

South Mid Sussex County Local Committee

27 September 2011 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7pm at Albourne Village Hall, The Street, Albourne, Hassocks.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S Knight.

Chairman's Welcome

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

Declarations of Interest

52. There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

53. Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14 July 2011 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Progress Statement

54. The Chairman informed the meeting that the Waste Plan was currently on hold and a post meeting note would be included in the minutes when more information was received. The Committee also requested that a press release be issued when this information was received.

55. The Committee were currently in the process of finalising their Infrastructure Plan and had confirmed that the St Wilfrid's Bridge was their number one priority over and above any other schemes but this would not effect the Hurstpierpoint High Street scheme which had already been confirmed as a priority by the Committee.

56. The Committee agreed that they would like to consult with local interested groups on the Infrastructure Plan so that they could hear their views and priorities.

West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service – Proposed Merger

57. Adrian Murphy, Area Manager Prevention, Protection and Performance, gave a presentation (copy appended to signed minutes) on the proposed West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (WSFRS) merger with East Sussex Fire Authority. The following key points/issues raised are noted below:

- The merger would allow increased operational performance and give the service more flexibility.
- There would be more specialist equipment available that would be able to get to incidents quicker e.g. in the event of a terrorist attack or flooding.
- Would avoid the duplication of teams e.g. one control room needing fewer staff but a better facility.
- West Sussex would be proportionally represented on the new Authority Board based on population.

- The consultation started on 14th July 2011 and closes on 6th October 2011 and many events were taking place during that period.
- West Sussex County Council would make the final decision on 16th December 2011 and East Sussex Fire Authority would take a decision on the same day.
- The new Fire Authority would commence on 1st April 2013 but a shadow authority would be in place following a Combination order (due in September 2012).
- There would be approximately £3.8m of savings from the merger coming from 'back office' staff and senior managers.
- The Authority would cost approximately £2m to set-up and much of this was expected to come from Central Government grants.
- A decision had already been made for the control rooms to merge regardless of the outcome of the proposed merger but a location had not been settled on. This had made savings but was not nearly enough to cover the savings needed if the merger did not go ahead.
- If the merger did not take place £2.5m of savings would have to be found from WSFRS alone. Last years Fire Re-design had saved £1.5m and the changes implemented were working well. It was likely that frontline services would be affected if the merger did not take place.
- There would likely be redundancies involved if the merger took place but were likely to be from 'back office' rather than 'front line' staff.

58. The Committee thanked Adrian Murphy for his presentation and thanked Pete Bradbury (Cabinet Member for Public Protection) for his attendance to answer questions.

Talk with Us Open Forum

59. The Core Action Group for the Goddards Green and Hickstead proposed Waste Sites informed the meeting that they would meet with the West Sussex team to discuss possible alternatives.

60. Hassocks Parish Council questioned what stage WSCC was at with the Community Infrastructure Levy and asked whether there could be a future agenda item on the subject. Mr Griffiths agreed and asked that an update be given about the proposals for Business Rate Tax.

Royal George Road, Burgess Hill – Proposed Traffic Regulation Order

61. 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 authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to make the order as advertised having considered that the resulting benefits to the Community outweigh the concerns raised. The following key issues were discussed:

- The Chairman apologised to the residents that had replied to the consultation because they hadn't been informed the meeting was happening but explained that there was no statutory requirement for WSCC to do this but it was done as a courtesy.
- Albourne Parish Council requested that Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) enforcement officers visit the area once the order had been implemented.

- The Committee asked if and how MSDC were informed of Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) that are agreed so that enforcement can be targeted. Officers agreed to investigate and report back.
 - A member of the public questioned why speed was not considered as part of the order as he felt if you reduced speed you wouldn't necessarily need double yellow lines.
62. Resolved:- that the South Mid Sussex County Local Committee, having considered that the resulting benefits to the community outweigh the concerns raised, authorises the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to make the order as advertised.

Junction Road, Burgess Hill – Proposed Traffic Regulation Order

63. 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 authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to make the order as advertised and amended as set out in paragraph 3.5 of the report, having considered that the resulting benefits to the Community outweigh the concerns raised. The following key issues were discussed:

- A resident of Junction Road informed the meeting that the real issue in the road was parents parking to drop their children off at Manor Fields Primary School, rather than residents. There was sufficient pavement parking for ten cars but parents often parked twelve there in an obstructive and dangerous manner. The resident felt the solution was to make the road one-way north to south up the hill.
- Another resident informed the Committee that supply teachers were not allowed to park in the school so had to park on the road making the situation even worse. He asked whether a 'drop off' zone could be created by removing a wide pavement and hedge.
- Peter Griffiths in his capacity as Cabinet Member for Education and Schools, told the meeting that he was continually appalled by the way parents parked to drop off their children at schools across the County and that it was up to the school to police parents behaviour. He felt that the Committee should defer the TRO for a better scheme to be worked up.
- Another resident suggested that as the school had two entrances it would be possible for parents to drive through the school, drop their children off in the playground and exit out onto Manor Road.

64. Resolved:- that the South Mid Sussex County Local Committee defers a decision on this scheme and asked that Officers work up an alternative scheme in consultation with the local member, Manor Fields Primary School and residents to be presented to a future meeting of the Committee.

Community Initiative Funding

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

66. Resolved

i) That the following application be deferred:

16661/SMS Hassocks Boxing Club, £1,000 towards the purchase of replacement kit and equipment. The Committee requested that the club submit a business case and quotes for the equipment.

Authority School Governors

67. 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.

68. Resolved - That the following appointments be approved:

Appointments:

i) Mrs E Stedman to Albourne Primary School for a 4 year term

Re-appointments:

i) Mr A J Fellows to Birchwood Primary School for a 4 year term

Date of Next Meeting

69. It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Thursday 12th January 2012 in the Schering Suite, Downlands Community School, Dale Avenue, Hassocks.

The meeting closed at 8.29pm.

Chairman