

South Mid Sussex County Local Committee

12 July 2012 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7pm at London Meed Community Primary School, Chanctonbury Road, Burgess Hill.

Present: Mr P Griffiths, Mrs H Ross (Chairman), Dr. C Wilsdon.

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S Knight.

Chairman's Welcome

16. The Chairman introduced the Committee and Officers and welcomed all to the meeting.

Election of Chairman

17. Following the decision that County Local Committee's (CLCs) would elect their own Chairman annually the Committee agreed to appoint Mrs Knight as Chairman of the South Mid Sussex CLC for the 2012-13 municipal year.

18. As Mrs Knight was unable to attend the meeting the Committee agreed that Mrs Ross should be appointed Chairman for this meeting.

Declarations of Interest

19. There were no declarations of interest at this point but see minute...

Minutes

20. Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 24 May 2012 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Progress Statement

21. The Committee noted the report that provided updates on issues raised at previous meetings and thanked officers for their hard work on the Keymer Road bridge and requested that a press release be issued in conjunction with partners to give an update.

Talk with Us Open Forum

22. A resident of Victoria Avenue, Burgess Hill, had submitted a petition calling for weight restrictions on the road to prevent Heavy Goods Vehicles from using the road. The resident was requesting that signs and cameras be included to aid enforcement. The Committee agreed that the request for a weight restriction would be added to their Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) list, which would be considered later in the year. The Committee highlighted that officers would design a scheme most appropriate to the road and this was unlikely to include cameras.

23. A resident of The Kiln requested short lengths of double yellow lines at the junctions onto Cants Lane as cars parked right up the junction make visibility very poor. A District Councillor suggested that a meeting be set up to look at solutions.

24. Residents of Chanctonbury Road expressed concern that contractors working on the Woodlands Mead School site were parking on the verges, blocking the road and dropping litter outside of their houses. The Chairman informed the meeting that this problem should be resolved at the end of the next week as the contractors were leaving the site. Mrs Knight was working closely with the school and officers to develop a travel plan.

25. A Chanctonbury Road resident handed the Chairman an invitation to the meeting that had been distributed by Councillor Anne Jones (Mid Sussex District Council) inviting residents to attend the meeting.

26. A District Councillor reminded the meeting that the Chairman of Bolney Parish Council had made a case for a 30 mile per hour speed limit on Cowfold Road in September 2011. The Committee agreed to add this to their TRO list at that meeting but there had been an unforeseen delay meaning that some TROs had been delayed. The Committee reassured the Councillor that this TRO would be included in their priority list when it next came to the Committee for approval.

27. A Twineham resident voiced concerns, echoed by the Parish Council, about the Rampion Offshore Wind Farm and the cable connecting to the Bolney Substation. Another station would need to be built and this would involve lots of Heavy Good's Vehicles (HGVs), approximately 250 workmen and temporary accommodation. The Roads were not suitable and she asked WSCC to bear their concerns in mind when the planning application was submitted. Mike Elkington, Strategic Planning Manager, informed the meeting that WSCC would be a consultee and would make a decision in the autumn to make formal representations to the consultation. Residents could write to the Cabinet Member and Planning Inspectorate.

28. Another Chanctonbury Road resident explained that even when the contractors had left the problems in the road would not be solved as commuters used the road to park for free. The glass screeds were dangerous as they created a car park effect and they were concerned that children could run out between parked cars. The yellow lines that had been agreed would just displace commuters further up the road. The Chairman informed the meeting that Gulu Sibanda, Principal Community Officer, was arranging a meeting with residents, officers and the school to look for solutions to the problems in the road.

Proposed Signalled Controlled Pedestrian Crossing

29. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Communities and Infrastructure (copy appended to signed minutes). The report sought the Committee's approval to proceed with the installation of the crossing having considered the objections raised.

30. Resolved - that the South Mid Sussex County Local Committee, having considered the benefits of the proposed crossing in light of the objections raised, gave approval to the installation of the Signal Controlled crossing on London Road, Hassocks, as advertised.

West Sussex Waste Plan

31. The Chairman introduced the Strategic Planning Manager, Mike Elkington, to outline the report by the Director of Communities and Infrastructure (copy appended to signed minutes). Mike Elkington informed the meeting that West

Sussex County Council (WSCC) was the waste planning authority for the County except for the area covered by the National Park which was the responsibility of the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). WSCC had to plan to deal with municipal, commercial and industrial, and construction and demolition waste. The waste plan was designed to cover the next 20 years with certain assumptions being made about development and waste arising. The plan had to be able to change if necessary. WSCC and the SDNPA want West Sussex to be a zero waste to landfill county; 40% of the County's waste currently goes to landfill. There was a need to plan for a number of sites for recycling, treatment of inert waste and biodegradable waste etc. The site at Hickstead had been dropped from the shortlist, as the landowner would not consider waste use and all sites had to be deliverable. Goddards Green had been left on the list and the size and capacity of the site had been reviewed. Goddards Green could accommodate one larger or several smaller facilities including industrial use. The plan would be submitted in the autumn and a six week formal consultation would follow. The plan would then be submitted to an independent inspector. The following key issues were raised during the debate:

- The Committee stressed that they were there to listen to residents' comments and concerns and would put their views forward to the Cabinet Member ahead of his decision.
- Hurstpierpoint Parish Council had responded in detail to the consultation but asked that the plan be developed in line with their own neighbourhood plan as this contained development principles. They felt that this should be a 'bottom up' process. Mike Elkington replied that his team were trying to meet with all the parishes affected by the proposed sites and work closely with them.
- A District Councillor pointed out that whilst the site was not in the town of Burgess Hill it would have an impact on the town and it could potentially be taking waste from a large area. Residents did not feel it was acceptable for this site to go forward. He also expressed concern about the impact of increased lorry movements on the town. He expressed concern that the Northern Arc site (part of the Burgess Hill Town Plan) abutted the site at Goddards Green and it was not currently clear whether this part of the site would be used for employment, waste or housing.
- There was much concern about odours produced by any potential waste facility as Southern Water were struggling to control the odour, despite promises that this would not be an issue, from their facility close to the site and residents were concerned that the same could happen at any waste facility. Mike Elkington stressed that if the effect of any noise, odour or HGV movements needed to be mitigated then these would be dealt with at the planning application stage. Until a planning application was submitted there was no way of knowing what, if anything, would be built on the site.
- Residents expressed concern about potential flooding at the site as there had been no flood risk assessment carried out by the Environment Agency. They said that the fields around the Southern Water site regularly flooded, as had the potential site. Mike Elkington said that the issue of flood risk would be looked into further and stressed that a flood risk assessment would be carried out should a planning application be submitted.

32. Mr Griffiths arrived at this point.

33. The debate continued with the following issues being highlighted:

- Residents sought reassurance that Goddards Green site was not large enough to accommodate an incinerator, as there were concerns about the visual impact on Burgess Hill as this area was considered a gateway to the town. The residents understood that officers were only able to say what type

of facility was unable to be located on the site due to size constraints and were not able to say what would be placed there as it was all down to whether a planning application was submitted.

- A resident expressed concerns that although energy from waste was not smelly it omitted nitrous oxides, which could have a detrimental effect on the South Downs. Again it was reiterated that any environmental impact assessments/mitigation would be carried out should a planning application be received.
- Some residents that had responded to the first consultation last year were disappointed that they had not received any notification/communication from WSCC about this consultation taking place. Mike Elkington apologised that they had not received any communication. All previous respondees details were stored on a database and they should all have received notification. Following these comments the Committee asked that an advert be placed in the local press reminding people that the consultation was taking place.
- The Committee reassured residents that should the site go forward for waste and a planning application was received the local member could lobby the planning committee and would be doing so on the basis of something tangible. The key thing for the committee to consider at this point was the development principles for the site.

34. The Committee agreed to recommend to the Deputy Leader and portfolio for Communities, Environment and Economy that:

- i) The Goddards Green site be allocated in the draft West Sussex Waste Local plan.
- ii) That the development principles be amended to include flood risk, the impact on the National Park to be considered, and to strengthen the point that HGVs must be routed via the lorry network and not through Burgess Hill.
- iii) The Deputy Leader pays close attention to the comments raised by the public and the Committee.

Adults' Services Prevention and Wellbeing Grants

35. The Chairman introduced a report by the Executive Director Public Health, Wellbeing and Safeguarding (copy appended to the signed minutes).

36. Resolved: -

- (i) That the following applications be approved:
 - SG1 – 4SIGHT - £216.66
 - TB10 – Age UK (Cherry Tree Activity Centre) - £3,000
 - TB12 - Alzheimer's Society - £750
 - TB11 – Bluebird Community Transport - £1,250
 - TB11 – Circles Network - £1,666.66
 - SG4 – Cruse West Sussex - £60
 - SG5 – Lifecentre - £66.66
 - TB08 – Neighbourly Care - £1,500
 - SG9 – RISE - £56.66
 - SG7 – SASBAH - £233.33
 - TB23 - Sussex Oakleaf - £1,662.97
- (ii) The following applications were declined:

SG10 – Disability Awareness UK, as it was an incomplete application and is outside of the funding criteria.

TB09 – St Andrew's Trust, as it is a very expensive service for transport and lunch for up to 12 people. The Committee suggested that they work in partnership with Age UK who run a bus service and are supported by WSCC.

37. Applications TB01, Creative Dementia Support and BM15, Crawley and East Grinstead Parkinsons were withdrawn.

Infrastructure Plan Update

38. The Committee noted a report (copy appended to signed minutes) by the Director of Communities and Infrastructure and Community and Economic Development Manager that provided a progress update in relation to the local highways and transport priorities identified within the Local Infrastructure Plan for the South Mid Sussex County Local Committee.

Community Initiative Funding

39. The Chairman introduced the report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (copy appended to the signed minutes).

40. Resolved

i) That the following CIF application be approved:

1900/SMS Newtimber Parish Meeting, £1,600, towards a bus shelter and hardstanding area.

ii) That the following CIF application be declined owing to concerns regarding the nature and sustainability of the project:

1832/SMS Wellbeing for Women, £3,000, towards itemised equipment and other costs for this start-up organisation.

Authority School Governors

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

42. The Committee expressed their gratitude to all the School Governors for volunteering and the tremendous job they do.

43. Resolved - That the following Authority School Governor re-appointment be approved:

i) Dr CE Wilsdon to Downlands Community School for a further 4 year term

Date of Next Meeting

44. It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Tuesday 2 October 2012 at a venue to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Chairman