

South Mid Sussex County Local Committee

30 September 2015 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7pm, Adastra Hall, Keymer, Hassocks.

Present: Mr Barrett-Miles (Burgess Hill Town), Mrs Jones (Burgess Hill East), Mr Griffiths (Chairman), (Hurstpierpoint and Bolney) and Mr Petch (Hassocks and Victoria).

In attendance: Paul Matthews (Democratic Services Officer), Richard Speller (Highways Area Manager), Gulu Sibanda (Principal Community Officer).

Welcome

28. The Committee observed one minute's standing silence to pay tribute to the families affected by the tragedy at the Shoreham Air Show.

29. The Chairman thanked the emergency services for their professionalism and dedication at this difficult time explaining that a Shoreham Air Crash helpline (tel: 0203 417 0300) had been set up to provide emotional support and practical advice.

Declarations of Interest

30. There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

31. Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 2 June 2015 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

32. The Chairman raised the prospect of providing a cycle path link from Haywards Heath to Burgess Hill connecting Bedelands and Ashenground nature reserves. Explaining that a family friendly cycle/pathway between the two reserves was only broken at Rocky Lane at which point there is a short 200m stretch with no pavement or grass verges.

32. Resolved – that the Committee be provided with a report that examined the options for providing a cycle path linking Bedelands and Ashenground nature reserves.

Progress Statement

32. Richard Speller (Highways Area Manager) introduced a statement of progress following the June 2015 Committee meeting (copy appended to the signed minutes), referring the Committee to the letter from the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills responding to the Committee's enquiries about Hassocks Infant School.

33. The Committee noted the progress statement.

Community Initiative Funding

34. The Chairman explained that as there were no new Community Initiative Fund (CIF) applications for the Committee to consider, a number of CIF award holders had been asked to provide feedback on how they had used their grants to benefit local communities. The following updates were provided: -

- Tony Steer from Bolney Volunteers reported that the most recent grant had been used to purchase both tools and a trailer to transport them in, and as a result the village's 83 volunteers were able to carry out a variety of maintenance jobs throughout the village and surrounding areas, including hedge and verge trimming/cutting and winter maintenance. Mr Steer also reported that the village was working with the Community Payback Team and the young offenders being provided were repaying their debt to society by undertaking unpaid work to maintain the village church and local school;
- Annie Hurst was pleased to report that a Community noticeboard had been erected in Twineham and was being actively used by the community;
- Lucy Dalrymple from the Newtimber Community Support Group reported that the installation of disabled toilets at the Newtimber Church had allowed the building to be more fully utilised by a number of local community groups;
- Elizabeth Willett explained that the Mid-Sussex Older People's Council had received a grant towards the costs of a conference on the New Care Act. Approximately 100 people had attended and feedback provided, along with the quality of the questions being asked, confirmed that the event had benefited the community.
- Little Stompers were very grateful for the grant that had allowed them to set up the Sing & Stomp sessions that were now well established.

35. The Chairman thanked everyone for their useful feedback. The Committee concluded that it was helpful to have these insights on how the relatively small sums being awarded were making big differences to communities and asked officers arrange a similar feedback event in the new year.

Extension of Cyprus Road Car Park, Burgess Hill.

37. The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Residents Services and Director of Highways and Transport that seeks to grant Mid Sussex District Council permission to amend an off street parking Order governing the number of car park spaces in the Crescent Way Car Park in Burgess Hill.

38. The Chairman explained that Mid Sussex District Council proposed to allow the area behind Cyprus Road to be used for long-stay car parking, creating approximately 100 extra parking spaces and that the District Council was not able to introduce this restriction without permission from the County Council.

39. When discussing the Order the Committee considered a number of points, including:

- That there was a significant local need for the additional parking;
- That the open air market in the car park had not taken place for some time;

- That the parking charges for the new spaces would be commensurate with the existing fees being charged; and
- That the Mid Sussex District Council would have to undertake a statutory consultation before implementation of the changes.

40. Resolved:

That South Mid Sussex County Local Committee grant Mid Sussex District Council permission to amend their off street parking Order to include the area of land shown in Appendix A of the attached report, subject to Mid Sussex District Council fulfilling its own statutory requirements for making the proposed Order.

Talk With Us Community Forum

41. The Chairman invited questions and comments from members of the public:

- Residents expressed concern about a number of Highways issues including:
 - Concerns about the poor state of pavements in Layland Road Junction Road and St Andrews Road. *Richard Speller (Highways Areas Manager) undertook to meet with the residents and to inspect the pavements to see if intervention was required;*
 - That overgrown hedges along the land adjoining Junction Road were impeding pedestrians. *Richard Speller (Highways Area Manager) explained that responsibility for trimming the hedge rested with the landowner and if necessary the Highways Department would write explaining this; and*
 - That commuter parking (from Wivelsfield Railway Station) was causing congestion in Gladstone Road and because of a "blind corner" at the junction with Gordan Road this had become hazardous for local residents. *Richard Speller (Highways Area Manager) undertook to visit the location.*
- During a general discussion about Hassocks Infant School the following points were made by members of the audience:
 - 17 children had been unsuccessful in securing a place at the School and as a result, some families were incurring travel costs of between £17 and £25 to get the children to School in Burgess Hill;
 - That residents continued to be concerned about what was being done to resolve the long term capacity issue; and
 - That the information being provided to residents was often out of date, and specifically that correspondence from the Hassocks Parish Neighbourhood Plan Working Group had not been responded to. *Paul Matthews (Democratic Services) undertook to look into this.*

Authority School Governors

44. The Chairman explained that as of 1 September 2015 the procedures concerning governor appointment had changed and County Local Committees may now only nominate an eligible person as a local authority governor but it was for the governing body to decide if this nominee had the skills necessary to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

45. The Committee considered a report by the Strategic Commissioner for Learning that set out proposed nominations to school governing bodies and the criteria for their appointment (copy appended to the signed minutes).

46. Resolved – Under the 2012 Regulations to:

- i. nominate for re-appointment, Mrs E Stedman for a four year term to Albourne CEP School;
- ii. nominate re-appointment, Mr A J Fellows for a four year term to Birchwood Grove CP School; and
- iii. nominate for appointment, Mr N Stevens to Hassocks Infant School for a four year term

47. The Chairman drew the meeting's attention to the governor vacancy at Hassocks Infant School as detailed in Annex B of the report.

Date of Next Meeting

48. The Chairman reported that the next meeting of the Committee would be held at 7pm on Tuesday 1 December 2015 at Downlands Community School, Dale Avenue, Hassocks.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Chairman