

South Mid Sussex County Local Committee

18 February 2009 – At a meeting of the Committee at 7pm at **The Club Suite at Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint, BN6 9UY**

Present:

Andrew Barrett-Miles (Chairman)	-	Member for Burgess Hill
Peter Griffiths	-	Member for Hurstpierpoint and Bolney
Sue Knight	-	Member for Burgess Hill
Colin Wilsdon	-	Member for Hassocks and Victoria

In attendance:

Spencer Bryan	-	Locality Manager
Phil Edwards	-	Head of Locality Working
Suzanne Thompson	-	Locality Officer
Roy Ticehurst	-	Chairman, Friends of Green Circle Network, Burgess Hill
Tim Yair	-	Cycling Officer, Transport Planning

Chairman's Welcome

98. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

Declaration of Interests

99. Both Andrew Barrett-Miles and Peter Griffiths declared an interest with regard to the Green Circle Network, as their houses were adjacent to the designated route.

Minutes

100. Resolved: That the minutes of the South Mid Sussex (SMS) County Local Committee (CLC) meeting held on 03 December 2008 are confirmed as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

101. There were no urgent matters.

Matters Arising/Progress Statement

102. The Chairman referred members to this document updating all on progress since the last meeting.

103. The Committee noted a resident's disappointment that the presentation of the North East Review at the last meeting had had no local focus. The Chairman highlighted the forthcoming meeting of the Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee to be held in Crawley on Tuesday 24 February at 10am to which all members of the public were welcome.

104. The Chairman informed the meeting that Mid Sussex District Council had been asked to release £6,000 Section 106 money which will go towards a CASPER (Crawley Automatic Speed Processor and Electronic Recorder). These S106 monies were allocated by the Committee following the October 2008 meeting. It was anticipated that this mobile device, which would record data of vehicles exceeding speed limits and thus assess dangers in the local road network, would be in service within the next three months. It was noted that the use of the device would be shared in the community on the basis of Section 106 contributions, 50% Burgess Hill, 25% Hassocks and Victoria, 25% Hurstpierpoint and Bolney. Parish and Town Councillors present were asked to keep their local County Council member informed of areas in their district that could benefit from temporary siting of the device.

WSSC Cycling Strategy

105. The Chairman introduced Tim Yair, Cycling Officer, Transport Planning, to present a report on the progress of work being undertaken to create cycle routes in South Mid Sussex (copy attached to the signed minutes).

106. Mr Yair noted the marked increase in attendance at this meeting in comparison to his first presentation to the Committee three years' previously which was in accord with his experience, that interest in cycling in West Sussex was increasing.

107. Members noted that West Sussex County Council (WSSC) had a commitment through their Transport Plan to improve facilities for cycling for as many residents as possible. The need for many routes had been identified, some had been implemented and the joining up of these to form a coherent network was the ultimate aim. Funding difficulties were highlighted and members informed that this had led to a prioritisation scheme favouring Worthing, Chichester and Crawley in the first instance. It was hoped that these would be completed by 20011/12 and then attention would turn to Burgess Hill, Haywards Heath and smaller communities.

108. Mr Yair drew attention to the work of the Friends of the Green Circle Charity, which had worked to establish conservation areas around Burgess Hill hoping to join those areas with cycle routes in the future. Members noted that WSSC currently had design consultants working on plans to create 'spokes', routes from the Green Circle, into Burgess Hill. It was hoped that the report on this work would be available before the end of the financial year.

109. Members noted that following publication of the report the Transport Planning team would then turn attention to the funding of the routes. Mr Yair highlighted the limited WSSC funding available and the possibility of working in partnership with groups such as Sustrans who would be able to access money from sources not open to WSSC. Mr Yair then invited all to speak with him during the informal interval at the meeting or leave their questions and contact details for him to contact them at a later date.

110. The Chairman invited questions and comments from members, responses were as follows:

- Were consultants currently working on the linking route to Haywards Heath? *At present they were working on the 'spokes' from the Green Circle into Burgess Hill.*
- Could the South Mid Sussex CLC jump the queue to get routes done before others if further funding became available? *This would be possible if it fitted in with the Integrated Works Programme.*
- Planning permission is in place for a leisure cycle route for Hassocks; could new routes could be identified and taken on officially into the programme? *If County Councillors agree on the routes they could be recognised and taken into the programme to await funding. The East/West one is already on the list and while WSCC did not at present have funding for this it could work with its partners on funding which would move work along.*
- A comprehensive network linking all communities is needed. *Funding is the issue at present; WSCC managed to secure £50,000 to help design a number of future schemes this year and it is hoped to do this again during 2009/10. It was suggested that the CLC speak with the Cabinet Member responsible and highlight this need.*
- Could S106 monies be used to fund routes? *This could be possible depending on the wording of the agreements; the CLC will speak with the S106 officer noting that it would be desirable to identify a better route to Hassocks Station. The Chairman will also suggest a meeting with Hassocks Parish Council.*
- How can the three quiet lanes in the Western area fit in with the network? *These already are the network, the whole road network is, except the Southwick Tunnel and the M23, and all need to be improved for cyclists.*

111. The Chairman thanked members for their contributions and requested comments from residents. Responses were as follows:

- Plumpton has undertaken a voluntary slow speed initiative on its lanes involving leafleting, stickers in cars and signs on verges; residents take a pledge to abide by it. We could consider incorporating this into our network.
- What cooperation does WSCC have with East Sussex? *WSCC does work with East Sussex although they have no budget at all for leisure cycling, only for routes to get people to work and to school. WSCC recently worked with them on the Avenue Verte link from London to Paris, through Crawley although the French part moved too slowly and the European funding was lost.*
- What is the Transport Team doing about the part of the current route at Scotches Corner where I've been told I must dismount? *WSCC have been working with the Rights of Way team on this. Let me have your details and I'll get back to you.*
- What plans have WSCC got to put charging points on lamp posts for disabled residents electric cars? *The CLC will take that back to the Cabinet Member and get back to you.*

- A cycle path is wider than a footpath and could have a large impact on the character of our countryside. *WSCC considers every route is carefully to ensure the impact is taken into account.*

112. The Chairman thanked all for their input emphasizing the message to residents, that Parish and Town councillors look at where they want their cycle routes to go and feed that information to their local County member who would pass it to the cycle route team for consideration, for studies to be undertaken and costs identified. The Chairman further emphasised that routes were needed for the whole of South Mid Sussex not just Burgess Hill.

113. Resolved that:

- i) the CLC will highlight the need for further funding to be made available to the Transport Planning Team during the next financial year to facilitate the design of additional routes in the area; and
- ii) the CLC will speak with the S106 officer with regard to creating cycle routes using S106 monies and on identifying a better route to Hassocks Station; and
- iii) the Chairman will propose a meeting with Hassocks and Hurstpierpoint Parish Council to determine their wishes in regard to the cycle route to Hassocks Station; and
- iv) the CLC will question the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport on the future possibility of charging points on lampposts for disabled residents electric cars.

The Friends of Burgess Hill Green Circle Network

114. The Chairman introduced Roy Ticehurst, Chairman of the Green Circle Network, to give a presentation on the work of the charity whose aims were to educate and work with local people in the conservation of wildlife and work towards access routes to connect the wildlife areas surrounding Burgess Hill.

115. Members noted that the charity had been in existence for 13 years and its work well known in and around Burgess Hill. The need to join together the conservation areas the charity had established, that encircled Burgess Hill, had been identified several years ago and the group had begun to work on these access routes. It was noted that 90% of the routes were essentially already in place but that the South Eastern side was lacking and the aim now was to address this and the surfacing of the network to ensure that it was usable all year round. Mr Ticehurst emphasised the beauty of the Green Circle and the safety aspect in that it was off road for the majority of the time although crossings were needed at the A273, Fairplace Hill, at St Paul's school and in the southern areas as well. It was noted that most of the green areas were owned by the District and the Town Council and that their support in creating the Green Circle had been invaluable. The importance of the Circle in encouraging exercise and connecting residents with their countryside was highlighted. It was estimated that the entire Circle could be joined up with approximately £100,000 worth of funding.

116. The Chairman thanked Mr Ticehurst for his presentation and noted that the Friends of Green Circle were a charity and dependent on helpers and local support, urging all present spread the word and to consider joining the organisation themselves. It was also noted that S106 monies arising from development at Folders Farm had been put into the programme and that the CLC would continue to support the charity as other developer contributions arise.

117. The Chairman of the World's End Residents Association was invited to read a statement from the Town Clerk, who had not been able to attend the meeting: it was noted that the Town Council had come to an agreement with the District and County Councils and that they would assist in administering the project and the Green Circle would therefore receive assistance in coordinating the group, in identification of funding streams and the development of draft project plans. The Chairman welcomed this move and emphasised that the Green Circle was a charity which gave the community a greater opportunity to help increase its funding.

118. The Chairman invited further comments from members and residents. Responses were as follows:

- The local member for Hurstpierpoint and Bolney asked that it be noted that the Parishes of Clayton and Hurstpierpoint had been visionary in promoting the concept of The Green Crescent for many years
- Will it be possible, in the long-term to create conservation areas on the east side similar to those on the west, given that there is not the local authority land ownership? *The land on the West was not in local authority ownership at the time of development, it was insisted upon, as part of the infrastructure for the development and WSCC will continue to negotiate with developers in the future to obtain the infrastructure that is needed.*
- How are the crossing points required to join up the Green Circle going to fit in with the strategic traffic plan? *The Green Circle is not a transport charity, obviously the success of the route depends on safety but WSCC will work that out, it is not for Green Circle to get involved, also the town wide master plan will address the strategic plan.*
- For information, part of the core strategy is to reduce car journeys. On average across the population we each make three trips a day, only one in five of these is work related and five out of six trips begin or end at home. 10% are less than 1km, 30% are less than 3km and 50% are less than 5km.

119. The Chairman thanked everyone for their questions and comments and adjourned the meeting for refreshments, informal discussion and exchange of literature with participants at the meeting. These included: County Council, **Transport Planning**: Tim Yair, and **Safer Routes to School**: Nicky Bleakley; **Green Circle Network**: Roy Ticehurst; **Sustrans**: Chris Boocock; **CTC: Working for Cycling**: Richard Bates, Sara Grimes; **The Greening Campaign** and **Hassocks Community Partnership** on Access Routes to the South Downs.

120. The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 8.30.

Local Authority (LA) School Governors

121. The Chairman declared an interest at this point as a member of the South Mid Sussex County Local Committee with regard to his wish to be reappointed as a school governor. Susan Knight took the Chairmanship of this item. The Committee was asked to consider the appointments and re-appointments of Local Authority School Governors as set out on page three of the agenda.

122. Resolved:

- i) the appointment of Ms Frances Gaudencio to the Windmills Junior School for a four year term; and
- ii) appointment of Mr Jim Horn to Manor Field Primary; and
- iii) reappointment of Mr Andrew Barratt-Miles to Southway Junior for further four year term; and
- iv) reappointment of Mrs M Clark to Downlands Community School for a further four year term; and
- v) reappointment of Mrs SJ Seward and Mr I Denyer to Bolney CE Primary School for further four year terms.

123. The Committee noted the remaining vacancies for LA School Governors at Gattons Infant School, Birchwood Grove, London Mead and Sheddington and residents were informed that information on becoming a school governor was readily available at the meeting from the Cabinet Member for Education and Schools, Peter Griffiths.

Community Initiative Funding (CIF)

124. Andrew Barrett-Miles re-assumed the Chairmanship of the meeting and referred members to the CIF report by the Head of Democratic Services, (copy attached to the signed minutes).

125. With regard to application 742 from Bolney Parish Council towards refurbishment of 13 fingerpost signs in the Parish, the Committee had met informally and were minded to defer this for the second time as they were still awaiting the publication of WSCC protocol on fingerpost replacement and repair now promised for the end of February. The Committee noted the strongly voiced disappointment at this further deferment both by the Chairman of Bolney Parish Council, and the MSDC Councillor who had been working jointly with Bolney and Twineham on this project; however, the Committee agreed that it was not appropriate to award the funding until the Cabinet Member had signed off the protocol.

126. It was requested that a point of record be made that WSCC Highways Department had still not replaced the fingerpost that the Chairman of the Bolney Parish Council had been assured it would replace. The Chairman undertook to pass on this information.

127. Susan Knight declared an interest at this point as a monthly visitor to Orchard House alongside the Independent Review Service under Regulation 33. With regard to their application 818 for a safe play surface, the Committee were pleased to award the £500 requested.

128. With regard to application 846 the Committee were minded to award £845 to Pyecombe towards the replacement of their bus shelters. The Chairman invited the Chairman of Pyecombe Parish Council to comment on the suggestion that the rest of the monies they had requested be raised by the community itself. The Parish Chairman suggested that perhaps the Committee might award £1,000 and the Parish, as it was a very small community, raise the £845. The Committee agreed.

129. With regard to applications 899, Burgess Hill Age Concern and 906, Hurstpierpoint Community Partnership, it was requested that these be deferred pending further information on what exactly was required and projected costings.

130. Resolved that the Committee:

- i) approve application 818, Orchard House for £500; and
- ii) application 846, Pyecombe Parish Council for £1,000, suggesting that the remaining monies be raised from the Parish precept.
- iii) defer application 742, Bolney Parish Council, again, awaiting publication of the County protocol on replacement or refurbishment of fingerposts now expected for the end of February 2009; and
- iv) application 899, Age Concern Burgess Hill pending further detail on a specific item and actual funding amount requested; and
- v) application 906, Hurstpierpoint Community Partnership pending further detail on a specific item and actual funding amount requested

'talk with us' - Open Forum

131. The Chairman invited comments and questions from residents present at the meeting on subjects not already covered by the agenda. Responses were as follows:

- What is going to be done with regard to the potholes in South Mid Sussex roads? *Safety is paramount, there are criteria against which all potholes are measured, and those outside this will be filled and repaired once the weather becomes more clement. There is still money available and WSCC has an ongoing repair programme continuing. There are 8,000 reported potholes in West Sussex at present. Residents are asked to report the ones seen by telephoning 01243 642105. On 13 February 2009 at the meeting of the full County Council it was agreed that an extra £1m be allocated to the Highways budget every year for the next four years to create an active program of repair to address the backlog of repairs needed. WSCC is also pressurising the Government to give County Council a fairer share of the budget so that it can do more.*
- Could you also note that potholes that are not a danger to motorists can still be a danger to cyclists, as can the breaking-up of the road at the edges. *Thankyou, we note that.*
- With regard to education in South Mid Sussex (SMS), how do the County Councillors respond to the fact that 12 primary school age children in Hassocks infant school catchment area have been offered places in Burgess Hill, a trip of six miles? *Come and speak with the Cabinet Member for*

Education and Schools after the meeting. In principle there are situations where we have the responsibility to educate children within their catchment area but cannot address it by building new buildings, the numbers can be quite unexpected. There has been some research done in the changes at secondary level and there is a change in pattern in SMS, we seem to have more children moving into state schools at that level than before.

- With regard to the volume and speed of traffic using the lanes in and around Clayton in Underhill Lane and New Way: there are 50mph limits on the main roads which lead into these lanes then there are delimiter signs allowing, presumably, 60mph, which doesn't make sense; the roads are narrow and overhung with trees. *We do have speed limit criteria which categorize limits according to the use of buildings along the road; also accident data help to determine speed limits. Perhaps, again, this is an area that could consider the Plumpton initiative? We will pass this on the Highways Manager and ask him to look at it. A few years ago we had an initiative to create 'Green Lanes' and I would like us as the CLC to will write to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Strategic Planning and ask that he look at this policy again.*
- We seem to have many large lorries directed down our local lanes by satellite navigation systems, is there anything that can be done about that? *I will take that back and get back to you.*
- At the Chanctonbury Road and Estate in Burgess Hill we have a great deal of damage to our grass verges from people parking on them, these vehicles seem to be mainly service vehicles and those of people running their children to school. We are pleased highways have started work on this problem but this work needs to continue and be improved on. *This is an enforcement issue, we will take this back.*
- I would like some action to address the problem at Stonecourt Road outside Manor Fields School where vehicles are mounting the pavement and posing a huge danger to children walking to school. I suggest we have barriers placed down one side and have been in contact with the Safer Routes to School team but they are so understaffed nothing seems to get done. *The Safer Routes to School officer is here; whom I believe is familiar with the problem and will take this issue back and report to you. I have put together a task force to address the problems of routes to school, of bus, car, taxi travel and hope to have a report out in about six months which I will bring back to this meeting.*
- I would like to pass on to you complaints from the Parkview Patients Group on the paucity of bus services to the Health Centre in Leylands Road. The Practice Manager has discussed with the bus services but they are simply not interested in increasing services. *Thank you I will pass this on and report back to you.*
- Congratulations to the person who put this agenda together. This has been a very interesting and well-organised meeting.

132. Resolved that:

- i) the CLC note that potholes that are not a danger to motorists can still be a danger to cyclists, as can the breaking-up of the road at the edges; and
- ii) the Highways Manager be asked whether the 'Plumpton Initiative' would be suitable to be introduced in South Mid Sussex, and
- iii) the CLC write to the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport and request a review of the WSCC policy on Green Lanes; and
- iv) the highways Manager be asked what can be done about vehicles misdirected by satellite navigation systems; and
- v) the CLC approach the Police Inspector for SMS with regard to the enforcement of parking restrictions in the Chanctonbury area; and
- vi) the Highways Manager continues with the work on the verges in the Chanctonbury area; and
- vii) the results of the work of the task force addressing the problems of travel to and from school be reported to the July meeting of SMS CLC; and
- viii) the CLC investigate the possibility of addressing the problems of poor bus service to the Health Centre in Leyland's Road.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Chairman