

South Chichester County Local Committee

31st March 2009 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7 pm at Bourne International Community Centre, Southbourne.

Members present:

Mr Hall [Chairman], Mr Chaplin, Mr Daws-Chew, Mr Dunn, Ms Goldsmith, Mr Jones, Mr Smith.

In attendance:

Chris Barrett & Steve Johnson (Highways & Transport), Peter Simpson (Sustainable Development), Rick West & Shelagh Clark (Democratic Services).

Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence

238. The Chairman welcomed Acting Chief Inspector Kevin Jenkins from Sussex Police, David Sword from West Sussex County Council, parish and district councillors and members of the public.

Declarations of Interest

239. Item 8 – RDPE Leader funding:

- M Hall –RDPE Leader programme Local Action Group
- L Goldsmith –Chichester Harbour Conservancy
- M Daws-Chew Chichester Harbour Conservancy

Item 9 – Civil Parking Enforcement

- M Hall – Member of Parking Forum

Minutes

240. Reference Min 176 from the meeting on 28th January 2009, Sussex Police had requested an amendment for accuracy. This was noted.

Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting held on 28th January be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Resolved – that the minutes of the special meeting held on 11th February 2009 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising from Minutes of the 28th January meeting

241. Minute 180 – Pelican Crossing, Salthill Road, Fishbourne.

The Committee was informed that Network Rail had asked that the implementation of the crossing, which had been agreed at the County Local Committee (CLC) meeting on 28th January, be halted. This was due to Network Rail requiring a yellow box marking to be installed on the railway crossing north of the proposed crossing to ensure that traffic waiting at the pelican crossing did not tail back across the rail crossing. Network Rail normally only required this form of road marking when pedestrian crossings were installed within 50m of a rail crossing. The proposed crossing in Salthill Road was 90m distant from the rail crossing. Network Rail had a statutory 12 week consultation period and subject to no objection to the proposal it was hoped to start the pelican crossing towards the end of June 2009.

242. Minute 188 – Impact of traffic in Orchard Street, Chichester.

Steve Johnson recapped that at the last meeting there had been a discussion about providing a new surface; the issue had been that the surface was not at a stage to be included in the works programme because it had remaining life left in it. The County Council had looked at the issue and there was no identified funding at the moment. The Executive Director for Customers and Communities had given an assurance that it would be resurfaced next year and carried out on the basis that it would be a trial site, in order to evaluate the before and after environmental effect concerning noise and dirt.

243. The local member expressed their delight at the outcome. Comments from other members of the committee included the reminder that further research had been requested at the previous meeting and that a request had been made to look at priorities. One member sought assurance that this trial would not come out of the 2010/2011 highways budget and that roads in their ward were also in poor condition. Further discussion by the Committee included the concern that making Orchard Street quieter might make the traffic go more quickly, also how could the County Council stop agricultural and heavy traffic going through Chichester and the query of whether there were any inaccuracies in the article in the Chichester Observer that had announced the trial. Steve Johnson clarified that the surface planned for Orchard Street was different to that used on the A27.

244. Minute 211 – Bosham and train frequency.

The Chairman informed that in response to a request he had made representations to the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Transport. He then invited Mr Tupper, of the West Sussex Rail Users Association, to speak. Mr Tupper recapped that Bosham had been a stop on the Southampton to London Victoria service. From December 2008 Bosham was now a stop on the off peak Littlehampton to Portsmouth service with connections in both directions to services to London. Mr Tupper informed that Bosham had half the number of passengers than used Southbourne and concluded that it had the service that it needed.

245. Minute 212 – Tangmere pavement surfaces. Steve Johnson recapped that a resident had notified of subsidence in the footway. He informed that the problem had been identified and was in the programme as a low priority job to be rectified as priorities permitted.

246. Minute 214 – Pavements in Summersdale. Steve Johnson informed that footways had grown over through lack of use; some edge siding had started and work had been undertaken to clear moss growing on path surfaces.

Progress statement from the CLC meeting on 11th February 2009 on the Graylingwell development application.

247. The Chairman advised that the CLC had concluded that it had not been demonstrated that the mitigation measures were strong enough and the Committee would have liked to have seen them strengthened. He informed that West Sussex County Council's detailed response had gone to Chichester District Council (CDC) on 18th February. On March 4th, Chichester District Council approved the application.

Urgent Matters

248. None

Community Police Issues

249. ACI Jenkins responded to questions that the Committee had provided ahead of the meeting. These concerned Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs), whether Sussex Police would be decreasing its police numbers and whether it was experiencing any increase at the moment in rural crime, as a result of the recession. He informed that the SIDs were available on a two week loan basis.

250. The Committee were informed that, regarding SIDs, there were 12 schemes across Chichester and these had been extremely well received. Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Jason Lemm was leading on them and they were also a casualty reduction tool. ACI Jenkins requested the support of the parish and district councils to suggest sites.

251. The Committee were informed that Sussex Police would be increasing the police by 15-18 police officers, neighbourhood constables working along side PCSOs. Regarding rural crime, he informed that there was not an increase at the moment but they did get crime 'hot spots'. He spoke about the ways that the public could take more personal responsibility, informed that crime in the Chichester district was down by 6.8% (460 less victims) and requested that county, district and parish level and also the media continued to spread the message.

252. In response to questions from the public, ACI Jenkins informed that there were currently three SIDs in use (north, city and south), plans for more and that parishes could purchase them for £2,500.

253. A member of the public asked Sussex Police to look into the issue of parking at the top of Park Road and Clovelly Road. ACI Jenkins noted this request and asked County Council Highways to also look into it.

254. The Chairman thanked ACI Jenkins and requested that questions for him at future meetings should be forwarded via Rick West or Shelagh Clark.

"talk with us" (Public Question Time)

255. The Committee received a representation from Parish and District Councillor Mr John Ridd and also Mrs Ellie O'Flanagan, Chairman of Donnington Parish Council. This concerned traffic issues in Stockbridge, namely the marked increase in commuter on-road parking and also the impact of 'rat-running' through certain roads in Donnington. The Parish Council had sent details to the Committee ahead of the meeting, through a letter to Mr Chaplin.

256. Steve Johnson, from Highways & Transport, responded and spoke of the limited remedies while the A27 remained in its present form. He informed that the County Council could look at the issue of cars parked at junctions and across driveways. He explained that the problem could be addressed through a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) but that would give the Committee the issue of needing to review its agreed priorities for traffic regulation orders if the problems reported at Donnington needed to be addressed through changes in the existing traffic management arrangements. Regarding 'rat running' he spoke about the advantages and disadvantages of making one way routes and of other traffic calming measures.

257. Members of the Committee made the following suggestions:

- That a residents' zone was a possibility for Donnington Parish Council to consider. This could be a pilot and then rolled out through the rest of the county.

- To obtain feedback from the community as a whole regarding the issues, possible solutions and their views. This could give a lead as to which measures would be acceptable to that community.
- Proposal that any future 'park and ride' scheme be located nearby.
- Cluster of buses morning and afternoon to and from the Witterings & Selsey to encourage commuters to use these instead of cars.

258. The Chairman requested that two to three schemes be prepared for consultation with the parish council and residents. This would be an interim solution until 'park & ride' was established.

259. A request from Mr Snell, Chairman of Fishbourne Parish Council, was agreed, that a letter of congratulations be sent to write to Karen Wallace, Area Librarian Western Area. This concerned the recent work completed at Chichester Library.

260. A member of the public sought more details on the boundaries for the South Downs National Park, announced that day and was referred to the Natural England web site.

261. A member of West Wittering Parish Council asked about the status now of the potential traffic order for double yellow lines at Old House at Home, West Wittering. Steve Johnson advised that he would bring a copy of the priority list to the next meeting.

RDPE Leader funding

262. Peter Simpson, from Rural Operations within the County Council's Sustainable Development Unit, gave a presentation on the RDPE Leader funding programme – copy attached to the confirmed minutes.

263. In response to a number of questions, Peter Simpson provided the following information - how the funding was divided up yearly and how strong applications were dealt with within this system; that it was matched funded; that the programme looked at three years of accounts but required information from the bank if the small business was just starting up; that 2008 funding has been rolled over into 2009.

264. The Chairman thanked Peter Simpson for his presentation.

Civil Parking Enforcement

265. Chris Barrett, the County Council's Parking Contracts Manager, gave a presentation on the introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) across the South Chichester CLC area – presentation attached to confirmed minutes.

266. Prior to starting the presentation he suggested that the Chichester CPZ Review (final slide of presentation) could pick up the issues with parking raised above – see Minutes 255-258 above.

267. In addition to the information given in the presentation, Chris also stressed that CPE in its simplest form was taking on-street parking enforcement out of the criminal environment and into the civil, moving the enforcement from Sussex Police Traffic Wardens to an enforcement regime managed by the local authority. The delivery date had been agreed in principle for Monday 25th January 2010 and the Chichester Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) review was programmed to take place in April 2010. The introduction of CPE was still subject to a Cabinet Member decision and also an Agency Agreement with CDC.

268. He informed that the scheme would be extended beyond Chichester CPZ to include Selsey, Wittering, Bracklesham, Westbourne, Southbourne, Donnington, Lavant, Bosham and Sidlesham as well as Midhurst, Petworth and the rest of Chichester District area which currently had no enforcement and it would extend right out to the district boundary. It would be intelligence lead enforcement and the telephone hotline (01243 534626) would run from January 2010.

269. In response to questions received, Chris Barrett provided the following information – present off street arrangements (Park + Ride would be linked to this) would remain unchanged and on street charging would remain managed by West Sussex County Council; the scheme would be self financing; there would be two set charge levels, at £70 and £50, with a 50% discount if paid within 14 days; appeals would be clearer and enforcement officers would be employed by CDC; CDC was reconsidering 'Park & Ride'; there was currently enough capacity for off street parking; the scheme would be funded by its income and was not government funded, there would be no call on the community for funding.

270. Concerns expressed by the Committee included both the point that the scheme implied a restriction in the number of parking spaces and also the point that takings could be affected in the Witterings if people thought that they might receive a Penalty Charge Notice.

271. The Chairman thanked Chris Barrett and asked that any further questions for him be directed via Shelagh Clark.

Local Authority School Governors – Appointments & Re-Appointments

272. The following nominations for new local authority school governors and for re-appointments had been received.

273. Resolved –

That the following be appointed as new local authority school governors, each for a four year term:

Mrs Elizabeth Whitehead at Kingsham Primary School, Chichester.
Mrs Innes Mary Quigley at Fordwater School, Chichester.

That the following be re-appointed as local authority school governors, each for a four year term:

Mrs Susan J Bradstock-Smith at The March CE Primary School, Westhampnett
Mrs J Evans at Manhood Community College, Selsey
Mrs G Baum at Manhood Community College
Major C J Hallam at Thorney Island Primary School
Mr S Quigley at Chichester High School for Girls.

274. The Chairman thanked the above for being school governors.

Ofsted Reports

275. The Chairman reported that West Dean CE Primary School had received a Grade 1, for an outstanding school and that Chidham Parochial Primary School had received a Grade 2, for a good school. The schools were congratulated and thanked.

Dates of future meetings

276. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Tuesday 7th July at 7 pm, at East Wittering Community Primary School. This was noted as a change to the date advertised.

Further meeting dates in 2009/10 were proposed as follows

15th September 2009

24th November 2009

The meeting closed at 09.10 pm

CHAIRMAN