

Unconfirmed minutes – to be confirmed at the next meeting of the CLC

Worthing County Local Committee

8 November 2017 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00pm at Bohunt School, Worthing, West Sussex

Present: Mr P High (Worthing West) (Chairman), Lt Cdr Atkins (Durrington and Salvington), Mr Cloake (Worthing Pier), Mr Oakley (Worthing East), Mr R Smytherman (Tarring), Mrs E Sparkes (Vice Chairman) (Cissbury), Mr B Turner (Broadwater) and Mr S Waight (Goring).

Officers present: Duncan Barrett (Strategy Manager), Sue Furlong (Neighbourhood Engagement Officer), David Penrose (Democratic Services), Lydia Schilbach (Principal Communities Officer) and Mike Thomas (Areas Highway Manager).

Welcome and Introductions

15. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Members and Officers to introduce themselves.
16. Apologies were received from Mr S McDonald (Northbrook).

Declarations of Interest

17. Lt Cdr Atkins declared a pecuniary interest as manager of Heene Community Centre.

Minutes

18. **Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12 June 2017 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

19. The Chairman announced that an additional CIF application had been received after the Agenda had been dispatched and that he had decided to consider it at the meeting. Application 102/W would be taken at item 11.

Progress Statement

20. The Committee noted the progress statement (copy attached to the signed minutes). The Area Highways Manager highlighted the following matters:

- Highways England has been emailed on the 3 October to inform them about the incorrect signage on Titnore Lane and had been chased for a response since then.
- That the central reservation in Broadwater Road by Bohunt school had been planted as part of the development and was currently maintained by the developer.
- An invitation to meet with residents of Heene Road had not yet been received. Due to the decision points, topography of the road and nature of vehicle movements, it was difficult to identify an effective solution to the issue.

21. **Resolved:** that the Progress Statement be noted.

Adur and Worthing Growth Deal

22. The Strategy Manager provided the Committee with a presentation on the Emerging Public Realm Improvements to support the sites identified in the Worthing Investment prospectus. The following areas were highlighted:

- The public realm improvements constituted a joined up strategy for public realm projects from the station to sea.
- There were six key development sites that were identified in the Worthing Investment Prospectus – Teville Gate, Civic Site, Union Place, Aquarena, Stagecoach and Grafton.
- The plans that had been put on display before the meeting were the first step in the process and outlined a variety of potential options.
- The estimated total cost of the scheme would be between £7.8 - £15.8m.
- Potential funding of £5m from an allocation from WSCC with the possibility of additional funding from CIL and S106 monies.
- The design philosophy increased space available to pedestrians and cyclists, rationalised road layout and would assess car parking.

23. Members expressed the following concerns:

- That the local Member and the public had not been had not been consulted on the plans. The Strategy Manager replied that these were early options, and that stakeholders had been consulted. Meetings had been arranged for the local Member. The public would be consulted as part of the next iteration of the project.
- The implied hierarchy of use; any decision to reduce the number of cars in the town in favour of pedestrians and cyclists, would impact the shops and traders in the town.
- That whilst there had been an outlay of £40k on the plans to date, there was currently a short fall in funding for the projects. The Strategy Manager pointed out that clear plans were required in order to be in a position to attract funding.
- That pragmatic feedback on the plans would be required, as it was felt that the plans did not reflect the nature of the traffic on Marine Parade and South Street. Pedestrians did not tend to walk down South Street in order to get into the town. Local Members should be involved in steering groups to discuss these proposals.
- The Strategy Manager said that the forthcoming Road Space Audit would be used in conjunction with the plans in order to address the issue of parking and how people used the roads in Worthing. An update on the Audit would be provided to the next meeting.

24. The Committee agreed that an updated report would be provided to the next meeting, and that, as local Members, Mr High and Mr Cloake should be involved on any Steering Panel for the Public Realm Improvements schemes.

Traffic Regulation (TRO) Update

25. The Committee considered a decision report by the Director of Highways and Transport and Head of Highways Operations, West Sussex County Council (copy appended to the signed minutes)

26. The Area Highways Manager introduced the report explaining that the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) requests received since July 2016 had been assessed and scored and the results attached in appendix A of the circulated report

27. **Resolved:** that the Committee agreed to progress the three highest scoring TROs from the list attached at Appendix A, those being:

Jupps Lane, Worthing Double yellow lines

Deacon Way, Worthing Double yellow lines

Community Highway Schemes – Update November 2017

28. The Area Highways Manager introduced the previously circulated information report that provided an update on Community Highway Schemes. He explained that there was one new scheme for the Worthing area as detailed in the appendix and that it would be subject to a final Cabinet Member decision to approve progression. Those schemes applied for but rejected were also detailed in the appendix as well as schemes approved last year that were already being progressed.

29. In reply to a question from a Member, he said that the Goring by Sea scheme had not scored highly enough to be progressed. He undertook to circulate the scoring methodology to the Committee.

Operation Watershed Active Communities Fund Update

30. The Committee noted a report by the Director of Communities, West Sussex County Council.

31. The Neighbourhood Engagement Officer said that Operation Watershed provided funds to assist local communities finance projects to respond to local surface water and ground water flooding. A cost benefit analysis from the Environment Agency had indicated that investing in £1 in flood defences prevented an average of £9 in future flood damage. £1 invested on smaller schemes in flood mitigation could realise up to £4 to £6 of value in damage prevented.

32. It was noted that there had not been much spend through Operation Watershed in Worthing as it was an urban environment which did not offer many simple quick fixes for flooding issues. A rain garden was being designed at Springfield Primary School with money from Operation Watershed in order to help alleviate surface flooding. Application to the fund was a six week process and was signed off by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure. Allocations to individual projects had been in the region of £1k to £120k in the past, and the Neighbourhood Engagement Officer urged Members to encourage local community groups to apply for funding. There was an active flood defence group in Tarring, and applications for funding had been received from groups such as Transition Town Worthing.

33. A Member pointed out that Southern Water was failing to maintain the surface water systems in Goring by Sea, especially in relation to Goring Greensward.

“Talk With Us” Open Forum

34. The Chairman advised that the open forum was an opportunity for comments and questions to be raised on items not already on the agenda. The following issues were raised and responses made:

- A member of the public said that parking issues meant that the Household Waste Lorries and emergency vehicles were unable to access Sunningdale Court, Jupps Lane, Worthing. Operation Crackdown, which was run by the police, would not address this issue as it was primarily aimed at speeding. The transient nature of parking offences meant that it was unlikely that the issue would be focussed on by the police, but they would target repeat offenders. A Member said that double yellow lines had been included around Sunningdale Court in the Traffic Regulation Order that had been approved at the meeting, and he was confident that the issue could be address when the parking enforcement officers were called into the area.
- Mr Smart stated that the West Worthing level crossing was widely seen as a safety hazard, as traffic congestion could back up to College Road and Heene Road. He said that as a senior civil engineer with experience on a number of large scale projects, he had drawn up plans for a tunnel under the level crossing as far as Tarring Street with a lift for pedestrians to a bridge over the railway. He had undertaken a feasibility study on the plans, which he believed would also help to redevelop a run-down area of the town. The Local Member said that he would like to see the plans that had been drawn up, and it was agreed that the Chairman and Mr Smytherman would discuss the matter further with Mr Smart.
- Concerns were raised by a local resident over the TRO for Marine Parade, which was now designated as a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ). The Area Highways Manager said that there had been insufficient evidence to get it through the mediation process. As a CPZ, a desktop feasibility study had been completed and as the tolerances fell within the appropriate parameters, it would be implemented at the end of the year.
- In reply to a question, the Highways Area Manager said that the WSCC controlled parking strategy had a three week consultation with every TRO. There was an annual review of the strategy. He went on to say that if there were concerns about people living in camper vans in the area, they would be checked out and moved on.

Community Initiative Funding

35. The Committee considered a report on Community Initiative Funding by the Director of Law, Assurance and Strategy (copy appended to the signed minutes).

36. The Engage Springboard project was seen as a valuable project and was approved unanimously.

37. It was noted that the application 95/W Heene Community Association bid had been withdrawn.

38. The Chairman said that the applicant behind the Sand Project bid had taken him through the bid and he was very supportive of the project. The intention to develop the shop could expand to a community hub. It offered a way of providing opportunity for those with learning difficulties and helping to bridge the gap that prevented them from becoming contributing members of society.

39. The Committee discussed the Yada bid. The Principal Community Officer replied to a Member's question by saying that Blue Print 22 did also have a similar project, and that she had put the two organisations together and that they were working well.

40. Resolved:

(a) The following awards were made:

85/W – Engage Springboard Project, £2896.85 towards IT Equipment.

98/W - The Sand Project, £3,448.44 towards equipment for SEND business.

102/W – Yada, £4,604.90 towards the Esther Project.

(b) The following application was withdrawn:

95/W – Heene Community Association, £2,500.00 towards equipment for Isolation Project.

Nominations of Authority School Governors

41. The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director Care, Wellbeing and Education (copy attached to the signed minutes). The report included a list of the current vacancies for Local Authority Governors in the CLC area.

42. Resolved –That the Committee approves the following nominations under the 2012 Regulations:

(1) Re-appointment:

- Mrs V Ludlow for a four year term to Durrington High School
- Mrs J Aldous for a four year term to the Vale School

Date of Next Meeting

14. The next meeting of the Committee would take place on 27 February 2018 at Elm Grove Primary School.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Chairman