

Worthing County Local Committee

23 July 2012 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 pm in the Georgian Room, Chatsworth Hotel, The Steyne, Worthing.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Doyle.

Chairman's Welcome

19. The Chairman welcomed members and the public to the meeting. The Chairman apologised for the change of date and venue for the meeting. This was because the Committee may have had to consider a Traffic Regulation Order for the new Worthing College Site that was time critical. The formal consultation received no objections therefore this did not need to come before the Committee for consideration.

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

20. Following the decision that County Local Committee's (CLCs) would elect their own Chairman annually the Committee agreed to appoint Mr Smytherman as Chairman and Mrs Waight as Vice Chairman of the Worthing CLC for the 2012-13 municipal year.

Declarations of Interest

21. In accordance with the Code of Conduct, Mr Rice and Mr Waight declared personal interests as members of Worthing Borough Council in relation to agenda item 10, West Sussex Waste Plan. See also minute 28.

Minutes

22. Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25 April 2012 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

23. Mr Livermore raised the issue of his constituents missing out on their first, second and third choice schools, which was disastrous for both the parents and children concerned. The Committee shared Mr Livermore's concerns and were particularly concerned that siblings had to attend different schools, which was incredibly difficult for parents on the school run, particularly if they did not own a car.

24. The Committee were very concerned about the impact of schools converting to academies on the provision of school places and the effect of the age of transfer on this. Worthing was the only area of the County that still had first and middle schools and the Committee want a clearer idea of when this was likely to change to be in line with the rest of the County.

25. The Committee agreed to write to the Cabinet Member for Education and Schools to express their concerns and to request a meeting to discuss the issues. The Committee also suggested a meeting be arranged with the Cabinet Member for Education and Schools, Headteachers, Officers, Parents and CLC members to better understand the issues and to look for solutions.

Progress Statement

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

West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (WSFRS) Consultation on savings Proposals and Annual Service Plan for 2013/14

27. Gary Locker, Project Manager WSFRS, outlined the proposals to make the required £2.5m saving. The preference in 2011 had been to merge with East Sussex Fire Authority but this had not been possible. The proposed savings would not affect front line services but specialist team crewing arrangements e.g. the heavy rescue tender would be reviewed to make them more resilient and effective. Other measures included a 25% senior management headcount reduction, changing response arrangements for Horley and Crawley and streamlining of fire safety and investigation.

Highways and Transport Matters

Proposed Gap Closures, The Boulevard

28. Mr Waight declared a personal interest as Chairman of the Sussex Police Authority.

29. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Communities and Infrastructure (copy appended to signed minutes) that sought their approval to close the gaps in The Boulevard following a previous deferral of the decision. A number of issues were raised:

- Mr Rogers, the local member, informed the Committee that he had carried out an informal survey and the vast majority of local residents felt that the gaps should remain open. Mr Rogers felt that closing the gaps would put more traffic onto the roundabouts, which could lead to more accidents.
- Other members of the Committee felt that increasing the traffic onto the roundabouts was not going to create accidents, as the traffic would be approaching the roundabouts slower.
- The Chairman reminded the Committee that only objections/comments contained in the report could be considered as the consultation period had closed.
- Residents were very concerned about exiting the junction with Palatine Road as it already had very poor visibility.
- Other residents suggested that the gaps should be looked at on an individual basis but Jen Bradbury, Coastal Team Manager, informed the meeting that this was outside the scope of this Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and would require separate orders for each gap.

30. Resolved – that the Worthing County Local Committee, having considered that the resulting benefits to the community outweigh the objections raised,

authorised the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to make the order as advertised.

Infrastructure Plan Update

31. 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 Worthing County Local Committee.

Talk with Us Open Forum

32. A resident, who had sent in his question by email, voiced his concerns about the shambolic state of the street lighting replacement works. Holes had been dug that meant some pavements had been blocked for over 6 weeks which was a problem for his wife who used a mobility scooter and made pavements inaccessible for weeks at a time. Lindy Nash, Liaison Officer, responded that she would take the issues forward with Scottish Southern Electric (SSE) because this was not acceptable. She was part of ongoing work to improve the service provision. The progress on this would be reported back at the next meeting.

33. Mr Rice told the Committee that a consultation meeting had been organised to update residents on the street lighting works but only two people attended. The residents were promised another meeting so that more residents could attend but this had still not been arranged. Lindy Nash would take the comments back to the contractor, SSE, about the consultation. The aspiration was that 12 weeks before the work was due to begin SSE would contact Parish or Borough Council representatives to aid the planning. Four weeks prior to the works SSE would place consultation vehicles in key locations and letters would be put through doors 3 weeks prior to the works. The County Officers wanted to engage better with local members at the right time to make the works run more smoothly. The Committee requested that officers liaise with the press office to ensure press releases were issued about key events and asked that local members be kept as up to date as possible about what was happening in their areas.

34. A resident of Stone Close expressed his surprise and confusion that contractors from WSCC had filled in half of the potholes in the road but not all of them. Jen Bradbury replied that there was very specific criteria about filling potholes. Any holes that were considered a safety concern should be filled within 28 days. It was sometimes more cost effective to patch an entire road but this would take longer as it had to be entered into the forward programme.

West Sussex Waste Plan

35. The Chairman introduced the Planning & Transport Policy Manager, Darryl Hemmings, to outline the report by the Director of Communities and Infrastructure (copy appended to signed minutes). Darryl Hemmings informed the meeting that West Sussex County Council (WSCC) was the waste planning authority for the County except for the area covered by the National Park which was the responsibility of the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). WSCC had to plan to deal with municipal, commercial and industrial, and construction and demolition waste. The waste plan was designed to cover the next 20 years with

certain assumptions being made about development and waste arising. The plan had to be able to change if necessary. WSCC and the SDNPA want West Sussex to be a zero waste to landfill county; 37% of the County's waste currently goes to landfill. There was a need to plan for a number of sites for recycling, treatment of inert waste and biodegradable waste etc. The Proposed Submission Draft Waste Local Plan would be approved by County Council in the autumn and an eight week formal consultation on soundness would follow. The consultation response deadline had been extended to 13 August 2012. The plan would then be submitted to an independent inspector. The following key issues were raised during the debate:

- The support for the allocation of Decoy Farm would depend on the traffic movements and whether Worthing Borough Council, the landowner, would give consent for this land to be put forward for waste use. Darryl Hemmings replied that an initial transport assessment had been completed which did not highlight any planning reasons to prevent allocation of the site. The impact of increased traffic to the site would also be addressed should a planning application be submitted. He also explained that Worthing Borough Council had not responded formally to the consultation so as far as officers were aware they were happy for the land to be taken forward for waste use.
- Mrs Richards asked whether residents who lived south of the railway had been consulted as they hadn't been on previous schemes and local residents provide a lot of information. Darryl Hemmings stated that residents of Ham Close and east of Dominion Road should have received the consultation document but he undertook to check which roads had been included and let Mrs Richards know.
- Mr Waight expressed concern that this land had been put forward as it sat in his portfolio as a Cabinet Member at Worthing Borough Council and he was not aware that members supported this. Mrs Waight replied that the planning committee had agreed in principle to this land going forward for waste use as long as it was not required for another purpose.

36. Resolved – that the Committee requested clarity regarding Worthing Borough Council's position on this land before they could recommend that this site be allocated or comment on the development principles for the site.

Appointment of Local Authority School Governors

37. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Learning (copy appended to the signed minutes) that set out proposed nominations to school governing bodies and the criteria for their appointment.

38. Resolved - That the following appointment and reappointments be approved:

Appointments:

- i. Mrs JC Reilley to Whytemead First School for a 4 year term
- ii. Mrs Verona Hall to Chatsmore Catholic High School for a 4 year term

Re-Appointments:

- i. Mr P Papps to Orchards Middle School for a 4 year term
- ii. Mr J Thompson to Davison CE High School for a 4 year term
- iii. Mr G Tovey to Elm Grove First School for a 4 year term
- iv. Mr A J Watts to Durrington High School for a 4 year term

Community Initiative Funding

39. 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.

40. Resolved –

(i) That the following Community Initiative Funding applications be approved:

1840/W Women's Aid, £5,000, towards replacement windows for the refuge

1876/W Worthing Tennis and Squash Club, £700, for the purchase of croquet equipment

1904/W Sussex Junior Chess, £185, funding towards a one-off chess tournament at Broadwater CE School.

(ii) That the following applications be declined:

1874/W Phoenix Youth Group, £4,882, towards itemised equipment and costs towards a residential activity and coach hire owing to concerns about the organisation and the project. The Committee would invite the group to submit another, more focussed, application if funding is still required. If support is required the group are encouraged to contact their local member.

1902/W Rhythmix, £2,320 towards a pilot partnership project for children and young people at Oak Grove College as it is for running costs and therefore outside of the funding criteria.

1903/W Creative Sewing Group, £700, for the purchase of six sewing machines, two with drop-feed function owing to concerns regarding the sustainability of the group's structure.

Date of Next Meeting

41. The Committee noted that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday 24 October 2012 from 7pm at the St. Paul's Centre, Chapel Road, Worthing.

The meeting ended at 8.58pm

Chairman