

West Crawley County Local Committee

21 September 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), Mr Quinn (Member for Broadfield)

In attendance: Monique Smart (Democratic Services Officer), Terina Bryant (Principal Community Officer), Brian Lambarth (Highways Manager) and Nick Burrell (Senior Advisor)

Apologies: Mrs Smith (Member for Langley Green and West Green)

Welcome and Introductions

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

19. The Chairman drew the Committee's attention to the 'Safer In Our Hands' campaign in response to plans by the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner's office to look at taking over West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service. He advised that West Sussex County Council (WSCC) believed that West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service should remain under the control of the County Council where it sat at the heart of the authority's Communities and Public Protection Directorate, fully integrated with all services. He encouraged Members and the public to take an information card and sign the petition on the WSCC website.

Declaration of Interests

20. None

Minutes

21. Resolved- that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2016 be confirmed as a true and accurate record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

22. No urgent matters.

Progress Statement

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

Changes to County Local Committees

24. Mr Nick Burrell, Senior Advisor, Democratic Services, introduced the previously circulated report that detailed proposed changes to County Local Committees and provided a short powerpoint presentation explaining the changes. Mr Burrell stated that the proposals are to deliver a Democratic Services savings target of £378,000 for 2016/18 as part of West Sussex County Council's two-year savings programme. He explained that for Crawley the proposal included combining the East and West Crawley County Local Committees and reducing the number of meetings from 4 to 3 per year. The proposals also included a reduction of the Community Initiative Fund by £1,000 per Member this year and a further £1,000 per Member next year.

25. Mr Burrell stated that feedback had been sought from Members and partners and the proposals and feedback were considered by the Governance Committee, which gave its full support. The next step would be for Full Council to consider the proposals in October.

26. Members discussed the report and raised the following points:

- General support was given for having one CLC in Crawley
- There was some concern about reducing to 3 meetings a year and that funding applicants would have to wait longer for grants to be issued and less time for the public to ask questions.
- Members would like to encourage more public to attend and engage in the meetings. It was suggested that more themed meetings should be arranged.
- There was disappointment about the reduction of the Community Initiative Fund and Prevention and Wellbeing fund.

It was noted that a new application process for grants under £1,000 would replace the Prevention and Wellbeing fund and this was due to be launched very soon with decisions being made by a Cabinet Member on a monthly basis. There was some concern about the allocation of Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) but it was confirmed that these will still be assessed on a points system and the proposed Crawley Committee would have an allocation of 3 per year.

Community Initiative Funding (CIF)

27. The Chairman welcomed previously successful CIF applicants and asked them to provide feedback on how the funding had benefitted their organisation and the community. Representatives from Rape Crisis Surrey and Sussex and Crawley Festival both provided valuable feedback that was welcomed by all.

28. The Committee went on to considered a report by the Director of Law, Assurance and Strategy (copy appended to the signed minutes) that detailed applications for Community Initiative Funding.

29. Resolved that the following applications were approved: -

1024/WC – The Ekta Group, £960.00, towards the well being elements of the application.

1029/WC -CAMEO Club, £344.00 towards the Santa Special Christmas Lunch Cruise

1038/WC –The Posh Club, £2,000.00 towards new lighting, sound system, seating and stage costs.

Priorities for Traffic Regulation Orders

30. The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Residents Services and Director of Highways and Transport (copy appended to the signed minutes), which sought a decision from the Committee.

31. Brian Lambarth, Highways Manager introduced the report and explained that TRO Requests received since March 2016 had been assessed and scored using the new process for progression in the 2017/18 works programme.

32. Resolved that the Members of West Crawley County Local Committee agree to progress the two highest scoring TRO priority from the list attached at Appendix A, those being
St Helier Close, St Clements Road and Broadwood rise – Waiting restrictions
Hillmead, Craigans and The Croft - Waiting restrictions

Nominations to School and Academy Governing Bodies

33. The Committee noted the Authority School Governor vacancies and encouraged anyone with an interest in becoming a school governor to contact West Sussex County Council.

'Talk With Us' – Open Forum

34. The following matters affecting Crawley residents were raised. The proposed development of housing and a new hospice at Pease Pottage was raised with concern about the need for additional facilities. The Chairman confirmed this was discussed in detail and the last meeting and letters have been sent from the Committee to both the County Council and Mid Sussex District Council.

Date of Next Meeting

35. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 7 December 2016 in Longley Exhibition Room of Crawley Library.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm

Chairman