

Agenda Item 3

Joint Downland Area Committee (Incorporating Downland County Local Committee)

31st October 2011– At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 p.m. at The White Swan, Arundel.

Present:

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

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

Town/Parish Council representatives: Councillor Ms. Verrinder (Angmering) (Vice Chairman), Councillor Mrs. Harriott (Lyminster & Crossbush), Councillor Mrs Brimblecombe (Slindon), Councillor Mrs Viner (Patching), Councillor Mr. Roddham (Walberton), Councillor Mrs Picton (Clapham), Councillor Mr Phillips (Barnham), Councillor Mr Baird (Clymping), Councillor Mr Looker (Houghton), Councillor Mr Fox (Patching) and Councillor Richard Taft (Yapton).

In attendance:

West Sussex County Council (WSCC): Annette Harrison (Principal Community Highways Officer), Monique Smart (Democratic Services),

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

Chairman's Welcome

48. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

49. Apologies had been received from Mrs. Coleman (WSCC), Councillor Mr. Prior (Findon) Councillor Mrs. West (Aldingbourne) and Councillor Mrs. Harriott (Arundel).

Declarations of Interest

50. None

Minutes

51. Resolved – that the minutes of the Joint Downland Area Committee (JDAC) held on 4th July 2011 and the minutes of the special Adults' Grants meetings held on 8th July 2011, be confirmed as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Progress Statement

52. The Committee noted the progress statement (copy appended to the signed minutes).

Talk with us – public question time

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

- A local resident asked what was the "technical solution" to the continuing drainage problem of Barnham and surrounding villages. He stated that the Planning inspectorate give the public the impression that Arun District Council (ADC) have this matter in hand or else why was it possible for developers to be granted permission to build within the area which is known to flood due to infiltration of ground water into the drainage system during the winter months. *Mr Karl Roberts, Assistant Director - Planning Services and Housing Strategy, ADC replied stating that Mr Campbell would shortly receive a letter from ADC's Engineering Services Manager which offers a response to Mr Campbell's question and explains the current position. He confirmed that the County Council and South Water are producing a Surface Water Management Plan for the Lidsey Catchment Area. That work has commenced and will continue over the winter. It is hoped that this Plan will identify the source(s) of the problem. What the plan won't do is identify who will fund the cost of carrying out remedial measures. In the meantime Arun as Local Planning Authority is taking a precautionary approach on development proposals it has to consider. The Council will re-consider its position when the outcome of the legal challenge on the Angel's Nursery decision is known in February.*

54. Councillor Mr Bicknell declared an interest as he works for Southern Water.

Community Police Issues

55. The Chairman welcomed Chief Inspector Jane Derrick and also Inspector Phil Nicholas from the Road Policing Unit. Chief Inspector Derrick provided an update on crime statistics and current issues and in the JDAC area. A number of issues were discussed including those set out below:

- Chief Inspector Derrick reassured members that local issues and cover was not affected by Sussex Police Officers being sent to London to cover the recent unrest.
- A recent operation to target drug offences had resulted in a large amount of drugs and cash being seized.
- Chief Inspector Derrick appealed to people to lock cars, sheds and garages as a number of recent crimes had involved unlocked cars, sheds and garages.
- A new prevention exercise would involve every victim of a reported crime having a visit from a PCSO with crime prevention advice.
- A joint venture with Arun Youth Council is working to tackle bullying.
- A tabletop exercise with Ford Prison and other emergency services will test new tightened procedures.

- An announcement will follow shortly about the relocation of some PCSOs following some resources being diverted to the schools programme.

56. Inspector Phil Nicholas from the Road Policing Unit then provided an update on Road Policing. A number of issues were discussed including those set out below:

- The Road Policing Unit for the area is due to move to Arundel from Chichester early next year.
- The unit works closely with local Councils and the Fire and Rescue Service to educate and enforce.
- Operation Crackdown was still used as a valuable resource <http://www.operationcrackdown.org/> or 0845 6070999.
- Officers would be involved in spot checks on cars to ensure that they are safe for the winter weather.
- It was acknowledged that the fixed cameras network was a well used tool.

Update on the Big Society and Localism

57. The Chairman welcomed Duncan Barratt, Community Development and Big Society Manager, West Sussex County Council and Karl Roberts, Assistant Director – Planning Services & Housing Strategy, Arun District Council who provided a presentation (copy appended to the signed minutes) and verbal update on the Big Society and Localism in West Sussex. A number of issues were discussed including those set out below:

- It was confirmed that a register of Community Assets would become available. The Better Together project is taking this forward.
- Parishes and communities encouraged to bring forward local issues, proposals and solutions.
- Duncan Barratt confirmed that the County Council are keen to work with Town and Parish clusters but that is not restrictive and his team are equally happy to support individual parishes to progress their neighbourhood / community plans and local priorities.
- Parishes requested clarification and guidance specifically around Neighbourhood Plans. Karl Roberts confirmed that the plans can focus on one area but at some point they need to address all issues and be in conformity with the District Plan.
- Karl Roberts confirmed that a Community Lead Plan is the more traditional Parish Plan whereas neighbourhood Plans have a formal position in the planning process.
- Duncan Barratt stressed that the new approach was working but if Members had any concerns they should contact him or Annette Harrison.

Community Initiative Funding (CIF)

58. The Committee considered a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (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.

59. Resolved – The County Councillors of the Joint Downland Area Committee considered and approved the following applications for funding:

1651/JDAC Walberton Parish Council, £500.00 granted towards contract fees for rubbish clearance of a local pond.

1697/JDAC Findon Newsletter, £400.00 granted towards one-off printing costs to increase local distribution

At the same meeting The County Councillors of the Joint Downland Area Committee considered and declined the following application for funding:

- **1675/JDAC** Chestnut Tree House, £1,410 requested towards the siblings' weekend camping trip. Members declined this application as they have supported this camping trip for the past 2 years and the CIF funding policy clearly states that Annual or ongoing events will not be funded.

Appointment of Authority School Governors

60. The Committee considered a report by Director of Operations Learning (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.

61. Resolved that the following be appointed as Authority School Governor:

- Mrs. S Hammond to Aldingbourne Primary School for a 4 year period
- Mr. T Davey to Walberton & Binstead Primary School for a period of 4 years
- Mrs. D Thurgood to Westergate Community School for a period of 4 years.

Area Action Plan

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

- D01 – The additional parking at Barnham has been delayed and is due for completion by spring 2012. Karl Roberts and Paul Dendle are looking into additional parking at Ford. Karl also agreed to ask Network Rail to look at alternative parking for staff. It was also suggested that cycle racks could be installed at Ford Station.
- D04 – Karl Roberts confirmed the current position that the Environment Agency is reviewing matters through internal processes. If any changes are required then they will re-consult.
- D12 - The Chairman requested that an HGV ban in Ford Road and the Arundel Chord be added as additional schemes to improve transport infrastructure in the JDAC area. This was not supported as it was felt that HGV movement needs addressing for the whole area. The next HGV movement survey was due in autumn 2012.
- D14 – Councillor Mr Dingemans referred members to the update report attached as an appendix to the Action Plan. He confirmed that four computers had been installed at Arundel Youth Club and the Slindon Forge

had applied for two. Members agreed the recommendation in the report for the sub group to explore the potential of new projects as identified in the report.

- Discussions about Broadband access resulted in Members agreeing for JDAC to write to the appropriate person at WSCC to ask that Wi-Fi be available at libraries.
- Councillor Mr Bicknell referred to some gaps in the footpaths along the A27. Although most of these would be the responsibility of the Highways Agency, some areas are devolved to the County Council. Annette Harrison agreed to look into this.

Items to be raised by Town and Parish Council representatives

63. None

Items for at consideration at future meetings

64. Suggested Items were confirmed as:

- Changes in the NHS
- WSCC Infrastructure Planning – January 2012
- Update regarding the Barnham Drainage Group – January 2012
- South Downs Nation Park update (management Plan and LDF) – April 2012

Date of next meeting

65. The next meeting would take place on Monday 9th January 2012. Members wishing to place an item on the agenda should notify Monique Smart. Future dates for 2011/12 were noted.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chairman