

North Mid Sussex County Local Committee

8 October 2014 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00pm at Turners Hill Primary School, Turners Hill.

Present: 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).

Apologies: Mr Acraman (Worth Forest)

Declaration of Interests

17. None

Minutes

18. Resolved - that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2014 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Progress Statement

19. The Member for Imberdown stated that, in response to complaints from local residents, options were being explored for Park Road to enhance safety while the diversion was in place. These included possible temporary parking restrictions or alterations to the diversion route.

20. The Member for East Grinstead Meridian noted that the replacement School Safety Zone (SSZ) at St Mary's CofE Primary School no longer provided complete coverage for the school exit. Members also requested an update on the progress of all SSZs in the CLC area, as a result of the Countywide Traffic Regulation Order. The Principal Community Officer undertook to provide members with a link to the forward programme of works for all SSZs and agreed to forward an enquiry about the St Mary's SSZ issues to the relevant department within WSCC.

21. Members noted progress statement.

Urgent Matters

22. None

'talk with us' – Open Forum

23. The Chairman invited questions and comments on items not on the agenda.

The following issues were raised and responses made:-

- A representative of the East Grinstead Society queried whether the Committee members who were also district councillors could provide an update on sight-lines at Dunning Mill Road Development. This had been raised under 'talkwithus' at the Committee's July 2014 meeting. – The Chairman recommended that the query be directed to the District Councillor for East Grinstead – Herontye (Cllr. Sweatman).
- A member of Turners Hill Parish Council raised the following items. He:

- Sought an explanation for the absence of east/west road signage for the Turners Hill Primary school safety zone and also whether it was correct that timed signage was operational at 4pm. – The Principal Community Officer responded that the signage issue was currently being investigated and a response would be provided outside of the meeting. He undertook to refer the matter of timed signage to the School Safety Team for a response.
- Queried the anticipated 2015/16 completion date for the repair of a section of railings at the school which had been damaged by a truck. – The Chairman recommended that the Parish Council contact the local member (Worth Forest) to pursue this issue.
- A number of complaints were made regarding the impact of the planned closure of roads in Turners Hill for utilities works and the length of time given for the works, which were progressing slowly. – The Chairman responded that under the current system the County Council was required to grant permission in response to a contractor request and could not control the timescale of the closure. The Member for East Grinstead East and Ashurst Wood added that the County Council was currently exploring the possible introduction of a permit scheme, which would enable the Council to control the duration of closures and access issues. The Chairman recommended that complaints regarding the progress of works should be directed to Southern Water and that the local member (Worth Forest) be encouraged to pursue the issue on the community's behalf.
- A Turners Hill Parish Councillor queried why the road had been resurfaced immediately prior to the works. – The Principal Community Officer responded that it was a requirement of the works that the road be reinstated to the condition as before the works. He added that the Council had an enforcement process to ensure standards were observed.

Five Communities Plan

24. The Chief Officer, Horsham and Mid Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) provided members with a presentation on the 'Five Communities Plan'. The Plan sets out the CCG's vision for the future of local NHS care and Health and Wellbeing services in the North Mid Sussex community (slides appended to the signed minutes).

25. Members made a number of comments, including those set out below. They:

- Noted that proposals included an increase in primary care practice capacity for East Grinstead and, as many were currently at capacity, queried where any new facility would be located. – The Chief Officer stated that a number of potential options such as the Moatfield and Judges Close sites and Queen Victoria Hospital had been highlighted, and discussions were currently ongoing. She added that the Plan also emphasised the better utilisation of existing sites rather than solely focussing upon new facilities.

26. Members of the public made a number of comments, including those set out below. They:

- Noted that there was no longer a bus service connecting Turners Hill Park to Crawley Down and that this created access barriers for the predominantly older resident population. – The Chief Officer responded that accessibility was a major driver for the Plan and transport issues had been raised repeatedly

by local communities. She confirmed that the CCG were aware of the issue and options were being considered. The Chairman added that similar issues affected West Hoathly and Sharpthorne, who were lobbying on this issue and suggested the Parish Council take this forward with the CCG and other parties with responsibility for public transport provision.

- Queried the current under-utilisation of the top floor of Crawley Down Health Centre and the reasons why the Baby Clinic had moved. – The Chief Officer responded that, in spite of the lift, access to the top floor was problematic and that options to resolve this were currently being considered. She undertook to provide a response regarding the Baby Clinic.
- Queried the potential impact of political uncertainty associated with the 2015 General Election on the Plan – The Chief Officer acknowledged that this was a negative risk. However, the high costs of maintaining Crawley Hospital required significant ongoing investment and collaborative working, which ensured a degree of resilience.
- Suggested that a clinic at the Ark, Turners Hill should be considered as an option to alleviate pressure on the Crawley Down Health Centre. – The Chief Officer agreed to include this option as part of further considerations.
- Queried the likelihood that Crawley Hospital could be replaced with a more comprehensive unit. – The Chief Officer responded that there were no current plans to build a new hospital as the 5 Communities Plan focussed upon providing services in the community. It would be a number of years before a business case for any new hospital was developed.

Community Initiative Funding

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

28. Resolved –

- a) that the Committee approves the following applications and amounts:

385/NMS East Grinstead Museum, £2,460, towards costs for replacement energy efficient lighting.

402/NMS Crawley Down Village Christmas Lights, £750, to purchase new Christmas Lights. The Committee confirmed that no further applications for this purpose would be considered.

427/NMS Jubilee Community Church, £3,680, towards the costs of equipping a Friday Night Youth Club. The Committee requested that the applicant provide a progress update at a future meeting.

Appointment of Authority Governors

29. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Communities Commissioning (copy appended to the signed minutes).

30. Resolved – that the following appointments and reappointments under the 2007 regulations be made:

Appointments

- a) Mrs Sue Faulkner to Escots Primary School for a four year term

Reappointments

- a) Mrs S Richardson-Cornish to Blackwell Primary School for a four year term

Date of Next Meeting

31. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 21 January at Sackville School, Lewes Road, East Grinstead, RH19 3TY.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Chairman