

Agenda item 3

Joint Downland Area Committee (Incorporating Downland County Local Committee)

9 September 2013– At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 p.m. at Barnham Community Hall.

Present:

West Sussex County Council (WSCC): Mr Peters (Chairman), Mrs Phillips, Mr Whittington and Mrs Urquhart.

Arun District Council (ADC): Councillor Mr Cooper, Councillor Mr Charles (Vice Chairman), Councillor Mr Dingemans, Councillor Mr Jones and Councillor Mr Bicknell.

Town/Parish Council representatives: Councillor Ms. Verrinder (Angmering), Councillor Ms Standing (Arundel), Councillor Mr Phillips (Barnham) Councillor Mrs Picton (Clapham), Councillor Mr Hockley (Clymping), Councillor Mr Allington (Eastergate), Councillor Mr Fox (Patching) and Councillor Mr Taft (Yapton).

In attendance:

West Sussex County Council (WSCC): Nick Burrell (Principal Community Officer), Monique Smart (Democratic Services Officer),

Arun District Council (ADC): Karl Roberts, (Assistant Director - Planning Services and Housing Strategy).

Chairman's Welcome

44. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

45. Apologies had been received from Councillors Mr Dendle, Mr Haymes, Mrs. A Harriott, Mrs C Harriott, Mr Goldsworthy and Mr Roddham. Apologies were also noted from Inspector Nick Bowman.

Declarations of Interest

46. In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, the following personal interests were declared:

Mr Bicknell declared an interest in relation to agenda item 9 as he works for Southern Water

Minutes

47. Resolved –that the minutes of the Joint Downland Area Committee (JDAC) held on 17 June 2013 are confirmed as a correct record and that they are signed by the Chairman.

Progress Statement

48. The Committee had before it a progress statement on matters arising from the previous meeting (copy appended to the signed minutes). Members noted the statement.

49. Principal Community Officer, Mr Nick Burrell, provided a verbal update about Winter Maintenance and thanked the Parish Councils who had responded and agreed plans. Mr Burrell stated that only 3 Parishes in the Downland Area had not agreed a Winter Maintenance Plan with the County Council. Formal letters would be sent out shortly to finalise arrangements with regard to salt bins and salt deliveries.

50. Parish Councils requested that Mr Burrell recirculate the information about volunteers and insurance. Mr Burrell undertook to do this.

Talk with us – public question time

51. The Chairman invited questions from members of the public. Questions were asked to which responses were given, including those set out below:

- Mr Derek Waller from Arundel asked a question in relation to the actions from his question at the last meeting about the Lower Tidal River Arun Flood Defence Strategy (LTRAS). Specifically Mr Waller asked for a copy of the letter that the Chairman agreed to send to the Leader of West Sussex County Council and a copy of her response. Lastly Mr Waller requested a copy of the letter that the Chairman agreed to send to the Environment Agency about de-silting of rifes. *The Chairman responded stating that his communication with the Leader had been via email and unfortunately he does not keep copies of emails. However the Chairman confirmed that the Leader was happy to take forward the issue around partnership funding but could not confirm anything with regard to how much the County Council would contribute as this needed to be discussed further with partners. The Chairman went on to apologise that he had not written to the Environment Agency regarding de-silting of rifes but as they had a representative here this evening he would ask them if this could be covered in their presentation.*
- Mr Mike de Lara asked the Committee if they were aware of the formation of the Arundel Flood Risk Community Group. He also asked for confirmation with regard to the County Councils approach to partnership funding. *The Chairman asked for Mr Macknay to respond to this question in his presentation later on the agenda.*
- Mr Frank Griffin from Arun West U3A asked a question in relation to the Stagecoach service no 66 that runs between Barnham and Yapton. He asked specifically what West Sussex County Council plan to do to improve the service. *Mr Whittington responded as the local County Councillor as he had been involved in discussions around this issue. Mr Whittington confirmed that Stagecoach are not looking to increase or add to this service as it would not be economically viable to do so. They have agreed to look at alternative routes or timetables and would welcome local input into that work. Mr Whittington suggested that Mr Griffin offer his support to*

Stagecoach in gathering information to assist with this work. Mr Gary Norton added that it was he who had contacted Stagecoach.

- Mr Alan Lovell asked a question about the A259 between Littlehampton and Bognor and if a study could be undertaken to assess the impact of increased traffic. *Mrs Joan Phillips responded as the local County Councillor. Mrs Phillips confirmed that she had requested such a study via the Joint Western Arun Area Committee as she also sits on that Committee and the majority of the A259 to Bognor falls under JWAAC not JDAC. The Principal Community Officer, Mr Burrell, did confirm that he is in conversation with Grundig about the possibility of getting funding towards a survey around the proposed new site.*

Community Police

52. The Chairman reminded Members that Inspector Bowman had given apologies for this evening's meeting. Members expressed disappointment that this was the second meeting with no Police representative. Many Parishes also commented that Police attendance at local Parish Council meetings has been poor recently. It was agreed that the Chairman would formally write to the Police regarding this issue.

53. Councillor Mr Jones stated that he was hoping to raise the issue of travellers with the Police tonight. The Chairman allowed Mr Jones to read a statement about events around a recent encampment in the village of Findon. Mr Jones stated that he would send the statement to Inspector Bowman. Mrs Urquhart commented that she was hoping to meet with the Police, local traders and hopefully also involve the local MPs.

Area Action Plan

54. The Chairman referred Members to the Area Action Plan previously circulated. The Committee discussed a number of issues, which included those set out below:

- Assistant Director, Mr Karl Roberts stated that he was meeting Network Rail this week to discuss the possibility of using the temporary works car park opposite Ford Station as a permanent car park in the future.

Flooding and Drainage

55. The Chairman introduced and welcomed Mr Kevin Macknay and Mr Peter Smith from West Sussex County Council and Mr Gordon Wilson from the Environment Agency.

56. Mr Macknay started by referring to the recent consultation on the West Sussex Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. The consultation closed today and Mr Macknay was aware of some 170 comments. He also mentioned that a number of public sessions had taken place around the County. All comments will be considered and the Strategy would be amended as appropriate before being finalised and agreed by the end of the year.

57. Mr Macknay went on to provide a number of updates. Firstly regarding the Lidsey area review, West Sussex County Council, Southern Water, the Environment Agency and Atkins were working in partnership in this area. An exercise to look at

historical flooding and engage with local community groups had recently began and was expected to take upto 12 months. Secondly Mr Macknay updated members of the work around the Aldingbourne Rife. He confirmed that the Environment Agency and West Sussex County Council are undertaking a project to look at all the tributaries that distribute water into the rifes in the area. This work is expected to take 18 months to complete.

58. Mr Peter Smith provided an update regarding Operation Watershed and the Active Communities Fund. He explained that Operation Watershed was a £8.25 million fund allocated from County Council reserves as a response to the extreme weather in June and December 2012. £7 Million was allocated to highway and drainage schemes. The remaining £1.25 was allocated to an Active Communities fund to allow Parish Councils and community groups to bid for funds for local schemes. Mr Smith stated that so far 27 schemes have been approved for funding totalling £200,000 and that expressions of interest totalling £600,000 have been received. Applications were still being accepted so Mr Smith suggested that Mr De Lara speak to Mr Nick Burrell about the possibility of applying in relation to Arundel Flood Risk Community Group.

59. Mr Macknay confirmed that West Sussex County Council had responded to the LTRAS consultation and would be happy to provide this to be circulated with the minutes of this meeting. Also in response to Mr de Lara's question about partnership funding, Mr Macknay confirmed that partnership funding was on the agenda and was being progressed via the County Council and partners.

60. Regarding Hammerpot and the A27, Mr Macknay confirmed that works are proposed and discussions are underway with local residents. Mr Macknay explained that unfortunately his contact at the Highways Agency had left and he was awaiting confirmation of who to follow this up with and get a response regarding the pipes under the A27. Mr Macknay would continue to press for a response. Councillor Mrs Verinder asked to be kept informed of progress.

61. Mr Wilson from the Environment Agency went back to the issue around funding and explained the government would provide a certain percentage of funding but generally it is a requirement that this includes partnership funding. He confirmed that the Arundel scheme had been identified as needing partnership funding and that local Councils and/or local businesses would need to contribute for any scheme to be delivered.

62. The Chairman thanked Mr Macknay, Mr Smith and Mr Wilson for the updates. He opened the meeting to questions from the Committee. The following comments/questions were received:

- A number of Members welcomed the updates and the confirmation that work was progressing.
- It was confirmed that the Environment Agency do work with local planning authorities regarding development applications. Guidance is clear and the EA will comment if appropriate.
- A couple of Members asked for confirmation regarding ditch clearance and who had responsibility or enforcement powers to clear. Mr Karl Roberts, Assistant Director Arun District Council, confirmed that Drainage Officers work closely with colleagues at West Sussex County Council to identify and liaise with land

owners. Enforcement would be the last resort but Councils do have the power to enforce.

- Councillor Angela Standing asked if a tidal barrier would ever be considered for the river Arun. Mr Wilson confirmed that a study had proven that to be uneconomically viable.

Infrastructure Plan Priorities

63. The Committee received the report by the Director of Communities Commissioning and the Community and Economic Development Manager, West Sussex County Council (copy appended to the signed minutes). The Chairman asked the Principal Community Officer, Mr Nick Burrell to briefly introduce the report.

64. The Principle Community Officer explained that The Local Infrastructure Plan (IP) for the County Local Committee's (CLC) area has been developed over the last couple of years. It was established by identifying a number of local highway and transport improvement priorities and now includes a Community Issues List of projects that show local member and community support.

65. The Committee made comments, including those below.

- Mr Whittington acknowledged that some issues on the Community Issues List need further consultation and not all would progress to be delivered.

66. Resolved that the County Council Members of the Committee approved:

- 1) That the inclusion of the new highways and transport priorities be approved as set out below:
 - Arundel Town enhancement scheme – measures to include speed reduction, parking management and improved access for pedestrians and cyclists to Ford Railway Station.
 - Findon village centre enhancement scheme – measures to improve access, safety and parking management in the heart of the village.
- 2) That the current Community Issues List be noted (Appendix A).
- 3) That schemes in the Community Issues List be progressed if:
 - (a) there is local member and community support and
 - (b) either the County Council can deliver such schemes without detriment to the agreed priorities in the Infrastructure Plan (IP) or there is an alternative means of delivering them and where S.106 or alternative funding is available.
- 4) That progress with the IP priorities and any scheme developed in the Community Issues List be reported to the CLC at least annually.

Slindon Village: 20mph Speed Limit – proposed Traffic Regulation Order

67. The Committee received the report by the Director of Service Operations, West Sussex County Council (copy appended to the signed minutes). The Chairman asked the Principal Community Officer, Mr Nick Burrell to briefly introduce the report.

68. Mr Burrell explained that a wide ranging scheme of highway improvements for the village of Slindon had been designed by consultants engaged by Slindon Parish Council. Part of this scheme involved the introduction of 20 mph speed limits on the roads within the village of Slindon. Mr Burrell explained that following the formal advertisement of a Traffic Regulation Order for the introduction of the 20 mph speed limit, two objections were received.

69. Mr Whittington added that this TRO was part of an ongoing project with Slindon Parish Council, Arun District Council and West Sussex County Council and he fully supported the scheme. He stated that the issues of the objection raised by Police had been covered in the report and that he urged his fellow County Councillors to support this TRO. The local District Councillor Mr Dingemans also stated his support for the scheme. The Chairman allowed the Chairman of Slindon Parish Council to speak. He also spoke in favour of this TRO.

70. Resolved that the County Councillors of the Joint Downland Area Committee having considered the objections agree that the proposed TRO should be implemented as advertised, subject to the installation of an agreed package of physical measures on Reynolds Lane if the speed limit is also implemented in Reynolds Lane.

Community Initiative Funding

71. The Committee considered a report by the Head of Law and Governance, West Sussex County Council (copy appended to the signed minutes), which sought decisions from the County Council Members of the Committee on the applications received under the CIF scheme.

72. Resolved that the County Councillors of the Joint Downland Area Committee considered the Community Initiative Funding applications and allocated funding as follows:

88/JDAC The Samaritans, £450, towards purchase of new communications equipment. Declined

118/JDAC Chestnut Tree House, £1367, towards a Christmas Party. Declined

73. The reason for declining both applications was that the intention of CIF funding is to encourage new projects and not to provide continued support to existing charities.

Appointment of Authority School Governors.

74. The Committee considered a report by Director of Communities Commissioning, West Sussex County Council (copy appended to the signed minutes), which set out proposed nominations to school governing bodies and the criteria for their appointment and sought decisions from the County Council Members of the Committee on the applications received.

75. Resolved that the following be approved for appointment as Authority School Governor:

- Mrs Christine Carr to Clapham & Patching CE Primary School for a 4 year term

Items to be raised by Town and Parish Council representatives

76. The Chairman invited questions from Town and Parish representatives on the Committee. A number of questions were asked to which responses were given, including those set out below.

- Councillor Mr Taft stated that Parishes are keen to support a cycle track between Flansham and Littlehampton. Mr Whittington explained that there is currently a lot of work going on in the area and issues such as land ownership and mapping are being looked into. Mr Whittington did state that as most of that area falls within the JWAAC area the support of that Committee would be required to progress any scheme. However Mr Whittington is aware that his fellow County Councillors on both JWAAC and JEAAC are aware of the requests. Mrs Phillips added that she is also on JWAAC and has put her support to a feasibility study.
- Councillor Mrs Standing referred to the previously discussed Community Issues List and the removal of traffic lights on the A27. Mr Peters confirmed that this was a misunderstanding and it is hoped that the traffic lights would remain.

Items for at consideration at future meetings

77. The following items were agreed as possible future items:

- South Downs National Park and Arun District Council Local Plan update
- Presentation about the Slindon affordable housing project
- Broadband Update

Date of next meeting

78. The next meeting would take place on Monday 2 December 2013 at The White Swan Hotel, Arundel. Members wishing to place an item on the agenda should notify Monique Smart.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm
Chairman