

West Crawley County Local Committee

20 March 2014 – 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), Mr Quinn (Member for Broadfield) and Mrs Smith (Member for Langley Green and West Green).

Apologies were received from Mrs Mullins (Member for Gossops Green and Ifield East).

Part I

Declaration of Interests

65. Mr Oxlade declared a personal interest in Item 6 Community Initiative Funding as he is involved in the organisation of Crawley Festival and he is a trustee of Open House which is one of the organisations supported by the Crawley CVS.

Minutes

66. Resolved - that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Progress Report

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

68. The Committee considered that the progress reported on the street-lighting issue at Little Crabtree was not acceptable. Marie Ovenden (Principal Community Officer) agreed to organise a meeting with Nathan Thayre of SSE and Mrs Smith, the local member.

69. The following points were made on schemes on the Community Issues List:

- West Crawley Cycle Schemes – Peter Smith (Crawley Cycle Forum) thanked the Committee for bringing forward Scheme A3 Ifield Drive to Quantock which is due to start in July.
- Cycle Scheme B9 Ifield Avenue to Stafford Road – Marie Ovenden advised that this scheme would need to be added to the Communities Issues List as a new item as no previous record could be found of the discussions and site visits which had taken place with the local member prior to the new Infrastructure Plan process. Mrs Smith expressed her disappointment and apologised to the Cycle Forum about the further delay.
- Pedestrian crossing facility, Ifield Avenue – Mrs Smith described the poor condition of the road following installation and that the crossing could not be commissioned until the road was in a clean state. She stated that a lack of co-ordination between the agencies involved was resulting in unnecessary delay. Marie Ovenden agreed to report back to Highways Officers.

- A resident asked about the pedestrian crossing at end of the Barton which links the Guinness Estate across Coachman's Drive to the Barton – Marie Ovenden advised that this scheme would now be added to the Community Issues List.

Community Initiative Funding (CIF)

70. The Committee considered a report by the Head of Law and Governance (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.

71. The Chairman explained the reasons for the deferral of two applications for CIF funding from the January to the March meeting following some inaccurate reporting in the press about funding support for local groups. He stated that all members of the Committee work hard in their divisions to support a wide range of community groups.

72. Resolved – That the following awards are made:

172/WC - Broadfield Youth and Community Centre, £2056 towards the replacement of the Main Hall kitchen

200/WC - 2nd Ifield (St Margaret's) Scouts, £3000 towards fitting out a new kitchen

209/WC - Crawley Festival, £3,333 towards funding of the 2014 Festival.

258/WC - Crawley Youth and Community Centre, £1,667 towards replacement of the old Boiler System with a New Biomass wood Pellets burning System.

275/WC - Springboard Project, £2752, towards the costs of play equipment at the Crawley Centre outdoor play area.

279/WC - CAMEO, £150.89 towards the cost of an anniversary buffet.

281/WC - 7th Crawley Scout Group, £444, towards the purchase of a replacement projector and camera.

318/WC – Central Sussex YMCA, £1000, towards the costs of purchasing IT equipment.

The remaining £1000 to be donated to the Crawley Community Voluntary Service towards the costs of running the food bank.

73. In response to a comment from a resident, the Committee agreed that there should be more joined-up approach by the County Councillors to the funding of events like the Crawley Festival and this should be considered in the future. The Chairman agreed to speak to the Chairman of East Crawley County Local Committee.

Appointment of Authority School Governors

74. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Communities Commissioning (copy appended to the signed minutes).

75. Resolved – That the West Crawley County Local Committee makes the following appointment and re-appointment:

(a) Appointment of Mr Edward James Croal to Ifield Community College for a 4 year term

(b) Re-appointment of Mr R Sullivan to Southgate Primary School for a 4 year term

'Talk with Us' – Open Forum

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

- **Parking issues at Broadfield East Schools** – Marie Ovenden reported that the County Council was looking at a number of solutions to the parking issues. Solutions were being looked at via Safer Routes for Schools, the possibility of a TRO and agreement on School Keep Clear Markings. The planting of trees on verges was also being considered and officers were working with Crawley Borough Council on this. Marie Ovenden agreed to ask her colleague Beverley Clayden to have another look at the electronic 'school sign' which had been out of action recently. A resident suggested that the issue be included on a future agenda, when County Council officers and representatives of the schools could attend. Consideration should be given to the possibility of a one-way system.
- **Poor condition of Southgate Avenue** – Mr Jones reported that he had repeatedly reported his concerns about this road – he hoped that the repairs would be carried out earlier than scheduled. Mrs Smith reported that she had written to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport asking him to visit Crawley to see the poor condition of Crawley roads for himself.
- **Road collapse near Toby Carvery, Martyrs Avenue** – a resident reported a serious problem at this location. Mrs Smith agreed to give further detail to Marie Ovenden. Marie Ovenden agreed to investigate whether there was any accident data directly related to potholes.
- **Gatwick Airport Second Runway** – Mrs Smith stated that Crawley Borough Council had voted to seek further information on environmental hazards and asserted that the County Council was supporting the second runway in principle. Mrs Smith expressed her concerns about the roads infrastructure and the problems that additional traffic would cause. Other views were expressed by the residents and members about whether or not the second runway would benefit the local economy.

Date of Next Meeting

77. The Chairman informed all that the next meeting would be held on 10 July 2014 at Crawley Library. This was a change to the previously published date.

The meeting ended at 8.20 pm

Chairman

Part II

78. The Committee considered the following item in the absence of the public and press on the grounds of exemption under Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as indicated against the item having agreed that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption of that information outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

Minutes

79. Resolved – That the minutes (Part II) of the meeting of the Committee held on 14 January 2014 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.