

## **West Crawley County Local Committee**

19 January 2016 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00pm, in the Longley Exhibition Room, Crawley Library, Crawley.

Present: Mr Oxlade - Chairman (Member for Bewbush and Ifield West), Mr Jones (Member for Southgate and Crawley Central), Mrs Mullins (Member for Gossops Green and Ifield East), and Mr Quinn (Member for Broadfield)

In attendance: Monique Smart (Democratic Services Officers), Brian Lambarth (Area Highways Manager)

### **Welcome and Introductions**

29. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members and Officers introduced themselves.

### **Declaration of Interests**

30. Mr Michael Jones and Mr Chris Oxlade declared personal interests as members of Bewbush Action Group.

### **Urgent Matters**

31. The Chairman stated that he had agreed for two additional Community Initiative Funding (CIF) applications received after the official deadline, to be considered this evening. The applications and amended report was added to the West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) website and sent to Members on 13 January. These applications will be considered at agenda item No 7 alongside the other CIF applications.

### **Minutes**

32. Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

### **Progress Report.**

33. The Committee received and noted a progress report on matters relating to West Crawley (copy appended to the signed minutes).

34. Mr Brian Lambarth (Area Highways Manager) updated the Committee on issues on the Progress Statement and schemes on the Infrastructure Plan Priorities. Issues to note included:

- It was confirmed that the new process and scoring system for prioritising Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) had been agreed. Details of this would be added to the WSSCC website shortly at which point residents can start to request new TROs.

- It was confirmed that the review of Highways Improvements was still taking place and therefore schemes on the Community Issues Lists were not being progressed until that review had been completed. Schemes already programmed in the Integrated Works programme for 2015/16 are being progressed.
- Mrs Brenda Smith asked for an update from Adsa regarding the request for a crossing on Peglar Way, West Green. Brian Lambarth agreed to follow this up.
- Mrs Brenda Smith requested a site visit with a Highways Officer to Ifield Drive. Brian Lambarth agreed to follow this up.
- A resident asked if a cycle path could be included from the A23 to the Orchard Estate. Mrs Brenda Smith confirmed that this had been requested but as there was currently no funding. Brian Lambarth reminded the Committee that a Task and Finish Group was looking to prioritise all such requests across the County and they have been liaising with stakeholders. The outcome of the Task and Finish Group was expected in the Spring/Summer.

### **School Safety Update**

35. The Committee received an information report on school safety including updates on the School Keep Clear programme, School Travel Plans and School Crossing Patrols in the West Crawley area (copy appended to the signed minutes).

36. Brian Lambarth explained that the School Keep Clear programme would make the many zig zag lines outside school entrances legally enforceable. These had been advertised and so far the only one to receive objections was Holly Trinity School. It was hoped all those with no objections would progress by the end of the financial year.

37. The vacancy for a School Crossing Patrol at Broadfield East Juniors was as a result of long term sickness but Members asked if the temporary vacancy had been advertised. Brian Lambarth undertook to find out and report back to Members.

38. Members praised the schools with active travel plans as they understood the hard work that it involved. It was understood that the incentives used to encourage schools to have a plan had been withdrawn and also the scheme was to move over to a national online scheme. At present the County Council contact schools with no or out of date plans but there is no requirement for them to have one.

### **Community Initiative Funding (CIF)**

39. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law, Assurance and Strategy (copy appended to the signed minutes) which detailed applications for Community Initiative Funding. The Committee debated the respective merits of the projects for which funding was sought.

40. Resolved that:

(a) The following applications were approved: -

794/WC -Broadfield and Bewbush Children's Project, £1,500.00 towards sports, IT and craft equipment.

860/WC - Bewbush Action Group, £1,182.98, for the purchase of a mower, tools and storage.

861/WC - Southstar Radio, £848.00, for the purchase of decks, speakers etc for youth workshops.

(b) The following application was declined: -

778/WC - 2nd Ifield Scout Group, £2,000.00, part cost of building a climbing wall. It was noted that the group had received a number of CIF awards over the years as well as a recent award from the County Council Members Big Society Fund for this project.

(c) The following application was deferred until the next meeting: -

820/WC - West Sussex and Surrey Angling Academy, £3,611.00, to purchase tools, timber and 12 fishing kits. Members had a number of questions in relation to the application and agreed to communicate with the applicant on these issues prior to the next meeting.

41. The Chairman made mention that funds were still available and encouraged community groups to apply in time for the March meeting.

### **Cheals Roundabout Update**

42. The Committee received an information update on the forthcoming Highway Improvement works at Cheals Roundabout (copy appended to the signed minutes).

43. Brian Lambarth introduced the report and explained that a detailed plan of the proposed stage 1 works was available at the back of the room. He explained that the stage 1 scheme was intended to increase capacity by introducing 2 lanes. As the information update explained the County Council was aware of the concerns that it did not improve cycling or pedestrian routes but this could be looked at further at stage 2.

44. A number of issues were raised by Members and the public including the following:

- There was a strong feeling from many in the audience that the proposed scheme encouraged more people, especially school children, to cross at points where more traffic will be flowing.
- It was also questioned if the proposal would actually ease congestion.
- It was proposed that stage 2 should be designed before stage 1 is implemented.
- It was confirmed that the scheme would have to be tested and pass the various stages of safety audits.
- It was felt that the scheme was being rushed through to meet the S106 timescales.
- Members felt that they had not been consulted on the proposals and suggested more engagement, possibly via CLC meetings, should be undertaken when stage 2 progresses.

- It was noted that the decision in relation to works was agreed some 6 years ago at the planning application stage. It was also noted that the County Local Committee (CLC) had no decision making power in relation to the scheme but it was suggested that the CLC could write to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport at West Sussex County Council outlining their concerns in about the proposed scheme and inviting him to a future meeting to discuss it further.
- It was agreed that the Chairman would write to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the CLC.

### **'Talk with Us' – Open Forum**

45. The following answers were given in response to a question about matters affecting Crawley residents.

- Parking and safety on football match days, especially around the entrance to Broadfield Park, was raised as a safety concern. As this was an enforcement issue it was suggested the resident contact Sussex Police to look into this on a match day.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

46. The Chairman informed all that the next meeting would be held on 2 March 2016 at Crawley Library.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Chairman