

**Worthing County Local Committee**

10 June 2015 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 pm, in the Devonshire Room of the Chatsworth Hotel, The Steyne, Worthing BN11 3DU.

Present: Mr High (Chairman), Mr Cloake, Mrs T Hall, Mr R Oakley, Mr J Rogers (Vice Chairman), Mr R Rogers, Mr Smytherman, Mr Turner and Mr Waight.

**Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**

1. Mr High was elected Chairman of Worthing County Local Committee for the 2015/16 municipal year.
2. Mr John Rogers was elected Vice-Chairman of Worthing County Local Committee for the 2015/16 municipal year.
3. Mr High, Mr John Rogers and Mr Smytherman were confirmed as members of the Worthing County Local Committee Community Initiative Funding Sub Group for the 2015/16 municipal year.
4. Mr Oakley was elected as the Worthing County Local Committee Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) Champion.

**Chairman's Welcome**

5. The Chairman welcomed members of the public to the meeting and asked the Committee and officers in attendance to introduce themselves.

**Declarations of Interest**

6. Mr John Rogers declared an interest in relation to the Community Initiative Fund applications (Agenda Item No.10) as a member of the Rotary Club.
7. Mr Bryan Turner declared an interest in relation to the Community Initiative Fund applications (Agenda Item No.10) as a member of the Rotary Club.
8. Mr Smytherman declared interests in relation to the Prevention and Wellbeing Grants applications (Agenda Item No. 9) as a Trustee of Coastal West Sussex MIND, in relation to the Community Initiative Fund applications (Agenda Item No.10) as an honorary member of the Worthing Speakers Club and discussions pertaining to the Worthing Town Centre Initiative as Worthing Town Crier.

**Minutes**

9. Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 5 March 2015 be approved as a correct record, subject to the reference to Pembroke Close in minute number 119 bullet point 2 and minute number 120 be amended to read Pembury Close, and that they be signed by the Chairman.

**Urgent Matters**

10. There were no urgent matters.

## **Progress Statement**

11. The Committee noted the progress statement.

### **“Talk With Us” Open Forum**

12. The Chairman invited Mr Peter Evans, a fellow County Councillor representing the residents of Ferring, to address the meeting. Mr Evans highlighted the issue of campervans parking along Marine Drive between Ferring and Goring, stating that some seemed to be stored there and one had been parked there for nine months, it appeared that people were living in them. Mr Evans stated that it was illegal to sleep on the highway and that having campervans parked there was unsightly and prevented residents accessing that part of the coast. In addition, temporary fences had been erected by the owners of some of the campervans. Mr Evans commented that this was a major issue for local residents and something needed to be done. The County Council’s Gypsy and Traveller team had been to the location and served notice on certain motorhomes but not one of those served had moved. Mr Evans concluded that there was a need for a permanent solution and as the greensward was owned by Worthing Borough Council, even though it crossed the boundary into Arun District, Mr Evans wished to make a plea to Worthing councillors to come up with an inventive way, without having to resort to double yellow lines to stop campervans parking there. There were 21 campervans parked there when Mr Evans passed that evening and there had been 37 at the weekend. The area was being advertised on social media as being a place where campervans could go for free and Mr Evans asked that Arun and Worthing councillors and officers met to discuss a solution.

13. The Chairman invited any further comments from the audience, which are summarised as follows:

- A request was made for no overnight parking at the location without the need for meters or double yellow lines.
- A gentleman whose campervan was currently parked at the location commented that he had been camping there seasonally for 30 years; the vehicle was taxed and had current MOT and insurance. He stated that he lived in Littlehampton, but worked in Ferring on a seasonal basis, and stayed there in his motorhome as required. He also commented that people camping there were not hurting anyone, did not leave rubbish and were supporting local shops and businesses. He did not see why he could not continue to park his campervan on Marine Drive.
- Mr Oakley wished to clarify the law and stated that nobody had a lawful right to park on a road. He commented that there had been similar issues in his division and they had been served notice to quit the highway and that anybody who obstructed the highway. Mr Oakley stated that parking restrictions would just move offending vehicles to park nearby outside houses concluding that the issue needed to be dealt with the borough as a whole and as with the continent there could be designated parking areas.
- A local resident commented that ice cream vans pay to park on that road through acquiring permits and that local residents cannot enjoy the view as there is nowhere to park.
- A resident of Aldsworth Avenue commented that he had a campervan but he kept it on his drive but did not see a problem with parking on the seafront and commented that those that did were well behaved and believed the issue had been exaggerated.

- The representative from the Ilex Conservation Group stated that people were not just parking on Marine Drive for the day many were there overnight. There are village green regulations which apply and fencing is not allowed on a village green. The situation need to be resolved and it needed to be ascertained what other seaside towns did. Wild camping websites were advising people to come to Goring and the problem was prevalent in the winter as well as the summer. The Ilex Conservation Group had been advised that an experimental traffic regulation order would not be approved in this case however it had worked in Aberystwyth. It was asked that research be carried out to see what could be done.
- A resident commented that dogs were being sold from one motor home however stated that there needed to be a sense of perspective that if someone was breaking the law then the law was clear enough to be used.
- Regarding the West Sussex County Council Order, Mr Evans commented that the Gypsy and Traveller Team would go to court instruction for those vehicles that did not move on which would see them towed and owners charged the daily storage rate as they were infringing the law.
- A resident raised the issue of tents being erected on the greensward and stated that it was a growing problem which also needed to be addressed.
- A resident stated that a permit to sell ice creams was on the greensward and that he believed that campervans were not technically breaking the law. He took his campervan to Marine Drive so his grandchildren could play on the beach and he was a resident of Goring. He didn't see that people should be victimised who were investing in the local area.
- A resident of Marine Drive commented that it was not just the front where motorhomes were parking, there had been three outside her house last summer and the police had to be called as a bottle fight broke out.
- Mr Waight, as local County Councillor for the greensward for the past 20 years, stated that he was aware of the history and how things had changed over the years with an increase in the number of motorhomes which were parked there. He had seen areas fenced off which Worthing Borough Council had powers to stop to he would chase this up with Worthing Borough councillors. Mr Waight commented that a minority of people affected the majority and he wouldn't want to victimise or penalise, his concern was the greensward and overnight parking for substantial periods of time which prevented others from enjoying it which was not fair or reasonable. Over 50 people had contacted him which he believed was a significant number telling him problems they were experiencing. Mr Waight stated his concern that there were currently no CLC led TROs and with the promotion on social media the situation would get worse. Mr Waight asked the Chairman to place credible timescales and for a member group to seek a solution as a substantial number of people had attended the meeting to discuss this issue.
- Mr Oakley concluded the discussion as the CLCs TRO champion to contact officers to look at putting in a temporary TRO.

14. A resident raised the issue of Titnore Lane and the request for a reduction in speed limit and weight limit on this road, in his opinion this was more important than the issue of parking on Marine Drive and councillors should give priority for a TRO to Titnore Lane as it was an issue of safety. Roger Oakley undertook to pursue this request. *In response, a representative from the Ilex Conservation Group commented that the progress report stated the highways department were progressing the reclassification of the road which would reduce incidents as satellite navigation*

*systems would be updated. She didn't think that parking on Marine Drive should vie with Titnore Lane as they were both important.* Another reiterated the need for reduction in speed limit on Titnore Lane and Robin Rogers as local member undertook to work with Roger Oakley on this issue.

15. A resident of Ham Road asked for an update on the progress of a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) in the road and surrounding area. Mr Oakley informed the meeting that the proposals would be advertised later in the month and any objections would be responded to and considered at the next meeting of the Worthing CLC. Further to this it was commented that parking on Ham bridge could cause an accident. Mr Oakley responded that double yellow lines were proposed on the bridge as part of the consultation.

16. A resident commented that there had been reports that the A27 scheme was progressing and asked for an update. Mr Turner responded that the route feasibility study was intended to go to public consultation but there would be not building work prior to 2018/19 at the earliest.

17. Regarding Montague Place, a plea was made that paving on the east side which was approximately 10m wide and in perfect condition would not be removed as part of the improvements. The Chairman stated that this would be addressed under the next agenda item.

18. It was commented that it was increasingly embarrassing for local businessmen to bring clients into the town with the poor upkeep of local pavements and asked what was being done. The Chairman responded that this was a problem in each of the electoral divisions in the town. Mr Waight commented that verges on Aldsworth Avenue were knee high and that a message should be sent back that the state of pavements should be looked at seriously. A resident added that the roundabouts were also overgrown and that direction signs were obscured. The Chairman undertook to write to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport regarding the condition of pavements and roundabouts and ask for the grooming of the area to be reviewed. In conclusion, Mr Cloake highlighted that the community could get involved in clearing and planting of areas with support from the County Council's volunteer coordinator who could supply tools etc. The Chairman added that there was CIF available to help local communities with the cost of plants.

### **Montague Place, Worthing**

19. The Committee received a presentation on the Montague Place improvements (copy appended to the signed minutes) from project manager Roland Plumb who highlighted the frequently asked questions which was attached to the agenda and available in the room (copy appended to the signed minutes).

20. Questions and comments summarised as follows:

- Mr John Rogers stated his concern, having looked at East Street in Shoreham, of the upkeep as it would rapidly get tyre marks and asked about access points. Mr Plumb responded that the restriction of vehicles was an issue and access couldn't be prevented before 10 o'clock as there was a restriction in place between 10-4pm and once in Montague Street vehicles could stay there until after 4pm. There were hard features in Montague Place which would stop car entering and further measures could be looked at over time through future

phases however deliveries to shops in Montague Street could not be prevented. A representative from the Worthing Town Centre Initiative commented that town centre rangers would monitor the restriction and involve the police where possible, some of the shops did not have rear access for deliveries and that cleaning would continue to remove chewing gum etc.

- In addition, Mr John Rogers commented that security van access needed to be regulated. It was commented that there was a need for some vehicle access so businesses could operate and emergency vehicle access was required.
- Mr Cloake, as the local member, stated that pressure washers could remove tyre marks and that the bed for the paving would be approached as it were highway to make it the best it could be, adding that business can state when security vans arrive. He believed it to be a really great scheme and he did not have an cause for concern. The comments regarding the regency paving would be looked into in terms of keeping it, lifting it or for it to be resold.
- It was commented that the drawings showed steps at the Liverpool Terrace entrance and it was asked what disabled access there would be. Mr Plumb responded that there would be a slope which would run around the steps.
- A resident stated that he liked the red tiles and that it sounded like it would be built to a high standard however, raised the issue of reinstatement following work by utility companies and asked how it could be ensured it would be relayed to the same standard. Mr Plumb responded that the materials which had been selected were readily available for reinstatement and repair purposes. The Chairman enquired whether there was an assurance that any repairs would be to the same specification and whether it would be enforceable. Mr Cloake stated that the CLC should ask the new Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport and the Leader of the Council to mark out roads that require special attention, including Montague Place, to ensure that stocks of materials are maintained. Mr Oakley stated that the standard of work can vary considerably and that a reliable contractor should be available to make good if the utility company fails to do so. In conclusion, Mr John Rogers stated that the Environmental Services Select Committee had considered a new roads works permit scheme and to address concerns raised a contractor would need to make good.

21. The Chairman thanked Mr Plumb for attending the meeting and for his presentation.

### **Prevention and Wellbeing Grants 2015/16**

22. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Public Health, Commissioner for Health & Social Care (copy appended to the signed minutes). The report detailed how Prevention and Wellbeing Grants were allocated in 2014/15 and set out the prevention and wellbeing commissioning objectives for the 2015/16 financial year to ensure duplication of grant giving and commissioning did not take place.

23. The Committee considered the grant applications for 2015/16 as set out in Appendix B and discussed how to allocate funding.

24. Resolved – that

- (a) The following applications were approved:

JP033 - Alzheimer's Society, £1,200.00  
TL004 – Bognor & Worthing Shopmobility, £2,500.00  
NL009 – Brainstrust, £2,400.00  
DR029 – Breathing Spaces, £5,000.00  
DR030 – Central & South Sussex Citizens Advice Bureau, £1,258.00  
DR025 – Coastal West Sussex MIND, £2,392.00  
DR036 – Contact the Elderly, £500.00  
JP017 – Creative Futures, £950  
DR008 – Creative Waves, £2,322.00  
DR001 – Cruse West Sussex, £740.00  
TL024 – Headway, £2,025.68  
NL004 – Lifecentre, £1,000.00  
DR014 – National Childbirth Trust, £1,250.00  
TL006 – PBC Foundation, £89.32  
TB01 – SASBAH, £800.00  
JP032 – St Peters House Project, £300.00

(b) The following applications were declined:

TL020 – Cancer United, £1,000, as the committee felt that there were a number of community transport providers in the local area and that the fund was not for aesthetic improvements to assets.

TB14- Cancervive, £485.95, as the committee felt that the application did not demonstrate direct benefit to Worthing residents.

NL029 Cancerwise, £500.00, as the committee felt that the application did not demonstrate direct benefit to Worthing residents.

DR024 – St Barnabas House, £1,000, the committee felt that even though they supported the work of the organisation, they wished to prioritise and support other organisations with the funding available.

NL028 – West Sussex Music Trust, £2,000.00, as the committee felt that the application would be funding an activity for NHS staff only.

DR007 – Worthing Churches Homeless Projects, £5,000.00, as the committee felt that was a commercial venture and may duplicate other local initiatives.

DR032 – Worthing Practical Skills Enterprise, £2,500.00, as the committee felt that there were a number of organisations and projects running of a similar nature in the area already.

## **Community Initiative Funding**

25. The Committee considered a report on Community Initiative Funding by the Director of Law, Assurance and Strategy (copy appended to the signed minutes). The Chairman commented that it was the first meeting of the financial year and that it was a shame that not many applications had been received. The Chairman encouraged all members to embrace Small Charities Week and invited Mr Smytherman to present the CLC with the details of the sub group recommendations. Regarding application 702/W

Mr Robin Rogers raised his concern that the CLC could be approached for funds next year for the same event and asked whether this was what CIF was for. Mr Oakley commented that this event was a clear community issue which the whole town would benefit. Regarding application 738/W Mr Oakley suggested that half the funding be awarded to encourage match funding. The Chairman highlighted that a sub group had been established to ensure that all questions were asked and options considered before recommendations were made.

26. Resolved: -

a) The following awards be made:

702/W – Rotary Clubs of Worthing, £4,000.00 towards the costs of a marquee for the Beach House Festival.

738/W – Worthing Speakers Club, £1,818.00 to purchase equipment, learning materials, and leaflets.

b) The following application be declined:

706/W – Buddy's Café Mencap, £4,025.75, for various costs associated with setting up and running a "start the week club" as it was considered that the application was not appropriate for CIF funding and agreed that the local member would discuss this decision with the applicant.

### **Appointment of Authority School Governors**

27. Members considered a report by the Executive Director Care, Wellbeing and Education (copy appended to the signed minutes) regarding the appointment and reappointment of Authority School Governors. Members noted the current authority governor vacancies as list in Appendix B to the report. It was highlighted that some schools had asked for vacancies to be filled after they had reconstituted in September.

28. Resolved – That under the 2007 Regulations, Mr RA Peebles be appointed to the English Martyrs Catholic Primary School for a four year term.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

29. The next meeting of the Committee would take place on Wednesday 16 September 2015 at 7pm at a venue to be arranged.

The meeting closed at 8.52pm.

### **Chairman**