

North Mid Sussex County Local Committee

15 September 2011 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00pm **Glen Vue Day Centre. Railway Approach, East Grinstead. RH19 1BZ. Parts I and II.**

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

Chairman's Welcome

23. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

Declaration of Interests

24. There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

25. Resolved - that the minutes of the meetings held on 07 and 24 June 2011 were approved.

Urgent Matters

26. The Committee resolved to bring the public forum at Item 12 forward to accommodate residents that were in attendance to speak specifically on Item 9, Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) Priorities.

'talk with us' Open Forum

27. Residents suggested support and road safety solutions for various roads listed at Item 9 Appendix A and the B2110 listed on the agenda at Item 9 Appendix B (copy appended to the signed minutes). These included:

- The narrowing of Charleswood Road to discourage use by HGVs
- Better signage to units within the Charleswood industrial estate
- Enforcement of parking in Wellington Drive
- A new pedestrian crossing on Lindfield road
- An assessment of the B2110 with a view to extension of the existing 30mph to Imberhorne Lane, white lining as appropriate and a 40mph limit from West Hill roundabout to the scaffolding company premises at Turner's Hill

28. The Committee noted residents' requests and agreed to take these into account in considering its priorities for TROs at Item 9. It was noted, however, that signage to industrial units was not the responsibility of the County Council.

Part II Matters

29. The Committee agreed not to bring Item 15 into Part I.

Progress Statement

30. The Committee noted the report and the Chairman's verbal report that the opening of the East Grinstead Household Waste and Recycling Centre would be delayed to January 2012.

Possible Merger of West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service with East Sussex Fire and Rescue Authority

31. The Chairman introduced Adrian Murphy, Area Manager, Prevention, Protection and Performance Team, Fire and Rescue Service to give a presentation on the consultation currently being undertaken on a possible merger of West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service with East Sussex Fire Authority. (Copy of slides appended to the signed minutes). Resident's questions included:

- Whether it was possible to be put in touch with Opinion Research Services in order to input into the consultation for the 18-24 age group. *This would be arranged.*
- Whether the sizes of the Services were comparable. *Mr Murphy explained that the services were broadly similar in size*
- Whether a further merger with Surrey would be considered. *Mr Murphy reported that this was not currently being considered*
- A request for confirmation that services for Gatwick would not be adversely affected. *Mr Murphy reassured residents that services would not be adversely affected by a merger*
- Whether Parish Councils had been included in the consultation. *Mr Murphy confirmed that they had.*

Bus Services in East Grinstead

32. The Chairman introduced Matt Roberts, Chief Executive of the Bluebird Bus Company to explain the current and possible future bus services offered by the Company. Mr Roberts explained the history of the service and reported that Bluebird had successfully taken over the Egfleet service in October of last year and was now running two vehicles and one larger bus – although the larger bus was not used as regularly as the two smaller vehicles. The Committee noted that in order to make the business sustainable Bluebird had taken on paid routes which supplemented the charity arm of its business. This had meant that some groups had had to be flexible on the timing of services required but did mean that the business was sustainable and remained free outside 8.30am to 9.30am and 3pm to 5pm. The company had also been able to provide four driving jobs for local people.

33. The Committee noted the aspiration to supply bus services to outlying villages in the future and that Bluebird was currently liaising with the County Council and Mid Sussex District Council on this. John O'Brien welcomed Bluebird's involvement with the County Council and the opportunity to work with the company to improve services to the East Grinstead community. The Chairman noted that while some County Council subsidies to bus services in East Grinstead were due to be withdrawn it was hoped that this local initiative would result in new services that were sustainable and better tailored to residents' needs.

Traffic Regulation Order Priorities

34. The Committee considered a report by Director Customers and Communities, (copy appended to the signed minutes). It was noted that the first TRO on the list had local member support, a high SPACE score and had been the subject of much local debate. The Committee agreed that this was a priority for implementation in the coming year. George Chisenga, Gatwick Diamond Team Manager, noted that the Committee also wished to have other aspects of this area looked into and that this would require the drawing up of a scheme and that any such request would need to be measured against others which would emerge following Infrastructure Planning work later in the year.

35. The Committee took into account local member support, the high SPACE score and resident's comments regarding the second TRO listed, Charleswood Road, and agreed to forward this TRO to implementation.

36. The Committee considered the other TROs listed and was disappointed to note inconsistencies in some which it had expected to be incorporated into the proposed Controlled Parking Zone and were now listed as not being part of that scheme, and vice versa. Further information was sought and it was agreed to postpone the identification of a third TRO to the next meeting of the Committee in December.

37. Resolved that:

- a) the Committee approved the priority order for implementing two Traffic Regulation Orders within the North Mid Sussex CLC area during 2011/12 as follows:
 1. NMS1015 Copthorne Bank
 2. NMS1004 Charlwoods Road Industrial Estate
- b) the Committee sought further detail on several TROs listed and determined to make a decision on the third priority at its December meeting.

Community Initiative Funding

38. The Committee considered a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (copy appended to the signed minutes) which set out one bid for Community Initiative Funding and one for Parish Initiative Funding. The Committee considered the merits of the projects for which funding was sought and gave regard to the Committees' informal criteria.

39. Resolved that the following awards were made:

- a) 1654/NMS, Friends of Standen, £2,000, towards the purchase of materials for the Hollybush Wood Boardwalk
- b) 1655/NMS/PIF, West Hoathly Village Hall, £350, for the purchase of itemised equipment for the 'Hub Club' start-up

Appointment of Authority Governors

40. The Chairman referred members to the appointments and reappointments of Authority Governors as set out in the report by Operations – Learning (copy appended to the signed minutes).

41. Resolved that the following appointments and reappointments were made:

Appointments:

- a) Mrs R P Hughes to West Hoathly
- b) Mr R Bliss to Halsford Pk (Grenestede Federation)

Reappointments:

- c) Mr R P Darvill to Imberhorne
- d) Mrs GL Santi to St Mary's East Grinstead

'talk with us' Open Forum

42. As time allowed the Chairman repeated the open forum at this point. Questions and comments were as follows:

- o It was noted that further CIF/PIF applications were invited and that Turner's Hill school would reapply for funding for its conservation project.
- o Road safety issues in Agnes Road were highlighted and the Committee asked to consider the TRO on the list for that area
- o It was noted that the Agnes Road had been in the area for the proposed CPZ since 1996
- o It was questioned whether TROs in the same vicinity could be grouped and done as one. *Mr Chisenga said that this was undertaken if the TROs were of the same type*
- o The Committee was thanked for giving information in the Progress Statement on the Traffic Management Study but the date for completion questioned. *Heidi Brunsdon explained that the report was expected in November. In response to further questioning Mrs Brunsdon highlighted that the study was focussed on current problems rather than future ones and that S106 monies could not be used to mitigate existing problems*

Date of Next Meeting

43. The Chairman informed all that the next meeting would be held on 06 December 2011 and the intended venue was Cophorne Junior School.

Part II

44. The Committee agreed to consider in respect of the next item that the public including the press, should be excluded from the meeting on the grounds of exemption under Part I of Schedule 12A *Exempt: paragraph 1, Information about individuals* of the Local Government Act 1972, as the public interest in maintaining the exemption of that information outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information. All those present, except the Committee and clerk, left the room.

Appointment of Authority Governors

45. The Chairman referred members to the report by Operations – Learning (copy appended to the signed minutes) concerning a contested appointment to governorship at Sackville School. The Committee was asked to approve the appointment of either Mrs Oh or Mrs Stevens as Authority Governor to Sackville School for a four year term.

46. The local member, John O'Brien had made contact with both candidates and had discussed the requirements of the appointment with the Headteacher at Sackville school. The Committee considered Mr O'Brien's information and discussed the merits of the experience of the candidates and the requirements of the school at this time.

47. Resolved that: the Committee agreed to make the following Authority Governor appointment:

Mrs K Stevens to Sackville School for a four year term.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Chairman