedicated parking bays for loading, unloading and blue badge holders. The report advised that since completion of the shared space scheme the whole environment and shopping experience in East Street had changed considerably, with greater emphasis on pedestrian use. It suggested that a core time prohibition of driving would remove any potential conflict between vehicles and pedestrians in this narrow street and allow the introduction of an on street café culture and themed events which had not been possible with the current arrangements. In addition the positioning of the loading/unloading and blue badge parking bays had been reviewed and amendments were recommended to improve vehicular movement and remove potential conflict between pedestrians and vehicles.

123. The Chairman advised that Horsham District Council and the County Council had worked closely on the investment/improvement of East Street and that the whole use of the street had changed quite significantly as a result. He confirmed that the report was asking the Committee to consider approving an experimental order to try out a core time closure. He advised that there had been a lot of publicity and discussion with local groups and traders and that a survey by the local press had showed that over 50% of people were happy with the proposals, however he emphasised that the Committee needed to take on board the issues surrounding access, loading/unloading and Blue Badge Holders.

124. The Committee discussed the report. Members made comments and asked questions including: -

- Were clear that the changes so far had made a significant difference and that the previous experimental order had not provided an opportunity for tables and chairs to be located outside food/beverage establishments.
- Noted the unresolved objections from traders and Blue Badge Holders and that there was a risk of a public inquiry if the Order was subsequently made permanent and the objections could not be resolved.
- Accepted that there were some difficulties to overcome, but hoped that these could be resolved during the experimental period.
- Questioned the location of the loading/unloading bays outside food/beverage establishments as it was considered that this would not improve the environment and would lead to wear and tear.
- Questioned the location of the loading/unloading bay at the western end of East Street as this was the narrowest part of the street.
- Suggested that a limit be imposed on the length of time for loading and unloading.
- Suggested that the Blue Badge Bays proposed to be relocated on the East side of the Carfax, immediately outside of the King's Head, may be better placed on the West side as difficulties may arise with the development of the King's Head if a new restaurant wanted to place tables and chairs outside.
- Welcomed the proposal on the basis of employment generation, but suggested that some of the implications for traders needed further consideration.

- Agreed that a balance was needed between the allowing shops to trade and the delivery times/locations proposed.

125. The Chairman invited questions from the audience. Comments/questions were raised, including: -

- Concerns regarding access for disabled drivers, particularly how the new Blue Badge Bays on the Carfax would be accessed during the core time hours. The Principal Community Officer confirmed that during core times there would be no entry to the Carfax. The bays could be accessed before 10.30am and could then be used for up to three hours. He advised that alternative parking for disabled drivers was available in Waitrose Car Park, Park Place, Denne Road, South Street and the Causeway (at the back of the Old Town Hall), plus suitable rest points in between.
- Suggested that disabled drivers would be disadvantaged if accessing from the end of East Street as this was still too far away for some drivers.
- Considered that the disabled parking bays in Denne Road were not sufficient.
- A representative of the Horsham Society confirmed that the Society gave its full support to the proposals and suggested that the experimental period should be used to iron out any issues.
- Suggested that the scheme played a pivotal role in the town's economy and was welcomed on this basis. The scheme continued to encourage business and investment into the town.
- Asked the Committee to consider extending the core time closure during seasonal hours (i.e. spring and summer months).
- Raised concerns on behalf of Strada (a restaurant located on East Street) that a loading/unloading bay was proposed directly outside the restaurant which would prevent tables and chairs being placed outside when deliveries were being taken.
- A representative of a business on East Street advised that the restaurants had no objections to the loading/unloading bays being positioned in front of their premises.

126. Members asked what level of flexibility there was with regard to making changes to the proposals (e.g. the location of loading bays) during the experimental period. The Principal Community Officer advised that the practicality of making changes would be looked at, but only minor amendments would be considered. He advised that the proposed loading/unloading bay outside Strada restaurant had been relocated because of the footpath alongside. He added that its location should not have a detrimental effect on the business as loading/unloading would be outside of core business hours i.e. before 10.30am.

127. The Chairman advised that members needed to ensure they had taken on board all of the comments made to enable them to make a fair and reasonable judgement. Members noted the comments made.

128. Resolved – That the Committee approves the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to make and advertise an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order for a maximum period of 18 months to:

- Prohibit driving in East Street and Market Square, daily between 10.30am and 4.30pm;

- Make amendments to the location of the three existing loading bays within East Street; noting that minor amendments to the location of the bays could be made during the experimental period.
- Relocate the blue badge parking bays from East Street to Carfax

and to report the results of the statutory advertising period back to the Committee after six months.

Oak Tree Way, Redkiln Way, Comptons Lane and Comptons Brow Lane, Horsham – Introduction of Double Yellow Lines

129. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Communities and Infrastructure (copy attached to the signed minutes). The report advised on the proposed introduction of additional waiting restrictions on Oak Tree Way, Redkiln Way, Comptons Lane and Comptons Brow Lane, Horsham in response to complaints from local residents, regarding parking from local industrial estates and other business establishments. This parking has congested residential streets and neighbouring roads causing obstructions and creating safety hazards.

130. The report advised that on advertising the scheme, forty comments were received, twenty of which were objections generally from businesses and twenty from residents who in general supported the scheme. The general objections raised were concerns that parking restrictions would further exacerbate the current immediate parking capacity and affect parking for staff/customers to their businesses nearby. The general support received agreed with the scheme and its aims, and in some cases wanted the parking restrictions to go further to help with hazardous and inconsiderate parking.

131. The Vice-Chairman chaired this item in the temporary absence of the Chairman. He invited comments/questions from the audience. Comments and questions were raised including: -

- Residents of York Close, Horsham, suggested that the proposals would create parking chaos with residents and visitors having to park on grass verges. Residents were already parking on Comptons Lane and the restrictions would simply displace the problems further.
- Suggested that parking restrictions could be restricted to 9am to 5pm which would allow residents to park overnight.
- A resident of Oak Tree Way commented that levels of traffic during the day were high due to the local Tesco Express store, VW/Audi garage, visitors to the Martyn Long Centre and the recycling point which was the only one on a residential street in the Horsham district. This was not helped by the number of cars parked along the road mainly from local businesses.
- Suggested that the Police did not enforce parking restrictions along Oak Tree Way.
- Suggested that the Double Yellow Lines (DYL) should be extended along Oak Tree Way to join the two junctions.
- A representative of one of the businesses on the Redkiln Industrial Estate advised that his employees would be affected by any parking restrictions that may be introduced. Adequate parking for employee's cars was essential the business to remain successful. Reducing the number of on-street parking

spaces would make it more difficult to operate a successful business in the area and would make Horsham District a less attractive place for business.

132. The Chairman advised that the separated restrictions shown on the map in Oak Tree Way were junction protection measures and that extending the DYL may not be possible as part of the advertised Order as only minor amendments to the advertised proposals could be considered. Committee members sympathised with local residents and agreed that the suggestion for the restrictions to be amended to between 9am and 5pm should be investigated. They advised, however that if the advertised Order was not approved at this meeting it would delay all of the proposed measures being implemented. Officers advised that any substantial change to the Order would mean that it would need to be reconsidered and subsequently re-advertised. As the Order was based on issues of visibility and safety for cars and pedestrians and was not a controlled parking scheme the suggested amendments could not be made without a new Order. It was suggested that the possibility of relocating the recycling point on Oak Tree Way could be investigated with the District Council.

133. Members agreed that a solution was needed that accommodated the concerns of residents and local businesses as much as possible. It was therefore agreed that the decision should be deferred so that the proposals could be reconsidered.

134. Resolved –

- (i) That the Committee defers the decision to instruct the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to make the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) as advertised, and
- (ii) That a report outlining the options for modifying the TRO, including suggestions to amend the timing of the parking restrictions to 9am to 5pm and extending the parking restrictions in Oak Tree Way, be submitted to a future meeting.

Proposed Pedestrian Controlled Crossing, Station Road, Billingshurst

(iii) The Committee considered a report by the Director of Communities and Infrastructure and Divisional Manager, Highways Commissioning (copy attached to the signed minutes). The report advised on the proposed installation of a signal controlled pedestrian crossing on Station Road, Billingshurst, following approval by the CLC in November 2010 to carry out consultation and advertisement of a proposed pedestrian crossing, and if no objections were received to proceed with the installation.

(iv) The Committee discussed the report and noted the objections received. It was noted that Billingshurst Parish Council supported the installation of the crossing and that it should help to reduce the speed of traffic. It was also noted that in response to an objection received the volume level of the bleeper would be adjusted to ensure it could be heard just above the noise of the traffic and would be switched off completely between 22.00 and 07.00 hours with tactile cones fitted to assist visually impaired people during these times.

- (v) Resolved – That the Committee having considered the benefits of the proposed crossing in light of the objections approves the installation of the signal controlled pedestrian crossing as advertised.

Talk with Us (Open Forum)

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

- A representative from Horsham District Cycling Forum advised that he would be bringing proposals for additional cycling stands in the town and suggestions for cycle route improvements to the next meeting of the Committee.
- Residents of Warnham raised a number of concerns about traffic on the lanes of Warnham. Concerns included:-
 - Problems of rat-running due to the location of the village and the A24, A29 and A281 and suggestions that the Broadbridge Heath development would exacerbate the problems.
 - That despite emails to the County Council the widening of Strood Lane and Byfleets Lane had continued as the roads had been surface dressed. Residents asked whether it was possible to reinstate the lanes back to their original width and asked whether the resurfacing planned for the summer could be postponed until the problem had been resolved.
 - It was suggested that some form of traffic calming measures were needed.
 - Doubts were raised about the capacity of the new roundabout at Newbridge Nurseries.
- It was noted that the school bus operated by Ace Travel referred to in the progress statement was for all schools in Horsham and not just the school in Nuthurst.
- Asked about progress with the Vehicle Activated Sign that it was hoped could be used in Warnham.
- It was noted that a letter concerning the remarking of yellow zigzags and installation of bollards outside Holbrook Primary School had been received. It was confirmed that the School Travel Advisor would pick this matter up.

121. With regard to the concerns raised by Warnham residents, Officers agreed that original width of the lanes could be reinstated and that they would take the issue back to the engineers. The Chairman advised that concerns about the design of the new link road had been voiced. He asked officers to report back to the Committee on what could be done about the rat-running problems. It was suggested that the residents in conjunction with the Parish Council may wish to come up with some proposals to present to the Committee.

122. The Chairman updated the meeting on the County Council's 'Better Connected' initiative which was a project funded by the government, the County Council and partners aiming to make it possible for 90% of the county to connect to better, faster broadband services by April 2015. He encouraged to complete the demand registration forms which were available at the meeting and on the County Council's website:

www2.westsussex.gov.uk/CustomerInsight/Broadband%20registration%202011/broadband_registration_online.htm

Community Initiative Funding (CIF)

123. 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).

124. Resolved - that the following applications and amounts be approved: -

- **1728/NH, Rotary Club of Horsham, £1,700**, towards itemised materials costs for the Club's seasonal charity project.
- **1802/NH, Copsale Hall, £2,000**, restoration of the main hall floor.
- **1803/NH, Horsham Garden Music Festival Association, £2,500**, costs towards the inaugural event and publicity.
- **1811/NH, 1st Shipley Scout Group, £2,000**, towards various itemised costs for a Jubilee celebration event.
- **1814/NH, Billingshurst Bowling Club, £1,500**, towards pathway construction, fencing installation and materials costs.
- **1815/NH Southwater Responders, £2,000**, towards equipment costs for new volunteers
- **1816/NH Horsham Matters, £450**, for the purchase of promotional display banners
- **1817/NH Horsham District Youth Support Team, £2,500**, costs towards equipment, training, resources and uniform to enable HDYST expansion.

125. The following applications were late submissions and not included in the attached report. The Committee approved the following application and amounts: -

- **1818/NH Sussex Central YMCA, £1,500**, towards the expansion of the 'Dragon's Den Mocktails' project across secondary schools in the Horsham area.
- **1819/NH Barns Green Village Hall, £2,750**, for the purchase of 180 new chairs. £4,590 had been requested.
- **1820/NH Sussex Fun Days, £2,500**, towards various itemised equipment and workshop/activity costs.
- **1821/NH Barns Green Tennis Club, £1,000**, various itemised costs for the repair of the courts.
- **1822/NH Southwater Youth Steering Group, £1,800**, towards the purchase of itemised equipment. £2,500 had been requested.

Appointment of Authority School Governors

124. 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).

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

Appointments: -

- Mr M Giffin to Rusper Primary for a 4 year term.
- Mr N Phillips to Littlehaven Infant School for a 4 year term.
- Mr D Scozzafava to Forest School for a 4 year term.

Re-appointment: -

- Mr M Price to Heron Way Primary for a 4 year term.

Dates of Future Meetings

126. It was noted that the Committee's next meeting will be held on 25 June 2012 at 7.00pm in the Goodwood Room, County Hall North, Horsham.

The meeting ended at 9.35pm.

Chairman