

## **West Crawley County Local Committee**

20<sup>th</sup> January 2011 - At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 p.m. in the Longley Exhibition Room at Crawley Library, Southgate Avenue, Crawley.

### **Chairman's Welcome**

70. The Chairman, Mr Quirk, Member for Broadfield, invited members of the Committee, Dr Bloom, Member for Southgate and Crawley Central, Mr Blake, Member for Gossops Green and Ifield East and Mrs Brenda Smith, Member for Langley Green & West Green to introduce themselves.

71. The Chairman welcomed Mr Brad Watson and Mr Mick Hodgson, from the neighbouring North Horsham County Local Committee, to the meeting.

### **Declarations of Interests**

72. There were no declarations of interest.

### **Minutes**

73. Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

### **Urgent Matters**

74. The Chairman agreed that a request from the Broadfield Youth and Community Centre for a variation to a Community Initiative Fund award (application 1399/WC) could be considered as an Urgent Matter.

### **Hyde Drive**

75. Mr Oxlade informed the Committee that a Crawley Borough Councillor for Ifield had raised with him the safety of Hyde Drive following an accident where a child was knocked down after getting off a school bus. Mr Oxlade commented that vehicles frequently exceeded the speed limit. When the development of the new playground was completed, near the top of Hyde Drive, the likelihood of an accident increased as more children and parents would cross the road to and from the playground. He said that he had already had discussions with Mr Lambarth, the Acting Highway Manager about these concerns, including the possible use of CASPAR ("Crawley Automatic Speed Processor and Recorder") to remind people to slow down.

76. Local residents reiterated these concerns and said that many people in the area believed that the speed limit on Hyde Drive was 40mph and suggested 30mph repeater signs should be put up. They expressed concerns regarding the location of the school bus pick up & drop off points and requested that a pedestrian crossing was installed at the top of Hyde Drive.

77. The Mr Lambarth confirmed that the speed limit on Hyde Drive was 30mph. The law did not allow the use of repeater signs in on 30mph roads where there were streetlights at regular intervals. He said that he would arrange for a traffic

survey and, once the new playground was completed, a pedestrian count in the spring or early summer to get an assessment of whether the location met the minimum implementation criteria for a pedestrian crossing. He said discussions would take place with the bus companies regarding the location of the bus stops and that funding needed to be identified before any traffic calming measures could be considered.

78. The Committee expressed its support for the investigations and asked that the residents who had raised concerns should be informed of progress within two months. Mr Lambarth was asked to report back to the Committee at its next meeting.

### **West of Bewbush Development (Kilnwood Vale)**

79. The Committee had before it a report by the Director Communities and Infrastructure and the Service Manager, Local Development (copy appended to the signed minutes).

80. The Chairman introduced Mr Addison, Lead Professional, Development Plans, who explained the background to the Kilnwood Vale Development and the highway works that would be needed as a result. He explained that while the developer was making a significant financial contribution for the highway works, it would not cover all the costs. The timing of each phase of works was unlikely to be brought forward as there had been lengthy negotiations over them.

81. Members noted the concerns of the public present, namely:

- The British Horse Society's (BHS) concerns about the need for 300 houses to be occupied before the Pegasus crossing on the A264 was installed, although it was recognised that this was earlier than originally proposed. The BHS felt it should be installed sooner as it would become a popular route for riders and pedestrians to obtain safe access to the bridle path to the south of the A264.
- The path on the North East corner of the site needed to be upgraded to a hard surface.
- Cheals Roundabout improvements needed to incorporate much safer routes for cyclists, as the current layout was very dangerous.
- Traffic speeds in Sullivan Drive needed to be reduced.

82. Mr Hodgson said that North Horsham CLC had raised similar concerns at its meeting and said he would support a reduced speed limit on the A264. Mr Watson felt that the development was well designed. The West Crawley CLC Members agreed with the comments and while they acknowledged the significant funding gap between Options 1 and 2 for the Cheals Roundabout, they considered that the fully signalised Option 1 should be implemented to "future proof" the roads for the increase in traffic volumes expected. However, no additional funding streams had been identified to pay for the likely cost of Option 1.

83. Resolved

- 1) That the Committee notes the off-site highway improvements being secured

from the west of Bewbush development in order to mitigate the impact of traffic generated by the proposed development on the local highway network.

2) That the Committee notes that either a full traffic signalisation scheme or a modified roundabout scheme could be delivered as the Stage 2 improvement proposed for the A23/A2220 Cheals junction depending on the funding available at the time the improvement is needed.

## **Free Schools**

84. The Chairman introduced Mr Proudley, Capital Planning Manager at West Sussex County Council and Mr and Mrs Snowden, promoters of the Discovery New School, a proposed new Free School in Broadfield. He also welcomed school governors and teachers from the local schools.
85. Mr Proudley explained that the development of Free Schools was a central Government, not County Council, policy. However the County Council had a duty to respond to that policy and work with any free schools in the area.
86. Free schools were state funded, non-selective independent schools. The first 16 schools had been approved in the summer 2010 with one, the Discovery New School, to be located in Crawley.
87. Former fee paying schools could apply to become free schools as could charities, parents or school teachers amongst others. The free schools had the same freedoms to operate as academies, for example not having to follow the National Curriculum or the length of the school day. All free schools had to follow the DfE Admissions Code and work with a local authority to ensure that the need for pupil places was properly met. If there were a basic need case for a free school, it would receive greater support from the DfE.
88. The governance arrangements were for the school to determine and there was no obligation on free schools to have a school governor appointed by the local authority. They would however be inspected by Ofsted.
89. The schools would be funded directly by the Department for Education (DfE) with the funding per capita being the same as that for local authority schools. Free schools would receive additional revenue support for duties that were normally carried out by local authorities for state schools. The Partnership for Schools was engaged by the DfE to work with free schools to find suitable premises.
90. There were four stages to the application process – Proposal; Secretary of State approval to proceed; Submission of Business Case and Final approval. The Discovery New School had submitted its business case and was awaiting final approval from the Secretary of State.
91. Mr Proudley stressed that no building work had been started on Broadfield House as free schools had to abide by existing planning law. A decision on the planning application was expected in April. The County Council had been asked to assist the Discovery New School in getting the building works completed on time for a September 2011 opening. A contractor had surveyed the building

and estimates for the building work were expected in the next few weeks.

92. In response to a question about the loss of the Harnessing Technology grant to help pay for the introduction of free schools, Mr Proudley stressed that was Government, not local authority, policy. School governors questioned whether there was a basic need case for a new school in Crawley. Mr Proudley advised that the County Council was currently consulting some schools in Crawley about the need for additional places.
93. Mr and Mrs Snowden informed the CLC that they had previously run a private Montessori school for six years. However, despite demand it had closed due to a lack of funding. They applied to establish a primary free school as they were committed to providing a Montessori education for children in small class sizes. They lived and worked in Crawley and were committed to the area. When the School opened it would have 48 children and 112 when all year groups were full. The School was already oversubscribed. The catchment area of the School was the whole of Crawley and this had been chosen to reduce the impact on neighbouring schools. In fact they had asked the County Council to assist them in establishing links to the neighbouring schools.
94. They explained that the application process had been very rigorous at each stage and the DfE had asked numerous questions and made frequent requests for additional information, particularly on their business case. They had, with the help of the County Council and the DfE, looked at a number of locations for a free school and Broadfield House had been the most suitable option that was available. It was recognised that, as a Grade II listed building, it would need considerable investment to bring it up to an acceptable standard. However this had been factored in to their business case, as had the likely ongoing maintenance costs.
95. In response to a question about the transition of children from a Montessori primary education to a state secondary school Mr Snowden said that they would ensure that their approach to teaching recognised this need, as many parents would not be able to afford to send their children on to private secondary Montessori schools.
96. The Chairman thanked Mr and Mrs Snowden and Mr Proudley for the informative presentations.

### **Progress Statement**

97. The Committee noted the report.

### **Community Initiative Fund**

98. The Committee received a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (copy appended to the signed minutes) regarding a request from the Broadfield Youth and Community Centre for a variation to a Community Initiative Fund award they received in October 2010 (application 1399/WC).
99. Resolved that purpose of the award made to the Broadfield Youth and Community Centre on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2010 be varied so that £800 can be used as

Unconfirmed Minutes subject to confirmation at the next meeting of the West  
Crawley County Local Committee

a contribution to the re-roofing of the Youth Hall.

### **Crawley Controlled Parking Zone – Proposed amendments to waiting restrictions**

100. The Committee received a report by the Director, Communities and Infrastructure on the proposed amendments to waiting restrictions in the Crawley Controlled Parking Zone (copy appended to the signed minutes).

101. Resolved

That the Committee, having considered the responses to the informal consultation, authorises the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to formally advertise detailed proposals shown in Tiles TQ2636SWN and TQ2636SEN (both dated 15.09.10) and, subject to there being no objections, that they be brought into operation.

### **'talk with us' - Open Forum**

102. Several school governors expressed their concerns about the significant reductions in the grants for Additional Educational Needs (AEN) and Special Educational Needs (SEN) arising from the change to the funding formula implemented by the County Council. It was noted that this matter had been raised by the Children and Young People's Select Committee at its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2011 and as a result the formula might be reviewed.

103. The Chairman agreed to write to the Cabinet Member for Education and Schools expressing the Committee's concerns over the impact this reduction would have on schools in areas that were relatively deprived, such as Broadfield and Bewbush in comparison to schools in less deprived areas such as Maidenbower.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

104. The Committee noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held place on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at Crawley Library.

### **Chairman**

The meeting closed at 9.04pm