

Unconfirmed Minutes subject to approval/amendment at the next meeting of the North Mid Sussex County Local Committee

### **North Mid Sussex County Local Committee**

15 June 2016 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00pm at East Grinstead Library.

Present: Mr Acraman (Worth Forest), Mrs Bennett (East Grinstead Meridian), Mrs Brunsdon (Imberdown) and Mrs Field (Lindfield and High Weald) (Chairman).

In attendance: Rachel Allan (Democratic Services Officer), Miles Davy (CPZ Lead Professional), Darryl Hemmings (Planning and Transport Policy Manager), Rupy Sandhu (Senior Planner), Gulu Sibanda (Principal Community Officer) and Richard Speller (Highway Area Manager).

Apologies for absence were received from John O'Brien, (East Grinstead South and Ashurst Wood).

### **Election of Chairman**

1. Resolved – That Mrs Field is elected as Chairman of the North Mid Sussex County Local Committee for the 2016/17 municipal year.

### **Welcome**

2. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited members of the Committee and officers to introduce themselves.

### **Declaration of Interests**

3. There were no declarations of interest.

### **Minutes**

4. Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2016 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman, subject to an error in Minute 94, which should read "not yet known".

### **Urgent Matters**

5. There were no urgent matters.

### **Talk With Us – Open Forum**

6. The Committee received an oral presentation from Inspector Paul Wood from the Mid Sussex Neighbourhood Policing Team. He took the Committee through the upcoming changes to neighbourhood policing occurring from 4 July 2016, and advised that changes in crime patterns meant that it was essential to change the style of policing. He reassured members that there would be no reduction in police officers as part of this review, but there would be a reduction in police community

Unconfirmed Minutes subject to approval/amendment at the next meeting of the North Mid Sussex County Local Committee support officers. He added that there would also not be any changes to the response to emergencies. This was followed by a presentation by Jim Stobart, Sussex Police on Operation Crackdown. He took members through the background to Operation Crackdown, its recent results and what the public could do to report crime to them.

7. The Chairman advised that the open forum was an opportunity for comments and questions to be raised on items not already on the agenda and invited questions and comments. The following issues were raised and responses made:

8. A series of written questions had been received as followed from a member of the public, a full reply will be sent to the enquirer following the meeting, responses detailed below:

- Can someone explain why the CLC can only expect a single TRO each year, and whether the 2016 allotment will be monopolised by the proposed East Grinstead parking restrictions. *Response: Following a review of the TRO process, each CLC was initially allocated a number of TRO's depending on the size and number of Councillors who make up the CLC. There were then a further 13 TRO which could be allocated by the CLC chairman to the top scoring TRO's across the county.*
- Is there any chance at all of progress being made with the proposed replacement of East Grinstead's Lingfield Road/London Road mini roundabout by traffic lights. That junction is very frequently blocked by selfish drivers who pull onto the roundabout without caring that they cannot leave it, often causing tailbacks as far as the station when north-bound traffic has to wait to run into the Lingfield Road. Turning out of the Lingfield Road in either direction is even more often obstructed. *Response: We have also revised the process for members of the public to raise requests for capital spend for schemes such as installing traffic signals. A link has been placed on our web site now that enables the public to make an application on –line. With this particular junction it was suggested "KEEP CLEAR" or a yellow box marking was considered before the significantly more expensive traffic lights solution.*
- I see that the proposed parking restrictions around Charlwoods Road East Grinstead are being amended to include its junction with the Lingfield Road. Is any forecast available of when this scheme will be implemented? It seems a very long time since the first public consultation was made. *Response: The road markings associated with the Charlwoods Road TRO were programmed to be installed within the next four weeks subject to weather conditions.*
- Firbank Way East Grinstead is the subject of dispute between West Sussex and Sainsburys over its ownership. Each says that the other owns it. The result is that the non-compliant road humps along it remain improperly signposted, in one case clearly illegal by being angled across the road, and cause great discomfort to anyone like myself with a spinal injury. I would very much like to know why no attempt has been made for both possible owners to get together and sort this out. I would also very much like to know

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how West Sussex was able to authorise a TRO to impose parking restrictions on this road if it was privately owned. *Response: On the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016, a letter was sent to the member of the public confirming that the Firbank Way was a "Q" class road which generally referred to roads which had not been offered up for adoption. It was not uncommon for "Q" class roads to be on unregistered land and therefore had no owner as it would appear in this case. Whilst uncommon TRO's could be placed on unadopted roads so long as the parking enforcement authority (District Council) were happy to manage it, as in this case. WSCC would only consider adopting the road if at first it were brought up to our adoptable standard which was unlikely given the ownership issue. As neither Sainbury's nor Railtrack have approached WSCC to adopt the road one can assume they don't want to finance the project*

9. A member of the public asked for clarification on which roads in the Gardenwood roads in East Grinstead would be resurfaced in 2016/17. The Highways Area Manager confirmed that all residents were written to and confirmed specific streets. He added that a full list could be found on the Council's website.
10. A representative from Copthorne Junior School safety group asked whether they would be eligible for community initiative funding. *(Action: Democratic Services Officer to make contact with school to provide them with more information).*
11. A member of the Committee asked Sussex Police if the neighbourhood policing panel would continue in light of the recent review. Inspector Wood advised that he hoped it would, but more partnership working was required in order to run it effectively.
12. A member of the Committee expressed concern regarding the reduction of police community support officers, and asked for clarification on how the public could report lower level crime. Sussex Police confirmed that there would still be a neighbourhood policing team, and that as part of the review a generic reporting email address would be established for the Mid Sussex area. The Police added that there was a recruitment process going forward for new police community support officers, and that new contracts allowed more flexibility which meant the police could be more responsive.
13. In response to a question from a member of the public, Sussex Police confirmed that the neighbourhood policing team would be moving to Chequers Mead Arts Centre.
14. It was confirmed that the speed indicator device could not work in conjunction with Operation Crackdown, but it was essential that the public gathered evidence and reported speeding to the police.
15. A member of the public asked whether 30mph signs could be placed on Lingfield Road as this speed was regularly exceeded. *(Action the Highways Area Manager agreed to look into this.)*

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16. It was confirmed that anti social parking could be reported to Operation Crackdown.

17. The Chairman thanked Sussex Police attending the meeting and for their informative presentation.

### **Progress Statement**

18. The Chairman introduced the Progress Statement (copy attached to the signed minutes).

19. It was confirmed that , in relation to Philpots Quarry, after initial investigation this matter had been referred to planning policy as it was a compliance issue. A meeting on this issue took place on 11 May 2016.

20. Resolved – That the Committee notes the progress statement.

### **Draft West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan**

21. The Committee received a Report by the Executive Director Residents Services and Director of Highways asking it to inform the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport about its views on:

- The draft Joint Minerals Local Plan;
- The proposed site allocation of Extension to West Hoathly Brickworks, in the draft West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan; and
- The 'development principles' set out in the draft Plan that would apply to the Ham Farm site.

22. The Senior Planner took the Committee through the report. He advised that the West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan (JMLP) was being prepared in partnership with the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). Informal stakeholder engagement about the contents of the Plan including potential mineral site allocations was undertaken in during June-September 2014 and March 2015. There was one site within the CLC area, Extension to West Hoathly Brickworks, that was a proposed site allocation for the extraction of clay to supply the existing and operational brick factory.

23. The results of the informal consultation would inform the preparation of the Proposed Submission Draft JMLP which would be considered by both authorities later in 2016. Following approval, the Proposed Submission Draft JMLP would be subject to formal representations in November 2016 to January 2017 under Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012 before it was submitted for examination in public by a Government-appointed Planning Inspector. Once adopted the JMLP would replace the current Minerals Local Plan that was adopted in 2003.

24. Members raised a number of points:

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- Members advised that the Parish Council had lodged an objection to the proposals, which were noted and supported by members and were specifically concerned about the impact on the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the potential increase in vehicular movements.
- Members questioned whether limits could be placed on the size of vehicles using the brickworks.
- The Senior Planner advised that as the brickworks has already been granted planning permission by Mid Sussex District Council, as local planning authority, it may be difficult to impose limits on traffic movements but that this would be investigated.
- Members advised that the area of land included in the extension was very large in proportion to the additional clay supply it would produce (2-3 years) and queried the balance of environmental damage against commercial benefit. The Senior Planner advised that the Council have had communications with the Woodlands Trust to look at what mitigation could be put in place, such as buffer zones to ensure the protection of ancient woodland.

25. Resolved – that the North Mid Sussex County Local Committee recommends that the Cabinet member for Highways and Transport ensures that all member and residents views are addressed as part of the consultation process.

### **East Grinstead Parking Scheme**

26. The Committee received a Report by Director of Highways and Transport & Executive Director Residents' Services asking the Committee to make a decision on the next steps for potential changes to the parking arrangements in parts of East Grinstead.

27. The CPZ Lead Professional took the Committee through the report. He advised that this report presented the results of recent consultation exercises with residents, businesses and stakeholders into changing parking restrictions in parts of East Grinstead. Following a consultation in December 2015, where various stakeholders were contacted directly, a further public consultation exercise ran between the 19<sup>th</sup> February and the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016. Consultees were invited to either provide comments at drop-in sessions or directly to the County Council in writing. Over 2,100 households were contacted by post and provided with details on how to contribute to the process. A number of lamppost signs were also erected in roads where changes were being proposed and a release was issued in the local press.

28. He advised that incorporating both consultation exercises, a total of 237 representations were received. Taking into account the comments made, officers were of the view that all but one of the proposals, with some incorporating modifications, should progress to the formal consultation stage, thereby giving residents and stakeholders another opportunity to make representations. It was also recommended that a further proposal for Lingfield Road be progressed for formal consultation.

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29. He further advised that there had been two additional requests since the publication of the report for changes, specifically a disabled bay in Brooklands Way and an extension of double yellow lines in College Close. He explained that these could be added to the formal consultation stage if members wished.

30. Members raised a number of points:

- The Chairman advised that a number of written questions had been received in relation to this report, all of which would receive a written reply.
- The member for Imberdown stated she did not support the manor road restrictions.
- The CPZ Lead Professional advised that if these proposals were accepted, he would expect consultation to commence in July 2016, for a formal decision by the Committee in September 2016.
- Members of the Committee felt that additional recommendations that did not form part of the report could not be considered, and that they would have to be dealt with through the traffic regulation order process.

31. Resolved – that the North Mid Sussex Local Committee authorise the Director of Law Assurance & Strategy to formally advertise modified proposals, as outlined in Appendix C/D and subject to there being no objections after a formal advertisement, bring the Traffic Regulation Order into operation.

### **Community Initiative Funding**

32. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law, Assurance and Strategy (copy attached to the signed minutes) which detailed applications for Community Initiative Funding.

33. The Committee reminded the public that funding was available for 2016/17 and that it was important that members received more applications for consideration.

34. The Committee debated the respective merits of the applications.

35. Resolved: - That the following applications be approved: -

**967/NMS-** Travel Plan Group for Crawley Down Village C.E. School, £518.09 – amended application, to purchase 63 pedometers and 72 high visibility jackets.

**987/NMS** – East Grinstead & District Association for Mental Health, £350.00, towards the Creative Expressions Art Group outing.

36. Resolved: - That the following application be declined: -

**978/NMS-** Reaching Families, £297.38 towards the costs of a Lexmark printer and other office supplies.. The Committee felt that the cost of the

Unconfirmed Minutes subject to approval/amendment at the next meeting of the North Mid Sussex County Local Committee printer was expensive for its purpose, and that this was not a cost effective solution.

**Nominations and Appointments of Authority School Governors**

37. There were no nominations or vacancies for the Committee to consider.

**Date of Next Meeting**

38. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Wednesday 21 September 2016 at 7.00pm at a venue to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Chairman