

South Mid Sussex County Local Committee

16 June 2014 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7pm, Oaklands Community College, Chanctonbury Road, Burgess Hill,

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

Welcome and Introductions

1. The Democratic Services Officer welcomed all those in attendance to the meeting and invited members of the Committee to introduce themselves.

Election of Chairman

2. Mr Griffiths was elected Chairman of the Committee for the Municipal Year 2014/5.

Declarations of Interest

3. In accordance with the Members Code of Conduct, Mrs Jones declared a personal interest as a governor of Oakmeeds Community College in relation to the Oakmeeds OFSTED Report.

Minutes

4. Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12 March 2014 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

5. None

Progress Statement

6. The Committee considered the statement of progress following the March 2014 meeting and the Infrastructure Plan and 2013/14 Community Issues List (copy appended to signed minutes). The Principal Community Officer confirmed that all Priority A schemes had now been developed and dates for the initiation of works would be circulated to members.

7. Members queried the progress of the following schemes on the Community Issues list:

- Noted that scheme 6 was incorrectly listed as York Road, and should read Victoria Avenue.
- Queried whether whether asbestos had been found during works for scheme 15 and whether consideration of the future of the Burnside Centre would impact the scheme. – The Principal Community Officer responded that he was not aware of any asbestos and confirmed that discussions regarding the Centre were currently ongoing.

- Sought confirmation that the Chanctonbury Road Parking Scheme and Hassocks and Keymer Traffic and Parking Scheme (Infrastructure Plan) would be taking place as scheduled. – The Principal Community Officer confirmed that both schemes were currently scheduled for Autumn initiation.

Talk with Us Open Forum

8. The Chairman invited questions and comments from members of the public, which included:

- A written question had been received from Albourne Parish Council regarding the West Sussex Independent Economic Commission Report. The Chairman read out a written response to the question (copy appended to the signed minutes). An Albourne Parish Councillor asked whether the County Council was currently engaging with housing developers. – The Chairman undertook to provide a response following the meeting.
- A Burgess Hill Town Councillor requested that consideration be given to installing a traffic island on Jane Murray Way, to be located near the burial ground, between two bus stops. – The Chairman agreed that this be added to the Community Issues List for future prioritisation.
- A District Councillor requested that consideration be given to extending an existing footpath on Jane Murray way to St Paul's College. – The Committee agreed to add this to the Community Issues list for future prioritisation. The Member for Burgess Hill Town undertook to speak with the District Councillor outside of the meeting regarding local developer contributions.
- A District Councillor requested that the 'date raised' column in the progress statement be completed for all items on the Community Issues List be completed. – The Principal Community Officer undertook to provide this for the Committee's September meeting.

Oakmeeds Community College Ofsted Report

9. The Chairman introduced the item and stated that the Committee were keen to support the College in implementing its Improvement Plan, following OFSTED's January 2014 inspection (copy appended to the signed minutes).

10. The Chairman of the College's Governing Body informed the Committee of the following actions following the inspection:

- The College had been working closely with the Education Authority and Millais, who had been designated as a partner school. Millais' Headteacher was currently spending one day per week with Oakmeeds' Headteacher and Millais staff were also providing mentoring in key subject areas.
- An Action Plan had been developed, comprising a series of 30 day periods, reviewed following each period to track progress. The first review had recently taken place and OFSTED had indicated that they were happy with progress. The review would be circulated to parents following the forthcoming Governor Committee.
- The College was looking to tighten measurement criteria and were currently working on two critical issues:

- Enhancing the skills base of the Governing Body through the recruitment of a governor with experience of working in secondary education.
- Refining the the Education Authority's contribution to the improvement plan.

11. The Senior Advisor, Communities Commissioning informed the meeting that OFSTED had requested the Education Authority's plan placed greater emphasis on precise timescales and dates for monitoring progress.

12. He further stated that the College had the capacity to improve itself and expressed confidence that GCSE results in the summer 2014 would be stronger and that the College would be out of special measures by the end of the 2015 spring term.

13. The Head Teacher stated that the inspection had been unexpected and it was unfortunate that it had been conducted during a poorly performing cohort. However, it was acknowledged that there were a number of issues which required improvement and he emphasised that the school was committed to turning itself around. Parents remained supportive of the school and this was reflected on OFSTED's 'Parent View'.

14. Members made a number of comments, including those that follow. They:

- Stated that the College required capital investment to improve its facilities for pupils. – The Chairman undertook to contact the Cabinet Member for Finance to pursue this.
- Requested further information regarding the Governing Body's improvement plan – The Chairman of the Governing Body responded that a National Governor Association review had found that the Body lacked urgency and stated that governors required greater involvement and regular meetings with subject leaders. The Governing Body also required greater understanding and critical evaluation of pupil attainment and progress information provided by teachers. £10k had been made available for the training of governors in this financial year. He expressed confidence that the Governing Body would be performing well by the time of OFSTED's next visit.

15. Members of the audience asked questions, including those that follow. They:

- Queried the resources provided to Millais to enable them to assist Oakmeeds. – The Senior Advisor responded that Millais, as a 'Teaching School', was paid by the Education Authority to provide this support.
- Questioned whether OFSTED had become more aggressive in its approach to inspections and whether schools needed extra support to respond to this. – The Senior Advisor responded that OFSTED had become more rigorous. The Chairman stated that he would communicate this issue to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills.

Fire and Rescue Service Consultation

16. The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Chief Fire Officer which outlined the consultation on the future of the Fire and Rescue Service and provided

detailed information regarding the potential impacts on the South Mid Sussex area (copy appended to the signed minutes).

17. The Area Manager introduced the report and emphasised the importance of people responding to the consultation, which was available online at www.westsussex.gov.uk/fire. Paper copies were also available, if required.

18. Members made comments, including those that follow. They:

- Noted that the change in shift pattern of day-crewed stations meant a 20% cut in immediate response availability, from 10 hours to 8 (Mon-Fri) and queried the potential impact of reductions on immediate response times and an increased reliance upon retained pumps. – The Area Manager acknowledged that there would be changes in immediate response times and that crewing for retained units was more challenging. However, the FRS was required to make savings of £1.6m and as staff costs represented around 80% of the total budget, changes were inevitable. He added that the formation of the crewing optimisation group featured in the proposals would mitigate against potential gaps in crewing.
- Queried whether coordinating 12-hour shift patterns between day-crewed and whole-time stations would enable increased shared working practices, such as outpostings reduced overtime and asked whether a combined 12 hour shift could be considered for Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill. – The Area Manager responded that initial modelling work had included this option. However, there would be higher costs associated with a 12 hour shift and this would also lead to reduced overall coverage for Burgess Hill and Haywards Heath, which the proposals had attempted to avoid.

Lodge Lane, Hassocks Traffic Regulation Order

19. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Service Operations and the Head of Highways and Transport (copy appended to the signed minutes) which outlined the responses to the formal consultation for the proposed TRO.

20. Resolved – that the Committee, having considered the concerns raised by the objectors outweigh the possible benefits to the community, agree that the proposed TRO should be withdrawn.

22-24 Keymer Road Traffic Regulation Order

21. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Service Operations and the Head of Highways and Transport (copy appended to the signed minutes) which outlined the responses to the formal consultation and officer comments for the proposed TRO.

22. The local Member (Hassocks & Victoria) expressed reluctant support for the proposal as he acknowledged that this was the best available solution. He was supported by a Hassocks Parish Councillor, who stated that having seen the plans, the TRO represented the best outcome for Keymer Road.

23. Resolved – that the Committee authorises the Head of Law and Governance to make the proposed TRO as advertised subject to the condition that the developer:

- Completes the works to increase the width of the bay by 600mm as shown in Appendix B.
- Dedicates as public highway as a 600mm width of the existing forecourt as shown in Appendix B.

Prevention and Wellbeing Grants

24. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Public Health, Commissioning for Health and Social Care (copy appended to the signed minutes) which outlined the funding available for the CLC and the current applications for consideration.

25. Resolved – that the Committee considered the grants for 2014/15 and allocates funding as follows:

a) The following applications were approved:

TL031 4Sight, £607

DC018 Action for Deafness, £300

TB04 Age Concern Hassocks, £5,000

TB11 Bluebird Community Transport, £1,750

JP005 Cruse West Sussex, £100

TB31 Haywards Heath Prostate Cancer Support Group, £250

TB06 Neighbourly Care, £500

TB01 SASBAH, £250

DC008 St Catherine's Hospice, £435

TB29 Support for Diabetes, £250

JP025 The Life Centre, £100

b) The following applications were declined:

TB30 In Safe and Caring Hands, as the project duplicates a service commissioned by the County Council.

DC003 Parkinsons Crawley and East Grinstead Branch, As the project was of limited benefit to communities within the CLC area and duplicates existing local provision.

DC017 Sussex Oakleaf, as the project was of limited benefit to communities within the CLC area

Community Initiative Funding

26. The Committee considered a report by the Head of Law and Governance (copy appended to the signed minutes) which detailed applications for Community Initiative Funding. The Committee debated the respective merits of the projects for which funding was sought.

27. Resolved –

a) That the following awards were made:

382/SMS, £2,000, Newtimber Community Support Group, towards the costs of installing disabled toilets in the church.

383/SMS, £4,000, The Church of the Transfiguration, towards the costs of installing toilets and a kitchen in the church.

Authority School Governors

28. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Communities Commissioning (copy appended to the signed minutes).

29. Resolved – that the South Mid Sussex County Local Committee make the following appointments and reappointments:

a) Appointments:

Mrs Carol Butler to Southway Junior School for a four year term

Mr Nigel Hugh Stevens to Hassocks Infant School for a four year term

b) Reappointments:

Mrs T Rhys-Williams to Birchwood Grove CP School for a four year term

Date of Next Meeting

30. The next meeting will be held at a date and venue to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Chairman