

West Crawley County Local Committee

24th September 2009 - At a meeting of the West Crawley County Local Committee at 7.00 p.m. at Langley Green Primary School, Langley Drive, Crawley, RH11 7TF.

Present:

Howard Bloom	Southgate & Crawley Central
Alan Quirk (Chairman)	Broadfield
Chris Oxlade	Bewbush & Ifield West

Apologies:

Keith Blake
Brenda Smith

In attendance:

Robin Davison	-	Democratic Services
Rhys Hutchinson	-	Senior Engineer, Waterman Transport and Development Ltd
Ralph Wright	-	Highways and Transport

Welcome and Introductions

27. The Chairman welcomed members of the public to the meeting and introduced the members of the Committee. Apologies from Keith Blake and Brenda Smith were presented to the meeting.

Declarations of Interest

28. Referring to agenda item 7, Community Initiative Funding, Alan Quirk declared a prejudicial interest concerning application #1072 Broadfield Children's Centre; Mr Quirk had expressed his support for the application to the applicant prior to the meeting.

Minutes

29. Resolved – That the minutes of the West Crawley County Local Committee held on 25th June 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

30. The Chairman agreed to an additional Community Initiative Funding application to be considered under agenda item 7, Community Initiative Funding; #1105 - Siri Guru Singh Sabha for £130.

Progress Statement

31. The Committee had before it a document that contained brief updates on matters arising from the last meeting of the Committee (copy appended to the signed copy of the minutes).

32. Ralph Wright updated the Committee on progress with the scheme to introduce Variable Message Signs on the A23 to address the issue of speeding motorists. The scheme had been delayed and it was anticipated that the design would be completed in the next year of highway works, 2010-2011 and implementation would take place in the following year. The scheme would require formal consultation and it was possible that a report would be brought to the CLC but currently it was subject to a feasibility study.

Langley Green Scheme

33. The Committee had before it a report by Executive Director of Operations – Infrastructure (copy appended to the signed copy of the minutes). The report outlined the TROs required to facilitate the regeneration of Langley Parade, Crawley. Rhys Hutchinson, Senior Engineer, Waterman Transport and Development Ltd, was introduced to the meeting as the scheme designer for Langley Green.

34. Ralph Wright explained that the Committee were not required to make a decision to implement the four TROs as no objections had been received following the formal advertisement of the scheme. The report had been presented to the Committee as an information item and a discussion took place which included the points set out below:

- The absence of a 20mph limit terminal sign at the School Safety Zone at Langley Green was highlighted by a local resident.
- A local resident requested that additional signage be installed to indicate the location of informal crossings at Martyrs Avenue, Langley Drive and Stagelands. Motorists did not appreciate that the facilities were crossing points. The crossings had been installed in compliance with safety standards and had been subject to safety audits but the concerns raised would be highlighted to the auditor for safety. The uncontrolled, informal crossing points were part of a wider scheme for the area to introduce safety improvements through public realm enhancements. The overall scheme was designed to reduce the speed of motorists through Langley Green. It was requested that additional signage and road markings be installed to provide warning of the crossing points.
- The incidence of cycling on the pavements was raised as a problem in the area. It was unlawful for people to cycle on pavements and there was uncertainty concerning the enforcement actions of the police to ensure public compliance with the law.
- It was noted that the consultation period for the Langley Green scheme had concluded. The concerns raised had been recorded and a report would be presented to the Committee at the West Crawley CLC meeting on 22 April 2010 to review the effectiveness of the safety measures. Mr Hutchinson explained that before the meeting in April 2010 a stage 3 road safety audit would have been conducted to identify safety issues and concerns with the scheme.
- Mr Quirk informed the meeting of the intention of Crawley Borough Council to provide 38 permit holder only spaces on the parade at Langley Green. It was anticipated that the permits would cost £30.00-£60.00 per annum.

35. Resolved – that:

- i) the Committee notes the content of the report and
- ii) requests an update on the effectiveness of safety measures be presented at the meeting on 22 April 2010.

Community Initiative Fund (CIF)

36. The Committee had before it a report by West Sussex County Council Head of Policy and Democratic Services (copy appended to the signed minutes). The report sought decisions from the Committee on the applications received under the CIF scheme. The Committee discussed a number of issues, which included those set out below:

- The application from Crawley CVS Older Persons Forum #924, for printing costs for an older persons directory had been deferred at the previous meeting. It was noted that East Crawley CLC had dedicated £1,000 to the group. The Committee expressed a desire to distribute the CIF available to a broad range of local groups and felt that an allocation of £4,000 to one group would detract from this objective. An initial version of the directory had been published in 2007 and an allocation of £1,000 would allow the organisation to undertake a further print run.
- Ifield PCC, application #948 had been deferred at the previous CLC meeting and further information had been requested regarding the number of people the allocation of funding would benefit. No supporting information was received from the group but the project was recognised as a valuable community enterprise and further information was again requested.
- Hogshill Social Club was formed of residents at the Hogshill Extra Care Home who organised social events to encourage interaction and socialising between residents. The funding applied for was for coach trips to the coast and games.
- The provision of funding to Age Concern Crawley, application #1094, was queried as the organisation was a national charity and funding issued by the Committee was intended for small community groups. It was noted that the funding applied for was at a low level and that a relocation to new premises had had a detrimental impact upon the group.
- An application #1105 for funding had been received after the despatch of the agenda from local group Siri Guru Singh Sabha for £130 for information display stands. The group were based in an old building in Crawley which they shared with the CVS which did not have adequate space or facilities to display information.

37. Resolved

- i) that the following applications and amounts be approved:

#924 – Crawley CVS Older Peoples Forum - £1,000 – towards the cost of printing a directory of local services for older people.

#1080 – Hogshill Social Club - £500 – to fund coach trips and social games.

#1094 – Age Concern Crawley - £413.58 – to purchase equipment for an arts and crafts outreach club.

#1105 – Siri Guru Singh Sabha - £130 – for the purchase of display stands.

ii) That the following application be deferred until receipt of additional information: #948 – Ifield PCC.

38. 7.44pm Mr Quirk declared a prejudicial interest and left the room during the decision of Community Initiative Funding application #1072 Broadfield Children's Project.

39. Mr Oxlade nominated Dr Bloom as Chairman. Dr Bloom was elected Chairman for the remainder of the Community Initiative Funding agenda item.

Dr Bloom in the Chair

40. A query was raised regarding the allocation of funding across the two locations in the application; Broadfield and Bewbush. It was confirmed that a greater share of the funding would be used in Broadfield. It was felt that the cost of computer equipment and software was the most important element of the application.

41. Resolved that: the Committee approves Community Initiative Funding of £750.00 for application #1072, Broadfield Children's Project for the purchase of computer equipment and software.

42. 7.49pm Mr Quirk re-entered the room and took the Chair.

Mr Quirk in the Chair

Appointment of Local Authority School Governors

43. Resolved that: the Committee agree the following Local Authority School Governor appointments and re-appointments:

- i) Mr Keith Blake to be appointed to Manor Green College Special School with effect from 04 November 2009 for a four year term;
- ii) Mr I Boothman to be reappointed to Hilltop Primary with effect from 24 October 2009 for a four year term; and
- iii) Mrs Janet Sully to be reappointed to Ifield Community College with effect from 04 October 2009 for a four year term;
- iv) Mr T Bartholomew to be appointed to Gossops Green Primary with effect from 01 November for a four year term; and
- v) Mrs J MacGregor to be appointed to Manor Green Primary with effect from 01 December for a four year term.

44. It was reported that since the previous meeting of the Committee the Urgent Action procedure had been used to approve the reappointment of a Local Authority School Governor; Mr Magecha was reappointed as a Governor to St Wilfred's Catholic School for four years from 22 July 2009.

Traffic Regulation Priorities

45. The Committee had before it a report by the Executive Director of Operations – Infrastructure (copy appended to the signed copy of the minutes). The report asked the Committee to agree a third TRO priority for the 2009-2010 year after the decision was deferred at the previous meeting. The Committee discussed a number of issues which included those set out below:

- The recommended third TRO in the report was in Manor Road Industrial Estate. The purpose of the TRO would be to regulate parking at a dangerous junction. The location of the provisional TRO was within the East Crawley area but it was a location of significance for the whole of Crawley and had received support from East Crawley CLC as a fourth priority.
- The Committee was in agreement with the selected TRO but questioned whether there would be adequate enforcement at the junction to ensure that the TRO was effective. Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) would be introduced in Crawley in January 2010 and although there would only be a limited number of wardens on duty West Sussex Highways could suggest locations where targeted enforcement would be necessary.
- It was explained that the deferral of a third priority had resulted from the low scores of the provisional TROs that had previously been presented to the Committee. If a third TRO was not selected for the 2009-2010 year then it would be lost.

46. Resolved that: the Committee supports the provision of double lines in the Manor Road Industrial Estate as the third priority within the East Crawley area.

'talk with us' – Open Forum

47. The Chairman invited questions and comments from the audience which included those set out below:

- Car parking at Buckingham Court by parents taking their children to Broadfield School was raised as a problem. Mr Wright said he would investigate.
- Traffic control lights at the junction of Buckwood Drive/Horsham Road were requested in addition to the pedestrian crossing installed at the site. Mr Wright explained that he would pass the request to the signals team at West Sussex Highways.
- A local resident informed the Committee of work she had undertaken to make improvements to bus stops in Crawley. The Committee were handed the results of a survey to identify bus stops that would benefit from safety improvements together with a response to the findings by a Senior Transport Planner at West Sussex Highways and Transport (copy appended to the signed copy of the minutes). The local resident was advised to present her findings to Metrobus.
- 8.10pm Dr Bloom declared a personal interest in the discussion as a GP at the Gossop Green Medical Centre which featured on the listing of bus stops investigated. A monitoring report would be brought to the Committee at a forthcoming meeting.
- The Chairman highlighted the A23 North Slip Road; a footpath and cycle track from Pease Pottage ended at the junction and pedestrians and cyclists had difficulty seeing traffic coming off the slip road due to overhanging

trees. It was requested that the foliage be cut back, Mr Wright agreed to look into the matter.

- The felling of trees with Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) at the Cheal's Roundabout without adequate notice was raised as an issue. It was acknowledged that trees with TPOs had been cut down recently without a realisation of their protected status. Improved communication between the borough and county councils would help to avoid a repeat of such a mistake.
- The sequencing of the lights on Tushmore Roundabout was raised as an issue with congestion caused up Langley Drive. Ralph Wright would investigate.

Dates of Future Meetings

47. The Committee noted the dates of future meetings:

- Thursday 12th November 2009 (Joint 'talk with us' event with East Crawley concerning the introduction of CPE in January 2010 which would take place 5.30pm-7.00pm)
- Thursday 14th January 2010.

Chairman

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.