

## **Worthing County Local Committee**

30 January 2013 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 pm in the Georgian Room, Chatsworth Hotel, The Steyne, Worthing.

Present: Mr Rice, Mr Rogers, Mr Smytherman (Chairman), Mr Stevens, Mrs Waight and Mr Waight.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Doyle, Mr Livermore and Mrs Richards.

### **Chairman's Welcome**

61. The Chairman welcomed members and the public to the meeting.

### **Declarations of Interest**

62. None declared.

### **Minutes**

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

### **Urgent Matters**

64. The vice chairman, Mrs Waight, informed the meeting that the public consultation about a proposed borough wide 20 mile per hour (mph) speed limit had not started. Members were very concerned that officers appear to have started a consultation process when the Committee had not agreed what the criteria and area of the consultation will be. The Committee agreed to officers carrying out an informal consultation with statutory partners but have also met with the local 20s Plenty Campaign Group and confirmed to them that roads where the average speeds are found to exceed 24 mph may be excluded from the scheme. Mrs Waight stressed that the Committee had not yet agreed the criteria for the speed surveys nor had they agreed to a consultation approach.

65. The Chairman echoed Mrs Waight's concerns and suggested that the Committee agree to using the West Sussex County Council Speed Limit Policy 2010 which is supported by Sussex Police to carry out the speed surveys and to a Borough wide consultation being carried out after the County Council elections in May 2013.

66. Mr Waight agreed that it was right for the consultation to be delayed to post election and that the criteria was the most suitable as Sussex Police would be responsible for enforcing the 20mph limits should they come into effect.

67. Resolved – that the Worthing County Local Committee advises officers that:

- (i) The West Sussex Speed Limit Policy 2010, supported by Sussex Police, is used in all speed surveys and;

- (ii) A borough wide consultation will take place after the County Council election on 2 May 2013 and the results will be reported to the Committee at the earliest opportunity.

### **Progress Statement**

68. The Committee noted the report that provided updates on issues raised at previous meetings.

### **West Sussex Flood Investigation Report**

69. The Committee received a presentation from Stuart Smith, Highways Commissioning Manager, outlining the findings of the Flood Investigation Report following the flood even in June 2012. The following key issues were discussed:

- Following 2007 floods new legislation was introduced which put the responsibility for flooding onto upper tier authorities; i.e. West Sussex County Council.
- Heavy rain in the coastal plain from Worthing (80mm) to Hampshire border caused then flood event on 10 June 2012 which flooded 780 properties, 38 in Worthing most around the hospital.
- Investigation undertaken with partners including Worthing Borough Council and Southern Water who meet on a regular basis.
- A number of locations were looked by clustering the worst affected together which resulted in 11 clusters, two in Worthing (Central and West Worthing).
- A number of issues were highlighted including: loss of infrastructure (didn't know who was responsible or in a bad state of repair etc.), riparian ownership of ditches, pipes etc., putting together an asset register and mapping locations, information campaign for riparian owners, clarifying who is responsible for maintenance and reviewing the schedule of work.
- There was an on-going program of work for the next few years.
- £8.25m had been invested to 'Operation Watershed' to fund flood prevention and remedial works.
- Worthing Borough Council had just completed a Surface Water Management Plan which was likely to be funded by 'Operation Watershed'.
- Officers were currently compiling a Local Flood Risk Management Plan.
- Legislation was coming forward in 2014 for Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) which would force developers to install and maintain adequate drainage.
- Aspiration to bring all issues under one umbrella, essentially a one stop shop, and were working together to achieve this.
- Working with SE7 to discuss drainage and developing best practice and a guide for planners and developers to discuss SUDs as a principal for development rather than after the houses are planned and could be incorporated as an attractive part of the development.
- There was a need to ensure that historical flood risk areas were not confused with those recently flooded and labelled incorrectly as it caused issues with house insurance.

### **Priorities for Traffic Regulation Orders**

70. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Communities Commissioning together with a tabled appendix (copy appended to the signed minutes) that outlined the priorities for Traffic Regulation Orders in the Worthing CLC area.

71. Resolved – That the Worthing County Local Committee approves the priority order for implementing Traffic Regulation Orders within the CLC area as set out below:
1. WOR1012 – Chatsmore Crescent – Waiting restrictions to prevent commuter parking
  2. WOR1027 – Half Moon Lane – Weight/width limit to prevent HGVs
  3. WOR1050 – Vale Drive & Avenue, Findon Valley – Restrictions at Vale School

### **Talk with Us Open Forum**

72. A Worthing Borough Councillor questioned whether the CLC were consulted on the decision of officers not to allocate any money from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund on the basis that Worthing had significant amounts of unspent section 106 money and whether the CLC would be supporting that decision by prioritising sustainable transport in the Worthing Infrastructure Plan. The Chairman replied that he had shared his frustrations about this at a previous meeting. Brian Morgan, Principal Community Officer, informed the meeting that a scheme for Worthing, Goring Station to Highdown, being funded by the Local Sustainable Transport Forum.

73. The same Borough Councillor asked the CLC asked whether the CLC would be prepared to nominate one of the members to become a 'cycle champion' for Worthing to work with the Borough Council's Cycle Champion, Sustrans and local cycling groups to plan sustainable transport routes for cyclists in the report. The Committee agreed that this would be a good idea but would be better to wait until after the County Council elections in May.

74. A resident of Archibald road presented a petition to the Committee requesting that Archibald Road be included in the forthcoming review of the Controlled Parking Zone. The resident also submitted a list of questions from the residents. The Chairman thanked the resident for her petition and agreed that officers would be in contact.

75. A resident questioned why the school hatchings at the junction of Norfolk Street and Cobden Road had been extended as it was on a bend and children did not use this entrance. This had reduced parking, a pathway had been built and other double yellow lines had been installed. The resident felt that these were unnecessary and a waste of money. Brian Morgan agreed to investigate and report back.

76. A representative of Transition Town Worthing informed the meeting that there was a significant gap in the cycle network between Worthing and Littlehampton. He questioned what consultation there had been to ensure a joined up approach with initiatives being developed by Arun District Council and the South Downs National Park to deliver high quality cycle routes to communities to the west of George V Avenue. The Committee agreed to take this into account when prioritising the new Infrastructure Plan priorities.

77. A Worthing Borough Councillor informed the meeting that there was a parking review happening. The Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) raises approximately £900k per year and this money is spent on specific projects but

he questioned what those projects were? He also questioned what percentage of the CPZ revenue comes from Worthing and across the County and how much/what percentage is spent in Worthing? The Chairman explained that he and the Vice Chairman were holding a round table with county officers, Borough Councillors including opposition members and would report back following the meeting and would make the minutes available to the Councillor.

### **Community Initiative Funding**

78. The Committee had before it a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (copy appended to the signed minutes). The report sought decisions from the Committee on the applications received under the CIF scheme.

79. Resolved –

(i) That the following application be declined:

**1997/W**, Party on the Prom, £3,000, towards various itemised costs for the 2013 event as the Committee lacked sufficient funds to meet the request.

(ii) That all unallocated CIF funds for 2012/13 be allocated to Worthing Food Bank following a suggestion by the Leader of the Council.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

80. The Committee noted that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday 5 June 2013 from 7pm at a venue to be confirmed.

81. As it was his last meeting as Chairman Mr Smytherman thanked Laura Johnston, Democratic Services, for all her hard work supporting the Committee, thanked the members for their support and wished them well in the forthcoming election and thanked the retiring members: Clem Stevens, Irene Richards and John Livermore, for their work as CIF Sub-group Chairman, Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively.

82. Mr Stevens paid tribute to Mrs Richards who joined the Council at the same time as him.

The meeting ended at 8.35pm

Chairman