

South Chichester County Local Committee

26 February 2013 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00pm, in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Chichester.

Present: Louise Goldsmith, Member for Chichester West; Mike Hall (Chairman), Member for Chichester North; Peter Jones, Member for Selsey; Pieter Montyn, Member for The Witterings; and Margaret Whitehead (Vice Chairman), Member for Chichester South.

Apologies: Mark Dunn, Member for Bourne and Andrew Smith, Member for Chichester East.

The meeting started at 7.10pm.

Welcome and Introductions

65. The Chairman welcomed members of the public to the meeting and asked officers present to introduce themselves.

Declaration of Interests

66. Mrs Whitehead declared personal interests regarding Item No. 12, Community Initiative Funding as a member of the Chichester Canal Trust, Chichester Canal Project Board and Chichester Canal Liaison Committee. Mr Montyn declared a personal interest regarding Item No. 9, Fishbourne Road East, Network Rail proposed foot and cycle bridge as Chairman of the Chichester District Council Planning Committee (South).

Minutes

67. Resolved - that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2012 were approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

68. There were no urgent matters.

Progress Report

69. The Committee noted the report. The Principal Community Officer stated that there were no updates regarding petitions received by the committee.

West Sussex Flood Investigation Report

70. The Committee received a presentation by Stuart Smith, Highways Commissioning Manager and Alan Jones, Head of Emergency Management (slides attached to confirmed minutes) on the key findings in relation to Chichester, including the role of communities and future planning issues, following the County Council's investigations and report of the June 2012 Flood Event. Alan Jones highlighted that workshops for parishes were planned in order to write up local

emergency plans. More education was planned for local communities and it was intended to set up Flood Action Groups.

71. The Chairman invited comments/questions from the public and members of the CLC which included:

- A member of the public asked what powers West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) had to ask landowners to create ditches when flooding was caused by farm land being higher than the highway. This had happened recently in Donnington and caused the closure of the highway. *Mr Smith informed the meeting that WSSCC only had powers to maintain existing ditches but could work with landowners to find a solution however some were more co-operative than others. Work was underway to look at positive drainage that could be installed.* It was stated that when any road along the Manhood Peninsula flooded residents would be trapped. *Mr Smith responded that the general principle was to look at each case individually.*
- A resident of Chidham stated that the origin of the flooding problem had been identified in the village and that WSSCC had allocated £20,000 toward rectifying the problem, however a design engineer had not yet met with them. *The Chairman asked the officers present to take this forward outside of the meeting.*
- A resident of Westbourne highlighted the significant issue of the River Ems flooding and that the system for co-ordinating a solution seemed fragmented, stating that there was more agency interest in 1999 than there was now. *Mr Smith stated that the Environment Agency was still responsible for main rivers and that the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 had passed responsibility for co-ordination to the County Council. The legislation had only been in place for 2/3 years and was a learning exercise with all major bodies working together. It would take a few years to move towards a proactive regime and it was currently a period of transition.* The Chairman highlighted that he was sure officers would come to local parishes to discuss issues. *Mr Smith concluded that procedures which were not in place were being worked on and encouraged local groups to identify local issues.*
- Ms Goldsmith stated that many communities had found the recent cases of flooding really difficult and that it had also been difficult for County Council officers. There had been a great response from local communities to get teams together which was important for the future. Ms Goldsmith praised officers for the work that had been done and stated the County Council's commitment to get out to communities. The Chairman also thanked officers for their commitment over the Christmas period.
- It was asked, as a result of the increased amount of housing development and the issue of surface draining, if Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) were installed who would be responsible for their maintenance? *Mr Smith responded that SUDS appeared to be the way forward and that the County Council was working with other local authorities in the region. The probability would be that the County Council would have to take responsibility for them. A body was proposed to approve new drainage systems, to ensure they were adequate, although legislation to do this had been delayed.*

Proposals to introduce residents parking controls and review existing waiting restrictions

72. The Committee considered a report by the Director Communities Commissioning and the Divisional Manager, Transport and Countryside Services (copy appended to the signed minutes). Miles Davy, CPZ Lead Professional introduced the report highlighting that Appendix B contained the formal responses to the statutory consultation on the proposals. It was recognised that there was a higher number of objections than representations but this was not uncommon for consultations at this stage of the process. There was an appreciation that there would be a number of residents who would be unhappy with the proposals or want additional restrictions to be made. Mr Davy wished to reassure that 6 months after the introduction of the proposals there would be an opportunity to make minor amendments. Members were informed that due to the upcoming County Council elections any amendments made to the proposals now would create a substantial delay as they would need to be re-advertised.

73. The Chairman invited comments/questions from the public and members of the CLC which included:

- A resident from Cambrai Aveune, Chichester asked if the consultation was a 'done deal' stating that he and those he had spoken to believed there was not an issue of parking in the road and the proposals would not affect parking in the evening. *Mr Davy took the point about evening parking and stated that the consultation had been generated from residents maintaining there were too many non-resident cars parking in residential roads. Mr Davy undertook to send the resident details of the informal consultation in Cambrai Avenue which included the details of those residents with concerns. Mr Davy concluded that throughout the process nothing had been agreed in advance.*
- A resident from East Walls, Chichester asked that there be no residents parking in East Walls. *Mr Davy stated that every effort to limit the impact of parking for this resident had been made. There was a recommendation to review the impact of the changes in 6 months and he sympathised with her concerns.*
- Mr Jones asked for clarification of what Mr Davy classed as 'minor adjustments'. *Mr Davy stated that this would be to change the status of a parking bay or to move yellow lines.*
- Ms Goldsmith stated that some residents of Parklands believed the proposals were not going far enough and asked if details of the 6 months review would come to the CLC. *Mr Davy stated that the 6 month review would be carried out in the same manner as current practice with letter drops in affected roads and public exhibitions, any initial proposals would be presented to the CLC.*

74. Resolved – that the South Chichester County Local Committee considered the responses to the formal consultation and authorised the Head of Law and Governance to bring the Traffic Regulation Order (as advertised) into operation but with the following exceptions:

1. Caledonian Road – drop proposal to replace single yellow line with double yellow lines.
2. Orchard Avenue – drop proposal to introduce parking bay at north-western end.

3. Highland Road/The Broadway – drop proposals for Highland Road with a view to proposing further changes as part of a six month review. Retain proposals for The Broadway.

A286 Broyle Road/Lavant Road, Chichester – Proposed speed limit change

75. The Committee considered a report by the Director Service Operations and Head of Highways and Transport (copy appended to the signed minutes). Dan Sanders, Principal Community Officer introduced the report highlighting that following the consultation period one objection had been received to the proposed speed limit change. Mrs Whitehead stated that as she used this stretch of road frequently she believed it was a good idea and should be done. The Chairman stated, as local member, he supported the scheme and that soon the roads which led off this road would be 20mph limits so the proposal made sense.

76. Resolved – that the South Chichester County Local Committee having considered that the resulting benefits to the community outweigh the objections raised, authorised the Head of Law and Governance to make the order as advertised.

Fishbourne Road East, Network Rail proposed foot and cycle bridge

77. The Committee considered a report by the Director Service Operations and Head of Highways and Transport (copy appended to the signed minutes). Peter Bradley, Service Manager Engineering Solutions introduced the report stating that the decision was in association with a Network Rail project to replace the existing foot/cycle crossing with a foot/cycle bridge which had been granted planning permission by Chichester District Council. Section 116 of the Highway Act required the County Council to apply to the magistrates court to close, or remove, existing highway rights. Once the application was made there would be further consultation and the court would decide if the exiting route should be closed. Mr Bradley requested that the recommendation have additional wording added to the 2nd line to read 'stop up or divert' as either could be used in the process and therefore needed to be clear in the decision. Mr Bradley highlighted that the planning decision had not be an easy one and it was acknowledged that design of the structure fell short of what would be desirable but on balance would be safer and could be used by those with mobility scooters.

78. The Chairman invited Mr Bill Sharp to address the committee. Mr Sharp stated that he was seriously concerned with the proposed bridge and believed that how the bridge was working should be monitored before the current crossing was stopped up. Issues raised with the planning application were on the planning portal. There would be significant cost implications to the County Council to provide an alternative route for those who wished to use it. Mr Sharp didn't believe that Network Rail realised how far short of standards the proposed bridge was. At 2 metres wide it was too narrow and 2/3 in length of what it should be. He believed an audit should be carried out once the bridge was constructed before the stopping up was agreed.

79. The Chairman invited Julian Snell, Chairman of Fishbourne Parish Council to address the meeting. Mr Snell stated that there had been a campaign for a safer crossing as the current crossing was unsafe. Consultation had shown strong support for a bridge rather than a subway and the Chichester District Council

Planning Committee had voted unanimously for it. Mr Snell urged the committee to agree the closure proposal.

80. The Chairman invited David Geering from Network Rail to address the committee. Mr Geering stated that Network Rail had worked with partners to evolve a deliverable solution and had been delighted when the bridge had been granted planning permission. The aim was to deliver a safe crossing for all users which coincides with a national campaign. He believed it was not for the CLC to debate the planning detail of the bridge.

81. The local member, Ms Goldsmith commented that it had been in July 2001 when Chichester City Council first discussed so it had taken considerable time to get to this point and every option had been considered. As local member she had concerns about this dangerous crossing and had witnessed residents using mobility scooters waiting in the freezing cold for someone to help them across. Ms Goldsmith stated she supported the recommendation with the proposed additional wording. Mr Montyn added that it was clear that the CLC would not re-visit the planning application. The Chairman concluded that it would be for the magistrate to make the final decision.

82. Resolved - that the South Chichester County Local Committee;

- 1) Authorised the Head of Law and Governance to make an application to the Magistrates Court to Stop Up or divert the highway crossing the railway track at Fishbourne Road East at the location shown on the plan contained in Appendix A; and
- 2) Authorised the Head of Highways and Transport to promote and advertise a Traffic Regulation Order to prohibit driving on land to be used for construction of the footbridge and immediate vicinity, as indicated on the plan contained in Appendix A, and if there are no objections to bring the Order into operation.

Priorities for Traffic Regulation Orders

83. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Communities Commissioning and Head of Highways and Transport (copy appended to the signed minutes). Dan Sanders, Principal Community Officer introduced the report highlighting that the Committee was asked to identify the three highest priority schemes for South Chichester in 2013/14.

84. The Chairman invited comments/questions from members of the CLC which included:

- Mr Jones stated his surprise that waiting restrictions in The Close, Selsey was only ranked as 35 on the list. Since the District Council had begun charging for parking in the area there had been an increase in parking and there were concern about access for emergency vehicles. *Mr Sanders responded that as the TRO was on the priority list ways to take it forward would continue to be sought.*
- Ms Goldsmith stated that she was pleased that a proposed 40mph speed limit on the B2178 was at the top of the list.
- Mrs Whitehead stated her support for the second TRO on the list for a 30mph speed limit through Sidlesham.

- The Chairman highlighted that section 106 monies could be used to take schemes forward.

85. Resolved - the South Chichester County Local Committee approved the following priority order (top three) for implementing Traffic Regulation Orders within the CLC area:

1. B2178 Chichester/Funtington/Lavant 40 mph speed limit
2. Various roads Sidlesham 30 mph speed limit
3. School Lane, North Mundham Waiting Restrictions

talk with us (Open Forum)

86. The Chairman invited questions and comments from residents, responses included:

- A resident highlighted that Chichester District Council would be considering a planning application for a further 6,500 homes in the surrounding Chichester area and asked if there would be improvements to the A27 because of this. *Mr Montyn stated that there was a realistic chance of achieving improvements on the A27 and confirmed that a letter had been sent from the Leader of West Sussex County Council and Leader of Chichester District Council to the Secretary of State offering part funding of £20 million towards improvements to the A27 at Chichester which would be considered in the Government's next spending round.* Mr Jones added that this was a problem across the whole County and that there was duty on local authorities to consult with partners so that everybody was aware of the infrastructure required, to assist with the allocation of section 106 funding. Ms Goldsmith stated that there was a whole A27 policy to seek improvements at Chichester, Arundel and Worthing, however the Government was seeking a 'shovel ready scheme' so that is why the decision had been made to invest the money and respond to the government for an improvement scheme at Chichester.
- The Vice Chairman of Oving Parish Council read a prepared question/statement to the Committee regarding the proposed permanent closure of the Oving traffic lights (copy appended to the signed minutes). *Mr Montyn responded by saying that there was no County Council view yet as the planning application was still to be decided and that representations should be made to the Highways Agency.*
- A resident from Westbourne handed the Chairman a petition proposing a 20mph speed limit in the village. *The Chairman stated that this would be considered and responded to.*
- The Chairman stated that Westhampnett Parish Council had submitted a written question regarding the issue of anti-social driving known as 'drifting', he stated that this would be passed on to the relevant officer for a response.

Community Initiative Funding

87. The Committee considered a report by the Head of Law and Governance (copy appended to the signed minutes) which set out nineteen bids for Community Initiative Funding. The Committee debated the respective merits of the projects for which monies were sought.

88. Resolved that -

i) The following awards were made:

£1,000 to Chichester Ship Canal Trust, towards picnic table purchases (2008/SC)

£1,500 to Bosham Football Club, towards repairs to leaky roof (2010/SC)

£1,000 to the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, towards Sussex Day event (2012/SC)

£300 to Cloud Nine Musical Theatre Group, towards the purchase of speakers for drama workshops (2014/SC)

£1,000 to Chidham & Hambrook Village Hall Management Committee, towards Chidham & Hambrook Village Hall kitchen re-furbishment (2015/SC)

£1,000 to Selsey U3A, towards start up equipment for Selsey U3A (2016/SC)

£1,000 to Youth Dream, towards Selsey Community Radio (2017/SC)

£250 to Brent Lodge Bird & Wildlife Hospital, towards fox triage cages (2022/SC)

ii) The following applications were declined:

- Chichester Meditation and Mindfulness Group (CM&MG), Bringing Mindfulness Meditation to Chichester (2005/SC) as they considered this to be for business start up costs.
- Transition Chichester, towards Chichester Eco Cinema (2006/SC) as they considered this to be revenue funding.
- Rotary Club of Chichester, towards an arts and craft demonstration (2007/SC) as they considered this to be revenue funding.
- Wildwood Charcoal + Coppice Products, towards Charcoal making in the woods class for primary schools (2009/SC), they considered this to be a good scheme however due to limited funds suggested that educational funding be sought.
- Southbourne Parish Council, towards Southbourne Neighbourhood Plan (2011/SC) as the applicant was a precepting authority.
- Chichester Hospitals Broadcasting Association, aka Chichester Hospital Radio (CHR), towards listener headsets (2013/SC) as they had concerns that this was not eligible for Community Initiative Funding.
- Chichester and Wittering Phab Club, to assist with advertising services (2018/SC) as they considered this application to be more applicable for a Health and Wellbeing Grant.
- Oving Parish Community Watch, towards Oving Community Watch Expanded Coverage (2019/SC) as they considered the applicant to be a precepting authority.
- Voluntary Action Arun + Chichester, towards Hub Resource Bank creation (2021/SC) as they considered this application to be more applicable for a Health and Wellbeing Grant.
- Chichester Youth Adventure Trust, towards residential centre improvements (2023/SC) as they considered the benefits would be to residents outside of the County.

iii) The application from Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group, towards creation of Footprints: Book of new pub walks on Manhood Peninsula (2012/SC) was deferred as the Committee requested a more substantial financial breakdown.

iv) The Committee agreed to award the unallocated CIF funds remaining of £1,010 to the Trussells Trust Food Bank based at Chichester Family Church, in Orchard Street, Chichester.

Appointment of Authority School Governors

89. The Committee considered a report by the Head of Learning (copy appended to the signed minutes). The Chairman emphasised the importance of the school governor role and drew attention to the vacancies at schools listed in Appendix A, inviting anyone present with an interest in becoming a governor to contact him.

90. Resolved – that the South Chichester County Local Committee:

1. Appointed Mrs M Howick to Rumboldswyke CE Infant School for a 4 year term and Mr RA Cowell to Central CE Junior School for a 4 year term; and
2. Re-appointed Mrs SJ Bradstock-Smith to The March CEP School for a 4 year term; Mrs EM Whitehead to Kingsham Primary School for a 4 year term; and Mrs Quigley to Fordwater School for a 4 year term.

Date of Next Meeting

91. Ms Goldsmith acknowledged those members of the CLC who would not be standing at the May election and thanked them for their service to their respective communities with personal thanks to Mike Hall for chairing the CLC. Mr Hall stated that he had very much enjoyed being part of the community and the CLC.

92. The Chairman informed all that the next meeting would be held on 11 June 2013 in Committee Room 3 at County Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Chairman