

North Mid Sussex County Local Committee

6 December 2011 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00pm Glen Vue Day Centre, Railway Approach, East Grinstead.

Present: Bill Acraman, Member for Worth Forest; 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

48. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and noted apologies from Heidi Brunsdon, Member for Imberdown.

Declaration of Interests

49. Mr O'Brien and Mrs Bennett declared personal interests as members of Mid Sussex District Council and East Grinstead Town Council.

Minutes

50. Resolved - that the Part I and Part II minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2011 were approved.

51. The Chairman noted the undertaking in the minutes to have a further TRO Priorities report to a later meeting and reported that members had decided not to address this matter further at this particular meeting.

Urgent Matters

52. The Chairman proposed to split the Talk With Us session and invited comments on agenda items, explaining that no discussion would be entered into, rather points made would be addressed at the relevant point on the agenda. Residents were asked to raise any other topics not on the agenda at Item 13.

'talk with us' Open Forum

53. Questions were raised relating proposals for improvements to East Grinstead Station. The Chairman explained that the Project Manager of Southern had been invited to the meeting to discuss proposals but had been unable to attend.

54. A resident questioned road safety measures for St Agnes Road to ameliorate issues at the entrance/exit to the surgery in that road. Mr Davy, Parking Strategy Manager undertook to address this at Item 5.

East Grinstead Controlled Parking Zone – Proposed amendment (Formal Advertisement)

55. Mr Davy introduced this report by the Director of Operations, Communities and Infrastructure (copy appended to the signed minutes). The Chairman invited comments and questions from members, responses were as follows:

- The importance of parking restrictions in the town being fit for purpose was highlighted
- It was noted that Mr Davy had fully taken into account comments received from the informal consultation and that most places that residents were concerned about had been modified in a logical fashion
- The importance of monitoring the changes was emphasized
- With regard to St Agnes Road, Mr Davy was asked to monitor this closely in view of the development planned for the area. Mr Davy undertook to speak to colleagues in Development Planning and report back to the Committee
- Concern was expressed regarding the comparatively low percentage of responses to consultation. Mr Davy suggested that a lower response rate might suggest that people were happy with the status quo.

56. The Chairman noted the Committee's agreement to the recommendation and that a report would return to the March meeting seeking agreement to implement final proposals.

Changes to the County Council Financial Support for Non Commercial Bus Network

57. Mr O'Brien gave a verbal report on this item as Chairman of the Cabinet Member's Bus Working Group. It was noted that the County Council sought to reduce the subsidy it currently made to bus routes in the County. Residents were asked to feed their comments in to the bus user survey which sought information on the ways in which each bus route was used by residents. This was due to conclude on 17 January 2012. Mr O'Brien explained that while information on bus routes was being sought that did not necessarily mean that these routes would be withdrawn. Also that in some cases in the County where particular routes were identified to be closed commercial bus companies had been able to identify these as commercially viable and incorporate them into their services.

58. The Chairman asked residents to input into the Working Group's survey to ensure that the routes most used in the area would be identified. The Committee heard from residents that some bus drivers appeared to be giving the impression that the reduction of services was already decided. Mr O'Brien undertook to inform the Bus Working Group that this was occurring.

Turners Hill B2110 proposed 40mph Speed Limit

59. The Chairman introduced this report by the Director of Operations, Communities and Infrastructure (copy appended to the signed minutes) and invited comments and questions from members. It was noted that this proposal had been requested by the Committee. Mr Acraman explained the history and that he would like road safety measures on this road considered in an holistic manner and that he was working with officers to this end. The Committee agreed the recommendation for this stretch of the B2110 as set out in the report.

North Mid Sussex CLC Area Infrastructure Plan

60. Mr Meeus, WSCC Services Lead, Better Communities, introduced this report by the Director of Operations, Communities and Infrastructure (copy appended to

the signed minutes). The Chairman invited questions and comments from members. It was noted that the listing was not intended to suggest a priority order. Members approved the list as set out at Appendix A.

Community Initiative Funding

61. The Committee considered a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (copy appended to the signed minutes) which set out six bids for Community Initiative Funding. The Committee considered the merits of the projects for which funding was sought and awarded funding as requested with the exception of Application 1707 which received a lesser sum as the Committee felt this organisation sufficiently well supported by other funders. Applications 1700 and 1717 were turned down as the Committee considered that these could be funded from the town council's precept.

62. Resolved that the following awards were made:

1702/NMS, 4Sight, Requested £166, towards educational packs for all school children in the North Mid Sussex area. Awarded £166

1707/NMS, Felbridge & Sunnyside Cricket Club, Requested £2,500, part-funding towards the preparation and erection of two non-grass cricket nets. Awarded £1,000

1713/NMS, Turners Hill CE Primary School, £2,500, costs associated with the second phase of the rainwater-harvesting project. Awarded £2,500.

1714/NMS, East Grinstead Community First Responders, £1,000, for the purchase of four pulse oximeters. Awarded £1,000.

and that funding for the following applications was declined:

1700/NMS, East Grinstead Town Council (EGTC), £2,200, towards early stage costs for the neighbourhood plan, to include volunteer expenses.

1717/NMS, Diamond Jubilee Celebration (EGTC), £1,750, for promotional materials for this one-off community event.

Appointment of Authority Governors

63. The Chairman referred members to the appointments of Authority Governors as set out in the report by Operations – Learning (copy appended to the signed minutes). The Committee noted that the appointments were supported by the local member and agreed to appoint two governors each for a four year term as set out in the report.

64. Resolved that the following appointments were made:

- a. Mr N Feist to Estcots Primary
- b. Mr T Jones to Imberhorne

East Grinstead Station Project

65. The Chairman reported that the Committee had written to Mr Peter Wilkie the Project Manager for Southern to invite him to the meeting to update members on the current plans for improvements at the railway station, particularly in relation to the proximity of the bus interchange to the new station building. Unfortunately Mr Wilkie had been unable to attend.

66. It was noted that Southern would hold a 'Meet the Manager' event at the station on the 19 December. Members undertook to attend that meeting in order to receive an update on Southern's plans. The Committee also agreed to invite Mr Wilkie to meet with members prior to the next CLC. Residents were invited to take a copy of Southern's 01 December press release and asked to let friends and neighbours know of the 19 December event.

Progress on Traffic Regulation Orders

67. The Chairman referred members to the data sheet attached (copy appended to the signed minutes). It was noted that not much progress had taken place. The Chairman reported that a further six highway technicians had recently been employed on a temporary contract to address TRO backlogs across the County.

68. Members agreed that the TROs listed as being in progress did not meet with their understanding of the current position. Mr Bicknell, Principal Community Highway Officer, was asked to correct and represent the report to the next meeting of the CLC.

'talk with us' Open Forum

69. The Chairman repeated the open forum at this point. Questions and comments were as follows:

- o Residents at Sandhawes Hill suffered repeated problems with flooding on the road and subsequent road traffic accidents at that location. It was considered that the problem was due to lack of drainage and affected the road across the border in Surrey. Residents had encountered difficulties in securing assurance that the issue would be attended to. Those concerned were invited to write to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to ask that he liaise with his counterpart in Surrey to address the problem. The CLC undertook to also write to the Cabinet Member
- o Residents asked when the East Grinstead Traffic Management Strategy Study would be completed. The Chairman undertook to report back to the next meeting

Date of Next Meeting

70. The Chairman informed all that the next meeting would be held on 08 March 2012 and that the intended venue was Turners Hill Primary School.

71. The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chairman