

West Crawley County Local Committee

17 July 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), Mrs Mullins (Member for Gossops Green and Ifield East), Mr Quinn (Member for Broadfield) and Mrs Smith (Member for Langley Green and West Green).

Part I

Election of Chairman

1. Mr Oxlade was elected Chairman of the West Crawley CLC for the 2014/2015 municipal year.

Declaration of Interests

2. Mrs Smith declared a personal interest in Item 7, Prevention and Wellbeing Grants as a member of the Alzheimer's Society.

Minutes

3. Resolved - that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (WSFRS) - Public Consultation

4. Gavin Watts (Assistant Chief Fire Officer, WSFRS) gave a presentation on draft proposals for 2015 – 2016 – A fire service for the future (copy appended to the signed minutes).
5. Gavin Watts highlighted the rationale for the proposed changes for Crawley which will be the closure of the retained unit and removal of the 3rd fire engine at Crawley, leaving two fire engines, Heavy Rescue Tender and a 4x4 vehicle. This will result in resources being more proportionate to risk and performance.

Key points in the presentation included:

- The aim of the proposals was to provide improved services within a reduced budget. There are no proposals to close any fire stations or reduce the immediate response fire engines. The efficiencies would be achieved through changes to crewing systems and re-locating some fire engines at different locations around the County.
- WSFRS had moved from an organisation based primarily on emergency response to a service which reduces risk and the likelihood of incidents through its prevention and protection role.
- WSFRS plans to work with businesses, other services, the voluntary sector, community groups and residents to support the development of safer and stronger communities.

- The Service needs to be able to respond to flooding and severe weather by investing in specialist equipment and helping communities to help themselves.
- WSFRS wants to understand what communities need and will listen and respond to the conclusions of the consultation.

6. The Committee and residents raised the following points in the discussion that followed: -

- Asked about flexible crewing arrangements. Gavin Watts explained that a team of firefighters would be available to supplement crewing around the County on a planned basis.
- Asked about a new fire station in Crawley. Gavin Watts advised that there were currently no plans for a new station and that the present station would be refurbished.
- Concern that the proposals were based on a 'best guess' about demand for emergency services for fires, adverse weather conditions and road traffic accidents and with the proposed reduction to the service for Crawley the WSFRS would not cope. Questioned whether the service was really over-manned and over-equipped and that these proposals were just to save money and that as a consequence lives would be put at risk. Gavin Watts advised that whilst the prediction on incidents was not an exact science, the proposals had been based on sophisticated modelling. When a significant incident requiring a multi-service response occurs then engines would move from around the County to cover such an incident.
- Gavin Watts confirmed that the proposals did not include moving to a 'day crewing plus service'.
- Concerned that Crawley was being particularly hard hit by the proposals and chances were being taken with public safety just to meet the politically led budget savings.
- Concern that the consultation was taking place over the summer holiday period and that it had not been circulated to householders via West Sussex Connections. Gavin Watts advised that everything was being done to encourage residents to respond to the consultation, it had been publicised to businesses, local councils and other networks. He explained the limited timescale with the plans to be in place by April 2015 which had resulted in the consultation being carried out in the Summer. He agreed to make enquiries about the West Sussex Connections.
- Asked whether the neighbouring counties were proposing similar efficiencies and cost cutting programmes. Gavin Watts confirmed that there was a constant dialogue with other authorities and associated risk assessed.
- Concern that the Crawley crew would be spread too thinly, there were issues about the recruitment of retained crews but the proposals would put too much pressure on the whole-time crews. There was increased residential development in the area too leading to increased demand for emergency services.

Prevention and Wellbeing Grants (2014/15)

7. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Public Health, Commissioner for Health and Social Care (copy appended to the signed minutes).

8. Resolved –

(a) That the following awards are made:

TL031	4SIGHT	£303.50
JP001	Alzheimer's Society	£500
DC020	CAMEO Club	£300
JP044	Cognitive Help and Therapy	£150
DC012	Crawley Community Transport	£1630.50
JP005	Cruse West Sussex	£490
DC007	Ekta	£500
TL013	Headway	£1000
DC039	Impact Foundation	£200
DC022	Kashmiri Women's Welfare Association	£750
DC027	Ladies Health and Wellbeing Assoc.	£500
DC010	Living Faith Resource Centre	£450
DC003	Parkinson's Crawley and EG Branch	£1250
DC036	Posh Club	£1250
TB01	SASBAH	£375
DC008	St Catherine's Hospice	£750
DC030	Sussex Children and Families of Prisoners	£1750
DC017	Sussex Oakleaf	£1250
JP025	The Life Centre	£250
DC002	West Sussex Parent and Carer Forum	£750

(b) That the following applications are declined:

DC016	Age UK West Sussex – the organisation is already commissioned by the County Council
DC040	British Red Cross – did not meet the criteria as well as other applications
DC004	Crawley Deaf Club – the organisation has good reserves
DC014	Crawley Town FC Sports Foundation – support for the concept but direct organisation to find funds elsewhere
DC0124	Cricket Team – Cherry Lane Sports and Social Club – duplication of services provided elsewhere
DC026	Ifield Park Care Home – significant reserves and did not fit the criteria for the grant as well as other applications
TB30	In Safe and Caring Hands – duplication of services provided elsewhere.

Progress Report

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

10. Kath Brooks (Community Officer) reported that the reprogramming of the electronic sign near the Broadfield Schools had been completed. She added that she was working with the schools on a Travel Plan.

11. Other issues raised by the Committee and residents included:

- S106 money from the ASDA development in Ifield Avenue. Brian Lambarth (West Sussex Highways) advised that consultants were looking at the situation.
- Pelham Place, Broadfield crossing - Mr Quinn stated that Morrison's have a small unit requiring two parking spaces, this means that the crossing location will have to be moved, delaying the scheme, he asked whether this could be looked into.

- The Committee asked for clarification about what was being proposed for the junction at Buckswood Drive and the safety problems associated with the pedestrian crossing.
- Consideration to be given to residents regarding speeding on a number of roads. Mr Oxlade reported that this was an issue on the Community Issues List.
- Mrs Mullins asked for feedback on the speeding issues on Gossops Drive.
- Mr Jones requested that a scheme for a pedestrian crossing on Downland Drive in Southgate be added to the Community Issues List.
- Mr Oxlade asked about the issues of handrails on the Bewbush to Ifield West bridge. Brian Lambarth advised that this was with County's Structure Team.

Report of Urgent Action

12. The Committee noted that £262.22 of Community Initiative Funding had been granted to the Golden Lion Children's Trust under Urgent Action as the funding was for an outing to the South of England Show which had taken place before the next meeting of the CLC.

Community Initiative Funding (CIF)

13. 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.

14. Resolved – That

- (1) the following award is made to the Springboard Project, £3,888.88 towards roof repairs;
- (2) Application 362/WC - Crawley Town FC Community Sports Foundation be deferred as more information is required.

Exclusion of Press and Public

15. Resolved - That under Section 100(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I, of Schedule 12A, of the Act by virtue of the paragraph specified under the item and that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption of that information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Summary of Matters discussed in the absence of the Press and Public

Appointment of Authority School Governors

(Exempt, paragraph 1, Information about Individuals)

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Communities Commissioning on the appointment and nomination of Authority School Governors.

'Talk with Us' – Open Forum

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

- **Authority Governor Feedback** – The Committee thanked a Local Authority Governor for her point about the procedure for providing feedback and suggested that any concerns or praise should be directed to the local member for the school concerned.
- **West Green School** – a resident and her daughter raised a number of concerns about the school with the Committee. These included, poor communication between the school and parents, parent's concerns being ignored by the County Council and Ofsted and the lack of a celebration for Year 6 children leaving the school. Mrs Smith commented on the communications issue and stated that she would continue to raise the matter with officers at the County Council.
- **Langley Green GP Surgery** – a resident asked what the authorities were doing about the lack of a GP surgery in Langley Green. It was reported that the Borough Council was working hard to bring primary care back to the West Green area of Crawley.

Date of Next Meeting

17. The Chairman informed all that the next meeting would be held on 14 October 2014 at Crawley Library. This was a change to the previously published date.