

South Mid Sussex County Local Committee

2 October 2012 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7pm Albourne Village Hall, The Street, Albourne, Hassocks.

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

Chairman's Welcome

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

46. The Committee thanked Laura Johnston for her fantastic support and were very sorry to see her go.

Declarations of Interest

47. There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

48. Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12 July 2012 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Progress Statement

49. The Committee noted the report that provided updates on issues raised at previous meetings. The following issues were noted:

- The Keymer Junction/St Wilfrid's bridge was referred to as Keymer Road somewhere in the last papers and needed to be amended. Mrs. Ross requested that a press release be issued containing the information received in the last update to the Committee at the 12 July meeting.
- The Committee agreed that the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) request for junction protection and parking restrictions on The Kiln/Cants Lane, Burgess Hill, be added to the TRO priority list.
- The meeting held with Chanctonbury Road residents to address the issues of school traffic was very useful and well attended. Mrs Knight thanked Mrs Ross for chairing the meeting. Mr Griffiths, in his capacity as Cabinet Member for Education and Schools' had observed the traffic problems at the beginning and end of the school day from both in and outside the school grounds on the first day of the new school term when it was very chaotic and returned at the end of the first week when things were working well.

Talk with Us Open Forum

50. A resident had submitted a written question to the Committee about waste plastic recycling. The Committee agreed to investigate and report back. Mr Griffiths said that SE7 (seven counties in South East) was a very powerful group and had many discussions about waste. The Viridor discovery quoted in the written question was excellent and would help to contribute to caring for the ageing population in 10 years as other services were likely to be cut by 60% to accommodate.

51. The same resident raised the issue of the capacity at the sewage plant adjacent to the potential waste site at Goddard's Green. The plant was designed for 40k people. 46.8k people were now served by the Goddards Green plant. Southern Water would be spending £2m to put in a new storm tank to cover the increase to 46k people up to 2031 but this would not increase the capacity to treat more sewage. The Councillor suggested that the plant needed to double in size in order to cope with the increase in population and the possible 5k new houses that would need to be served by the plant. He urged the Committee to speak to officers and Southern Water about this as a matter of urgency. The Committee agreed to forward the information to officers for a response and requested that the resident send the information outlined above to them via email.

52. A Keymer resident told the Committee that there was a very real issue with traffic coming from Ditchling to Keymer, mainly on Keymer Road at the junctions with Lodge Lane and Ockley Lane, and he had witnessed many accidents. Oakley Lane was an access point for school children and it was a real concern. The residents were in the process of gathering signatures on a petition to call for road safety measures to be implemented. Dr Wilsdon asked that officers investigate traffic calming measures for Keymer Road to tackle speeding and dangerous driving. The Chairman asked that officers also contact officers from East Sussex as this site was right on the border and something needed to be done in their area. The Chairman asked that the accident record be examined and urged residents to report all accidents to the police so that they showed up in the records.

53. A representative from Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Parish Council questioned the future management of Gypsy and Traveller sites transferring to housing associations as there had been illegal camps set up over the summer months. Mrs Knight explained that she had been campaigning for a transit site in the summer months where gypsy and travellers can be legally dispersed and cannot return for three months. Dr Wilsdon agreed but stated that the transit site was not the complete answer and did not solve the problems of this summer.

Infrastructure Plan Update

54. 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. The following key issues were discussed:

- There was a hope that the St Wilfrid's Bridge would be funded largely by utilities and the County Council were working with the full co-operation of Network Rail. The work would come on stream when needed.
- Hurstpierpoint Parish Council was contributing a large amount of money to the village enhancements as part of the village plan. The parish council wanted Chalkers Lane included as part of the plan to deal with flooding and speeding.
- The aspiration for the Queen Elizabeth Avenue was to make it more like a boulevard with a cycle path on the south side. The enhancements were being done in conjunction with the District and Town Councils. There were delays due to unforeseen infrastructure and drainage issues under the verge.
- The Committee had requested that the Stonebound Crossroads be redesigned to include a cycle lane or to make it shared space.

- Mr Griffiths had taken part in site visits looking at three options for an on and off road cycle path between the centre of Hurstpierpoint and Downlands High School in Hassocks.
- Residents were not keen on the improvements for footpath 17 from the railway station to the Oakhall Park Estate.

Community Initiative Funding

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

56. Resolved

- i) That the following CIF applications be approved:

1926/SMS Burgess Hill Town Fairtrade, £1,200, towards publicity materials for the Fairtrade Festival.

1927/SMS Bolney Community Café Society, £750, towards a patio extension to provide an outdoor seating area and improved access for wheelchairs and pushchairs.

Authority School Governors

57. The Committee noted 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.

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

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

- i) Mrs C Smart to the Windmills Junior School for a 4 year term

Education in South Mid Sussex

60. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Learning (copy appended to signed minutes) that contained updates on education issues in the South Mid Sussex area. The following key issues were highlighted:

- Blessed with good schools in South Mid Sussex. All about choice of schools and improving standards. Poorly performing schools becoming academies gives schools more freedom. Schools are collaborating.
- There was a community interest company of 12 schools working together to share resources and teachers. Two groups of schools in the area working closely together.
- Currently 26 academies in West Sussex and the standards and GCSE results were improving particularly in mathematics.
- Key Stage 2 results were fantastic following the action plan put into place.
- The baby boom had exceeded the national average by 9% and we would need to find 800 extra primary school places by 2015.
- The increase would be managed by a combination of extending and building new schools.

Date of Next Meeting

61. It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Thursday 17 January 2013, 7pm, at London Mead Community Primary School, Chanctonbury Road, Burgess Hill, RH15 9YQ.

The meeting closed at 8.11pm.

Chairman