

North Mid Sussex County Local Committee

11 January 2011 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00pm at the Glen Vue Day Centre. Railway Approach, East Grinstead. RH19 1BZ.

Present: Mr Bill Acraman (Chairman), Mrs Liz Bennett, Mrs Heidi Brunsdon, Mrs Christine Field, and Mr John O'Brien.

Chairman's Welcome

125. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

Declaration of Interests

126. Mrs Brunsdon declared a personal interest in Item 6 as a member of Mid Sussex District Council and East Grinstead Town Council and a personal interest in Item 7, application 1467 as her son was part of the cricket team. Mr O'Brien declared a personal interest in Item 7 application 1460 as a member of the East Grinstead Business Association. Mrs Bennett declared a personal interest in Item 7 application 1481 as her mother was the applicant.

Minutes

127. Resolved - that the minutes of the meeting held on 07 October 2010 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

128. The Chairman noted that a draft of the Infrastructure Plan for East Grinstead drawn up by the Local Development Division had been sent to East Grinstead Town Council and received by the County Local Committee and that it was now in the public domain.

Progress Statement

129. The Committee noted the progress on the consultation for Controlled Parking Zones in East Grinstead and that a report would be presented to a later meeting.

A264 East Sussex border to A22 - Route Safety Scheme

130. The Chairman introduced the Team Leader – Safety Engineering to outline this report by Director Communities and Infrastructure (copy appended to the signed minutes) concerning proposals for a route safety scheme and speed limit reduction for the A264 between A22 and the County border.

131. The Chairman invited comments and questions from members; responses were as follows:

- that the junction at Sandhawes had caused problems for many years and were there sufficient funds available ideally it would be completely

remodeled, but as this was not possible at this time it would be best to go with the recommendation in the report

- that the addition of vehicle activated signs would help address the issue of speeding vehicles
- that reducing the speed limit would even out the speeds of vehicles approaching the centre of town
- that the proposals were to be welcomed and that sorting out the Sandhaves junction may require a compulsory purchase order which could take many years
- that policing of the speed limit needed to be increased
- that post-implementation reviews must be undertaken
- that traffic plans must be drawn up to manage disruption while road works were undertaken

132. The Committee was assured that the current proposals would not rule out future work on the Sandhaves junction and that every route safety scheme was post-monitored for up to six years following implementation. Members noted that policing of the speed limit would depend on the available resource.

133. The Chairman invited questions and comments from residents; responses were as follows:

- that the many separate developments resulting in access points along Holtye Road combined to make it a very dangerous road to negotiate
- that there are two footpaths opening onto the road which are not signposted and therefore posed a danger to pedestrians
- that the engineering drawings posted on the website did not in some cases reflect the current state of the road and existing developments
- that moving the substation at the Sandhaves junction should be considered in order to remodel the road
- that the Localism Bill may assist residents in addressing issues such as continued in-filling of open spaces
- that there was strong local concern about the ability of planners to develop on reserve ancient woodland sites

134. Members noted that the purpose of the Infrastructure Plans mentioned at the beginning of the meeting was to enable local councillors to take a more holistic view of future planning for the area.

135. The Chairman undertook to look into the issue of footpaths opening onto an A road without accompanying indicating signposts.

136. It was noted that moving the substation would be a major undertaking and although application had been made at other similar locations, cost estimates would be high as it would involve diversion of all the incoming cables. Also there would be an issue of finding an alternative site.

137. The Chairman explained that the Localism Bill could offer local people opportunities to have a greater say on local development and that the Bill would feature as a future item on the CLC agenda. In terms of developments encroaching on reserve sites it was noted that the County Council was not the planning

authority but that the greater powers afforded to local people by the Localism Bill could eventually help in this regard.

138. Resolved that the Committee:

- i) supported the implementation of the Route Safety Scheme including the proposed revised measures at paragraph 3.4 ;and
- ii) having considered that the resulting benefit to the community of a reduced speed limit outweighed the concerns raised gave approval for the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to be authorised to advertise the proposed TRO detailed at paragraph 4 and, subject to there being no unresolved objections, the order be made; and
- iii) supported the release of S106 contributions to allow the scheme to be implemented.

Community Initiative Funding

139. The Committee considered a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (copy appended to the signed minutes) which set out 16 bids for community initiative funding. The Committee considered the merits of the projects for which funding was sought and gave regard to the Committees' informal criteria, in particular that it does not grant monies for running costs.

140. At this point in the meeting Mrs Brunsdon and Mrs Bennett declared personal interests in application 1454 as trustees of the Arts Centre. Mrs Brunsdon also declared a personal interest in application 1466 as a governor of Imberhorne school.

141. Resolved that: the following applications received funding:

NMS 1457: Ashplats Conservation Group. Requested £500 for the purchase of 25 litter pickers/pliers, (of two different styles) for use by the Group and all members of the community. Awarded: £500

NMS 1462: Ashurst Wood Conservation Group. Requested £805.46 for 25 litter pickers for use by the Group and members of the community. Awarded: £500

NMS 1467: East Grinstead Cricket Club. Requested £2,289 towards the purchase of equipment including new netting, canvas walls, balls, Kwik Cricket sets, bibs, cones, protective equipment and first aid kits. Awarded: £1,200

NMS 1471: East Grinstead Target Shooting Club. Requested £1,500 towards cost of providing disabled access facilities for the club. Awarded: £1,500

NMS 1473: Ashurst Wood Community Pre-School. Requested £1,000 towards cost of drawing up plans for a new pre-school. Awarded £1,000 with the proviso that any unused monies be returned, should the cost of the plans be less than £1,000

NMS 1474: Ashurst Wood Junior Football Club. Requested £1,400 to purchase two sets of mini soccer goals. Awarded: £700

NMS 1475: West Hoathly Bowls Club. Requested £2,871 to purchase new floor covering as part of the refurbishment project for the club's centenary year. Awarded: £1,000

NMS 1478: East Grinstead Social and Community Group.

Requested £500 towards the cost of the first project to be undertaken by the Group, the East Grinstead Life Show. Awarded £500

The Committee did not support the following applications:

NMS 1444: Ashurst Wood Historians. Requested £1,000 towards the cost of publishing 500 copies of a book on the history of the village. Declined: The intention was to sell this book at a profit in order to realise funds to create a website. The Committee preferred to fund the website direct and so requested the group reapply

NMS 1448: East Grinstead Pensioner Association. Requested £800 towards the cost of a Christmas party for the 80 Branch members (£200) and a summer outing (£600). Declined: This bid was considered revenue costs and therefore outside the criteria for funding. The Committee requested that the group reapply for items within the criteria for funding

NMS 1453: Turners Hill Parish Council. Requested £2,000 towards the cost of employing highway consultants to design a highway improvement scheme at the crossroads in the village. Declined: The Committee felt it more appropriate to pursue highway improvements in this area in conjunction with its Infrastructure Plan and possible developer contributions. However the Committee instructed Highways Officers to help support them to progress the Design

NMS 1454: Chequer Mead Community Arts Centre. Requested £1,500 towards the £6,500 cost of the publication of 12,000 copies of the first of three 2011 'What's On' brochures. Declined: This bid was considered revenue costs and therefore outside the criteria for funding

NMS 1460: East Grinstead Business Association. Requested £1,000 towards the salary and National Insurance of a 2-day graduate internship placement to investigate existing Chamber of Commerce and Not For Profit organisations' use of social media sites. Declined: This bid was considered revenue costs and therefore outside the criteria for funding

NMS 1466: East Grinstead Community/Imberhorne & Baldwins Neighbourhood Panel. Requested £2,497 to provide planters for the entrances to the five schools in the neighbourhood to tie in with 'East Grinstead in Bloom' projects in 2011. Declined: The Committee felt that it had already contributed sufficiently to a similar project in East Grinstead

NMS 1479: East Grinstead Meads Football Club. Requested £2,380 towards training costs for club coaches and volunteers helping at the Club. Declined: This bid was considered revenue costs and therefore outside the criteria for funding, the Club was asked to reapply for items within the funding criteria.

NMS 1481: East Grinstead Justice & Peace. Requested £300 towards a one-day multicultural event. Declined: This bid was considered revenue costs and therefore outside the criteria for funding.

142. The Chairman invited comments and questions from residents; responses were as follows:

- It was noted that proposals to divert or extinguish footpaths were referred to the Secretary of State once they had been so determined by the County Council's Rights of Way Committee and questioned why the cases took so long to resolve. *The Chairman explained that this was a staff resource issue and undertook to look into the matter on receipt of further written information from the questioner*
- The possibility of reducing the speed limit on the B2110 at Turner's Hill was queried. *The Committee agreed to put this request on its TRO list and have it assessed by the Highways Manager prior to prioritising the list at its June meeting. The Chairman also agreed to meet with the Parish Council to undertake a site visit with Highways Officers to determine the details.*

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Chairman