

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

North Mid Sussex County Local Committee

23 September 2015 – 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), Mrs Field (Lindfield and High Weald) (Chairman) and Mr O'Brien, (East Grinstead South and Ashurst Wood).

In attendance: Richard Speller (Highway Area Manager), Annalee Clayton (Democratic Services Officer) and Gulu Sibanda (Principal Community Officer).

Welcome

20. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. She thanked the groups and organisations that had contributed to the pre-event on services and support for older people, with particular thanks to Sue Young, Library Manager and her colleagues for allowing the Committee to use the Library and for their efforts and support in setting up the event.

21. The Chairman invited members of the Committee and officers to introduce themselves.

Declaration of Interests

22. There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

23. Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2015 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

24. The Chairman advised that a late nomination for an Authority School Governor had been received and that it would be considered under agenda item 10 (Nominations and Appointments of Authority School Governors).

Progress Statement

25. Richard Speller, Highways Area Manager for Mid Sussex, introduced the Progress Statement (copy attached to the signed minutes).

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

Services and Support for Older People

27. The Chairman introduced Jacqueline Clay, Manager, Public Health Research Unit and Sally Tabbner, Public Health Contracts and Commissioning Manager, who gave presentations on the Health and Wellbeing of Older People in the North Mid Sussex area and on Social Isolation (copies attached to the signed minutes).

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28. The Chairman thanked the officers for their presentations and invited questions from the Committee, which included:

- How to reach people not already identified as at risk of social isolation. Sally Tabbner suggested that the Prevention and Assessment Teams (PATs) provided information on how services could be accessed. Jacqueline Clay responded that people did not always recognise themselves as carers and it was important for professionals to recognise when people were at risk and direct them towards help.
- What percentage of referrals were self-made. Sally Tabbner advised that a large percentage of referrals were made by GPs and that it was a constant process of marketing services. The PATs attended lunch clubs etc. and services were promoted via Help Points, in libraries and through Wellbeing Hubs.

29. The Chairman opened up the discussion to the public. Questions and comments included:

- Asked for the County Council's definition of 'older people'. Sally Tabbner advised that services were available for vulnerable people and that no individual was turned away by the PATs.
- Asked whether hospitals were informed about the services available. Sally Tabbner advised that all services should be linked up and that Hospital Discharge Teams had information on the services provided.
- A representative of Mid Sussex Older People's Council advised that it was an information network set up to represent older people. She encouraged people to leave their contact details to receive a regular newsletter and advised that the next event would be held in February.

30. The Chairman advised that the 'Raise it' Campaign had recently been launched and was supported by West Sussex Partners in Care as a way of people being able to raise issues about the care of older people living in care homes.

'Talk with us' Public Open Forum

31. The Chairman advised that the open forum was an opportunity for comments and questions to be raised on items not already on the agenda. She referred to the Charlwoods Road Traffic Regulation Order report which was due to be considered later on the agenda and confirmed that two public consultation meetings had been held with over 100 people attending the most recent meeting. The responses submitted as part of the formal advertised consultation process were summarised in the report and as this was a legal process the Committee would not be taking further questions or comments at this meeting. The Highway Area Manager advised that if the Committee approved the proposals there would be a three and six month review following implementation of the scheme.

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

- A resident of Charlwoods Road, East Grinstead commented that the original concerns of residents had been regarding lorries and asked for further information on the County Council's scheme to address problems with HGVs

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across the county. Mr O'Brien advised that he was the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport and that the Lindfield Preservation Society planned to put forward a proposal to restrict HGV movements across the whole of Mid Sussex. The Highway Area Manager acknowledged HGV movements were an issue in Mid Sussex and that a practical solution needed to be found. He added, however, that the challenge was to tackle inappropriate driving and that the County Council was not looking to ban HGVs, but wanted to be more sympathetic to the surroundings.

- The Highway Area Manager added that the Twinning sign for Turners Hill was on his list of actions.
- An East Grinstead resident requested an update on the Controlled Parking Zone consultation. The Chairman advised that there would be an update at the Committee's next meeting in January.
- A representative of the Copthorne Junior School Road Safety Group and advised that the group had met with the local County Councillor Mr Acraman and the Highway Area Manager. He distributed copies of a DVD to Committee members made by the children, parents and staff at the school highlighting the problems. The Highway Area Manager advised that the Safer Routes to School scheme had identified a number of options that could be assessed once the Task and Finish Group looking at Traffic Regulation Orders had agreed new criteria.

Charlwoods Road Traffic Regulation Order

33. The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director Residents' Services and Director of Highways and Transport (copy attached to the signed minutes). The report advised that Charlwoods Road, East Grinstead was a shared industrial and residential area which had created significant pressures on parking, leading to the reduction in sight lines and turning opportunities due to parked cars. The reduced road width made negotiating an HGV or large vehicle problematic and could lead to the footway being used by vehicles trying to pass, creating a safety risk to pedestrians. Following two advertised consultations, many representations were made by both the residents and businesses in the Charlwoods Road area. It had been made clear by the community that a balance between the necessary safety improvements and maximising parking amenity needed to be found. The report included plans of the existing and proposed parking restrictions and a summary of the comments received during the second consultation.

34. The Highway Area Manager introduced the report. He advised that the first set of proposals had received over 100 responses. The amended advertised proposals were aimed mainly at junction protection. Mr Speller added that the proposed amendments, as detailed in the report, sought to find a compromise, but he realised that it would not be possible to meet the aspirations of all residents and businesses on the industrial estate. He said there would be a process of monitoring and recording the successes following implementation, if the proposals were approved by the Committee and there would be a review after three and six months.

35. The Committee discussed the report. Key points included:

36. The local County Councillor Mrs Bennett said that the main objective was to improve safety. She referred to the last consultation meeting held in February and

Unconfirmed Minutes subject to approval/amendment at the next meeting of the North Mid Sussex County Local Committee commented that the initial scheme had proposed the implementation of a significant amount of double yellow lines. She emphasised that until something was in place it was not possible to know what would be successful. She advised that the Police and the District Council Enforcement officers would be out, but not all of the time and therefore, it was vital that residents reported anyone parking irresponsibly via Operation Crackdown. The Chairman emphasised how important it was that everybody reported these issues as the cumulative impact would be great. She suggested that if the problems persisted and were not dealt with by the Police that the Committee could invite a Police representative to attend a future meeting.

37. The Chairman said she appreciated that what was decided would not necessarily please everyone, but that the priority was to create a safer environment. This was a problem that had been in existence for a long time and a review was absolutely critical. She emphasised that all responses to the review process would be gratefully received.

38. Members also commented that the problems were a common theme across the county with business expanding and households now having more cars and that it was a balancing act. It was agreed that it was important that some restrictions were put in place to address issues of safety, but that a review was essential. Clarification was sought on how this would be undertaken. Members also added that there was a need to be mindful of the parking displacement as a result of these measures to other roads nearby.

39. The Highway Area Manager advised that he envisaged that the review would involve the local County Councillor Mrs Bennett, himself and representatives of the residents of Charlwoods Road and the Industrial Estate. He suggested that bi-monthly meetings would be held with recommendations at the end of the review. He advised that implementation would be before the end of the current financial year and that the works would need to be programmed alongside other works.

40. The Chairman drew the Committee's attention to the recommendation contained in the report.

41. Resolved – That the Members of the North Mid Sussex County Local Committee, having considered that the resulting benefits to the wider community outweigh the representations made, authorise the Director of Law, Assurance and Strategy to make the Traffic Regulation Order, subject to the amendments as detailed in Section 3.2 of the report.

Community Initiative Funding

42. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law, Assurance and Strategy (copy appended to the signed minutes) which detailed applications for Community Initiative Funding (CIF). The Chairman advised that the Committee had funds of £18,865.00 for allocation during the 2015-16 financial year and had received, for consideration, applications totalling £3,135.00.

43. The Committee debated the respective merits of the projects for which funding was sought.

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44. Following discussion members voted on application no. 760/NMS – Friends of Crawley Down Health Centre and by a majority of three to two decided to decline the application as the majority of members considered that this specific item should be funded through other statutory means, rather than the CIF.

45. Resolved –

(a) The following application is approved: -

762/NMS – East Grinstead and District Association for Mental Health, £700.00 for gardening tools and transport costs.

(b) The following application is declined:

760/NMS – Friends of Crawley Down Health Centre, £1,198.00 to purchase a portable blood pressure monitor for the GP surgery.

Nominations and Appointments of Authority School Governors

46. The Committee considered a revised report, tabled at the meeting, including the late nominations for two Authority School Governors (copy attached to the signed minutes). The report also included a list of current vacancies for Local Authority Governors in the CLC area. The Chairman briefly explained the role of Authority School Governors and encouraged people to express their interest by completing the online form or by contacting Governor Services for further information.

47. Resolved – That the Committee approves the following nominations under the 2012 Regulations: -

(a) Appointments:

- Mrs J Thompson to Crawley Down CE Primary School for a four-year term.
- Mr N Hodges to St Peter's RC Primary School for a four-year term.

(b) Reappointments:

- Mrs G L Santi to St Mary's CEP School for a four-year term.
- Mr Robert Darvill to Imberhorne School for a four-year term.

Date of Next Meeting

48. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Wednesday 13 January 2015 (as opposed to the previously scheduled date of 6 January 2015) at 7.00pm at East Grinstead Library.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Chairman