

North Mid Sussex County Local Committee

13 March 2013 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00pm at The Copthorne Jubilee Pavilion, Copthorne.

Present: Bill Acraman, Member for Worth Forest; Liz Bennett, Member for East Grinstead Meridian; Heidi Brunsdon, Member for Imberdown, Christine Field, Member for Lindfield and High Weald (Chairman) and John O'Brien, Member for East Grinstead South and Ashurst Wood.

Chairman's Welcome

56. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and introduced members of the Committee and officers present.

Declaration of Interests

57. No interests were declared.

Minutes

58. Resolved - that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2012 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

59. The Chairman advised that there was one urgent matter for consideration by the Committee concerning Community Governance Review proposals for changes to East Grinstead Town Council boundaries. She advised that Mid Sussex District Council was undertaking a 12 week public consultation from 8 March to 31 May 2013 and that the County Council along with Parish and Town Councils had been contacted to submit their views on the proposed changes: -

- The movement of the Imberhorne/Baldwins ward boundary to bring it into line with the District Council boundary.
- The merger of the wards of Town North and Town South back into a single ward known as Town.

61. The Chairman advised that the matter was for noting by the Committee and that members were asked to submit their individual views via the consultation process. She confirmed that following the consultation exercise, proposals would be considered by Mid Sussex District Council's Service Delivery Scrutiny Committee on 2 July and then by Full Council on 24 July 2013. Any changes to the electoral arrangements would come into effect at the next full elections of Parish and Town councillors in May 2015.

62. Resolved – That the Committee notes the update.

Community Initiative Funding Presentations and Feedback

63. The Committee made presentations to Community Initiative Fund recipients from the past financial year. Following the presentations the Chairman invited a

representative from each of the organisations to briefly explain how the grants had helped their various groups and individuals.

- Worth Parish Council – Grant towards the building of the Copthorne Jubilee Pavilion which was now being used mainly for fitness/health groups.
- East Grinstead Council for Voluntary Services – grant used to prepare training materials and policy templates for volunteers.
- Balcombe Tennis Club – Grants used towards refurbishment of club which had helped to promote the children's tennis club.
- Training Ship Resolution, East Grinstead Nautical Training Corps – Second hand boats purchased with grant which were being used by the cadets. A taster session was being held on 22 April and information would be sent to Committee members.
- Friends of Newick House School – Now Woodlands Meed School. Grant used for artwork project to help children understand the needs of disabled children. Flags created as part of the project were used on the Olympic Torch route.
- 1st Balcombe Scouts – Grant used towards refurbishment of the Scout Hall including electrics and heating which had allowed greater use by all.
- Ashurst Wood Pre-School – Grant had allowed the Pre-school to relocate with the Primary School and had been used towards an architect to design the new building and towards the cost of skylight windows.
- East Grinstead Football Club – Grant used to provide disabled facilities and the club was now being used by other organisations including the County Council to run courses.

64. The Chairman thanked the representatives for their presentations and reminded the meeting that new CIF applications would be sought from 1 April 2013.

Proposed Signalled Controlled Pedestrian Crossing, Hophurst Lane, Crawley Down

65. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Communities and Infrastructure and Head of Highways and Transport (copy appended to the signed minutes). The Principal Community Officer introduced the report which concerned a proposed signal controlled pedestrian crossing on Hophurst Lane, Crawley Down.

66. The Committee discussed the report. Mrs Brunsdon advised that the Crawley Down Village CofE School had been consulted on three location options for the proposed crossing and that no formal objections had been received. The Chairman referred to an email received from the Chair of Governors at the school. In summary it advised that the school wholeheartedly supported any effective road safety improvements within the village but as the location of the proposed crossing meant it would be used by very few children at the school he questioned whether it was the most effective use of the money. The Chairman advised the meeting that the money allocated was available for this scheme only.

67. Committee members noted that the only suitable location for the pedestrian crossing was as designed but that in this location, it may not be used enough by the community to warrant its installation. Barry Edmunds, Traffic Signals Team Manager, advised that the proposed site was on Hophurst Lane between the junctions of Femandy Lane and Sandy Lane as detailed in Appendix A. Locations B and C, as marked on the map, were not viable due to the distances between the proposed crossing and junctions and the footpaths being too narrow. He advised that in his view the proposed position would offer benefit to the wider community.

68. One Committee member considered that location C would provide a broader service and suggested that it should be re-examined. Another member considered that the original objective to allow people to cross the road safely would be achieved with the proposed location. The Committee noted that if the scheme was not approved at this stage it could take another 18 months for any new proposals to be developed.

70. The Chairman invited Mr Walker, Chairman of Worth Parish Council, to provide the views of the Parish Council. He confirmed that the view of the Parish Council was that any crossing was beneficial to the local community and that the Council wholeheartedly supported the proposal particularly in light of the possible development of new houses in the area.

72. Resolved – That the Committee gives approval to the installation of the pedestrian controlled crossing on Hophurst Lane, Crawley Down as advertised.

Infrastructure Plan Priorities

70. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Communities and Infrastructure and Community and Economic Development Manager (copy appended to the signed minutes). The Principal Community Officer introduced the report and provided a progress update in relation to the local highways and transport priorities identified within the Local Infrastructure Plan for the North Mid Sussex CLC.

- East Grinstead Railway Station, Bus Access Improvements – Number of designs produced and initial consultation undertaken. Focus on road crossings particularly the route from the bus station. Agreement secured to look at what could be done to the footbridge steps to make them more user-friendly and accessible for wheelchair users. Also looking at cycle routes/improvements.
- West Hoathly, Vinols Cross Junction, Enhancements to pedestrian facilities – Meetings held with West Hoathly Parish Council. Proposal to extend kerbed area and to provide pedestrian refuge point, including for bus users. No finalised design but suggestions and ideas put forward. Pedestrian crossing on C319 considered, however problems with visibility. Options to incorporate with traffic calming measures to be considered in an attempt to deter/reduce number of HGVs using the route. Costs still being scoped.
- West Street, East Grinstead, Safety Improvements – Appointed Project Team. Surveys undertaken. Need to consider impact on surrounding roads. Early proposal for a one-way system, however more work required before designs can be drawn up. Members suggested that it may be wise to link with Garden Wood Road to reduce possible rat-running.

71. It was noted that the following schemes would be removed from the list as the work had been completed or would be completed in the near future:-

- Beeching Way/Lower Dene, East Grinstead – Safety Improvements.
- Hophurst Lane, Crawley Down – Pedestrian Crossing.

72. Resolved – That the Committee notes the progress identified in respect of the existing priorities and associated areas of on-going work.

Community Initiative Funding

73. The Committee considered a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (copy appended to the signed minutes). The report concerned the Community Initiative Fund (CIF), a County Local Committee administered fund that provides assistance to local community projects.

74. Resolved –

- (i) That the Committee approves the following application:-
 - **2028/NMS East Grinstead Museum, £1,231**, towards an IT hardware upgrade.
- (ii) The Committee also agreed to award the remaining CIF funds of £426.60 to the East Grinstead Food Bank.

Appointment of Authority Governors

75. The Committee considered a report by the Head of Learning (copy appended to signed minutes) that set out proposed nominations to school governing bodies and the criteria for their appointment. Members of the Committee urged local people to consider applying for governorships at North Mid Sussex schools.

76. Resolved - That the following re-appointment be approved: -

- Mr S. Cocks to Blackwell Primary for a 4 year term.

'talk with us' – Open Forum

77. The Chairman invited questions and comments on items not on the agenda. The following issues were raised and responses made: -

- A Turners Hill resident reported a pot hole on the B2110 caused by a gully breaking up. The same resident also reported overgrown hedges between Imberhorne Lane and Vowels Lane causing visibility problems. The Principal Community Officer agreed to follow up the reported issues.
- Members advised that highways problems could be reported through 'Love West Sussex' a system that allowed people to report local highways issues and receive updates on progress. Reports could be submitted via the website, by downloading a free smartphone application or by text message.

Date of Next Meeting

78. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting would be held on 3 July 2013 at a venue to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 8.27 pm

Chairman