

Unconfirmed minutes for comments/approval at the next meeting of the South  
Chichester CLC

## **South Chichester County Local Committee**

5 January 2016 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00pm in  
Committee Room 3, County Hall, Chichester.

Present: Margaret Evans (Chairman and Chichester South), Louise  
Goldsmith (Chichester West), Jeremy Hunt (Vice-Chairman and Chichester  
North), Sandra James (Bourne) Pieter Montyn (The Witterings), Simon  
Oakley (Chichester East), and Bernard Smith (Selsey).

Apologies: None.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

38. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Members  
to introduce themselves.

### **Declaration of Interests**

39. No interests were declared.

### **Minutes**

40. Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 September  
2015 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the  
Chairman.

### **Urgent Matters**

41. There were no urgent matters.

### **Talk With Us (Open Forum)**

42. The Chairman opened the forum by explaining that although the  
Committee understood the strength of feeling about any plans for the A27  
Chichester, it would be wrong for the Committee to take a position at this  
time, as there will be a proper period of consultation when Highways  
England will seek the views of the Council and Councillors and there is  
nothing to be gained by taking a position before all of the facts are known  
and all interested parties have had a chance to express their views and  
concerns.

43. The Chairman assured the meeting that at the appropriate time none  
of the Councillors on the Committee will shy away from taking a stand on  
this important issue.

44. The Chairman invited comments from those in attendance, which included:

- Concerns that Highways England had pre-consulted, sharing maps and plans for six options that included a Northern by-pass proposal, and that this information had not being made available to the general public;
- That a Northern by-pass would result in a 70mph dual carriage way skirting the edge of the National Park boundary, which would be unacceptable to the Community and harmful to the economy and ecology of the National Park and the Goodwood Estate;
- Both Highways England and the County Council had always maintained that the best way to resolve the traffic chaos on the A27 was to improve the existing junctions to separate local traffic and through traffic, and that this should remain the focus of any highways improvements;
- Only a minority of traffic using the A27 was through traffic, majority being local traffic and therefore a by-pass would not address the fundamental congestion problem on the A27;
- A by-pass would result in A27 being declassified, it would then become the responsibility of the County Council who do not have the funds to maintain it;
- A Northern by-pass had already been considered and rejected by the County Council and that residents and business owners had made financial decisions based on this long standing position;
- If Highways England spend all or the majority of their funds on a by-pass there would be nothing left to improve A27 itself;
- That the consultation was being rushed and that a 6 week timeframe was insufficient;
- An interchange at the Tesco's roundabout and another at the Bognor roundabout would reduce congestion at these choke points; and
- Not everyone was against a Northern by-pass as it would reduce traffic volumes on the A27 by about half.

45. Members considered the points raised and made a number of observations, including:

- Sandra James (Bourne) assured the audience that any proposals put forward by Highways England would be fully scrutinised when all the facts are known; Jeremy Hunt (Vice-Chairman and North Chichester) confirmed that he was known to oppose a Northern by-pass, adding that he felt that the effects on Goodwood events would be detrimental to the West Sussex economy. In addition he believed that Highways England and their Consultants (Mott MacDonald) could have handled this process much more professionally;
- In responding to a comment from the audience that he had been an active campaigner for a Northern by-pass, Mr Pieter Montyn (The Witterings) explained that was ten years ago when he had not been

elected to anything and was free to do what he felt he wanted to do. Since being elected to District and then County Councils in 2005, the situation has been very different and the moment he was elected he never campaigned or spoke out again on the matter; and

- Louise Goldsmith (Chichester West) confirmed that it is expected that the public consultation on the A27 improvement scheme will take place in March 2016 and strongly encouraged those in the audience to make their views known as part of this process, adding that she understood resident's concern about length of the consultation process and the perception that maps have been shared in advance of a formal consultation process: and Members agreed that the County Council should seek to have the consultation period extended.

46 Other questions raised in the talk with us forum included:

- A resident requested that the status of the highway between West Thorney and Emsworth be confirmed. The Chairman asked Officers look into the matter; and
- A written question had been submitted asking what the County Council can do on the A27 and on its own roads, to ensure safe cycling and protected walking routes are not overlooked. The Chairman asked that Officers respond directly on this matter

47. Resolved – that Louise Goldsmith write (as Leader of the County Council) to Highways England urging that it extend the planned consultation on the A27 Chichester Improvement Scheme to 12 weeks in line with the Government's consultation principles for complex or contentious proposals.

### **Progress Statement**

48. The Committee considered a report that provided updates on matters arising from previous meetings of the Committee (copy appended to the signed minutes).

49. It was confirmed that Graham Olway (Capital Planning and Projects) had met with Selsey Parish Council.

50. Resolved – that the Progress Statement be noted.

### **Community Initiative Funding**

51. The Committee considered a report by the Head of Law, Assurance and Strategy (copy appended to the signed minutes) which detailed applications for Community Initiative Funding.

52. Resolved that the following awards be made -

- 814/SC - Collected Works CIC, £350 to run two volunteer “read aloud” workshops at Chichester Library;
- 822/SC - Bosham Youth Centre Trust, £750 towards the cost of replacement seating at the Centre;
- 823/SC - The Friends of Old Bridge Meadow, £1500 towards the costs of a permanent Christmas tree in the meadow. This award was made subject to a “permission to plant” planning application being authorised;
- 836/SC - Chichester Ship Canal Trust, £2500 towards the costs of purchasing weed cutting equipment;
- 842/SC – Voluntary Action Arun and Chichester, £584 to commission a volunteering video; and
- 848/SC – City Angels, £1032 to purchase uniforms.

### **Nominations for Local Authority Governors to Maintained Schools and Academy Governing Bodies**

53. The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director Care, Wellbeing and Education (copy appended to the signed minutes).

54. Resolved – that the South Chichester County Local Committee agreed the following:

- Nomination for appointment of Dr Susan Monks to Birdham C of E School for a four year term; and
- Nomination for appointment of Mr N Bloodworth to Southbourne Junior School for a four year term.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

55. The Chairman reported that the next meeting would be held on 22 March 2016 in Committee Room 3 at County Hall, Chichester.

The meeting closed at 8.06pm

**Chairman**