

Agenda Item 4

Joint Downland Area Committee (Incorporating Downland County Local Committee)

16th April 2012– 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 Coleman and Mr. Whittington.

Arun District Council (ADC): Councillor Mr Dendle (Chairman), 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 Picton (Clapham), Councillor Mr Phillips (Barnham), Councillor Mr Hockley (Clymping), Councillor Mr Looker (Houghton), and Councillor Mr Taft (Yapton), Councillor Mr. Prior (Findon), Councillor Mr Clifton (Eastergate), Councillor Mr Brown (Warningcamp), Councillor Mr Curtis (Poling), Councillor Mrs Baird (Ford), Councillor Mr Fox (Patching) Councillor Mr Roddham (Walberton) and Councillor Mrs. Harriott (Arundel).

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.

Chairman's Welcome

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Apologies had been received from Mrs Urquhart, Councillor Mr Jones, Councillor Mrs. West, Councillor Mrs Brimblecombe.
3. New Members included Councillor Mrs Baird (Ford Parish Council) and Councillor Mr Clifton (Eastergate).

Declarations of Interest

4. Councillor Mr Haymes declared an interest in relation to agenda item 12 as a Chairman of Yapton Parish Council.

Minutes

5. Resolved – that the minutes of the Joint Downland Area Committee (JDAC) held on 9th January 2012 are confirmed as a correct record and that they are signed by the Chairman.

Progress Statement

6. The Committee had before it a progress statement on matters arising from the previous meeting (copy appended to the signed minutes). Comment/queries were as follows:

7. Councillor Mr Bicknell declared a personal interest in the next item as he works for Southern Water. Councillor Mr Bicknell left the room during all discussions on this matter.

- Councillor Mr Phillips and Dr John Mason express concern and dissatisfaction regarding the lack of progress of the Arun Drainage Review Group. Particular concern was about the inaction of the senior partners in the investigation, and the lack of involvement and consultation of the Parish Councils and the Barnham Village Drainage Group. They also stated that during the dry autumn and winter, work could have progressed in reviewing the vast amounts of historical data... The Committee agreed that this situation was not acceptable and asked that a meeting between all partners be arranged by the end of April and that a letter be sent to the relevant West Sussex Cabinet Member.

Talk with us – public question time

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

- A question was asked about the North Littlehampton development and if the outline planning application has been approved, does this mean that full planning permission is a foregone conclusion, or is there still time to appeal? In response Mr Karl Roberts stated that Arun District Council had resolved to grant outline planning permission but that the details around Section 106 were still being finalised. Full planning permission would follow in the next few weeks.

Community Police Issues

9. The Chairman welcomed Inspector Nick Bowman who provided an update on crime statistics and current issues in the JDAC area. A number of issues were discussed including those set out below:

- Inspector Bowman reported back on two issues raised at the last meeting. He confirmed that of the seven reported gun incidents in Yapton, none were crimes. On the second issue inspector Bowman was pleased to report that a new software package was being introduced and would improve the way that crime statistics were presented.

- Regarding the current crime statistics, Inspector Bowman was disappointed to report a rise in overall crime of 11% last year but statistics for the start of this year are showing 16% less crimes so far. Inspector Bowman could not quantify if prosecutions had gone up in line with crime.
- Responding to a question about local crime being organised groups or individuals, Inspector Bowman stated that most crime is carried out on a local basis but also that there has been an increase in Eastern European crime across the District and this is organised crime. Inspector Bowman confirmed that an operation was underway to tackle this.
- It was asked if the high level of crime in Arundel was in any way due to the closure of the police station. Inspector Bowman said this was unlikely and that as the police station would be used by the traffic police it would generate more of a police presence.
- It was asked if the recent changes regarding PCSO's in South Yorkshire, would follow in West Sussex. Inspector Bowman confirmed that there were no plans to change neighbourhood policing in Arun.
- There was concern about PCSO attendance at Neighbourhood Forums. Inspector Bowman asked for any specific areas of concerns to be sent to him.
- Inspector Bowman also reported on a recent Rave that happened on forestry land near Amberley. Although the Police only received one call about this was a big public safety issue for the police and obviously caused a lot of damage the land.
- Inspector Bowman also alerted members to a local organisation that may be of interest or locally beneficial. ROC, Redeeming Our Communities is a national faith based group that aims to improve the quality of life of individuals. They are involved locally with Arun Angels and Streetwatch. They are currently aiming to purchase a new minibuss and would like to make contact with other local groups to see if any work could be done together. Anyone wanting details should contact Inspector Bowman or Monique Smart.

Angmering Youth Forum Bus

10. The Chairman welcomed Pat Turner, Secretary, and Chris Lynch, Chairman, of the Angmering Youth Forum Bus. Chris and Pat provided the Committee with a verbal presentation about how the idea of a Youth bus came about and progressed into reality. The bus now has a large screen TV, Xbox, Wii, bean bags, music, board games and a tuck shop and attracts 20+ customers each week. They went on to thank JDAC for the recent funding they had been awarded that had allowed them to purchase a wheelchair ramp and trolley for the generators.

11. Pat Turner explained that the bus currently runs every Thursday evening and that they were looking to extend the use on a Friday evening but that currently it was available all other times. If Members were aware of any groups that could benefit from using the bus contact details for pat could be obtained from Monique Smart.

Changes in the NHS

12. The Chairman welcomed Steve Pollack, Managing Director Coastal West Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Dr Katie Armstrong, Coastal West Sussex Federation Chair. Mr Pollack and Dr Armstrong provided a

PowerPoint presentation (appended to the signed minutes) about the NHS in transition both nationally and locally.

13. Following the presentation a number of issues were discussed including those set out below:

- A member raised the issue that she was aware that a recently qualified physiotherapist was unable to get work locally. Her training had been funded by the NHS yet there was no job or internship at the end. Dr Armstrong stated she anticipated an increase in Community care but this would not happen overnight.
- The CCG is involved issues such as obesity as prevention is a fundamental part of its role. Public Health is moving into local authorities and this brings further opportunities to address such issues. There are active Wellbeing hubs locally that are already addressing such issues.
- Appointment at GP surgeries was raised as an issue. Dr Armstrong stated that many surgeries invest a lot of time in working out the best solution. She urged people to become part of patient groups to influence things such as appointment systems. It was also suggested that the number of missed appointments be shared with Parish Councils so that they could highlight it in newsletters.
- Mr Pollack explained that emergency planning and resilience for things such as flu pandemics will still be done by a national team but the CCG will link into this.
- Dr Armstrong gave an example of successful proactive care in Torbay whereby they have a budget for a local hub of professionals who work together to care for patients at one location. This proactive care approach was being looked into for this area.
- It was confirmed that the CCG do work closely with all partners including the County Council scrutiny committees.
- Savings were achievable by doing things differently and efficiently and Dr Armstrong confirmed this could be done whilst improving the care provided. Progress around this was regularly reported to the NHS Board locally and presented at public meetings of the Board.
- Mr Pollack stated that the decision regarding the Littlehampton hospital had been made based on what services are needed in the local community now and in the future. He stated that older people have access to community facilities and beds across the district that are currently not used to full capacity but deprivation is a bigger issue in the area and prevention services not hospital beds are more required.
- Dr Armstrong confirmed that a review of all community hospitals will include Arundel and what they want to understand is what bed stocks they have and how they are used across the area.

Community Initiative Funding (CIF)

14. 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. A number of issues were discussed including those set out below:

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

1773/JDAC, 4SIGHT, £166, towards design and printing costs for educational LEARN4SIGHT packs

1784/JDAC, Yapton Parish Council, £1,320, extension to the 'Go Yapton' skate-park.

1824/JDAC, Arundel Downland and Community Leisure Trust, £1,000, towards the removal and replacement of existing Lido 'Cabin' flooring.

1825/JDAC Findon Village Swimming Pool, £2,000, towards air source heat pump installation costs.

Appointment of Authority School Governors.

16. 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.

17. Resolved that the following be appointed/re-appointed as Authority School Governor:

Appointment:

- i. Mrs P Davey to Yapton Primary School for a 4 year term.
- ii. Mrs E Saunders to Westergate Community School for a 4 year term

Re-appointment:

- i. Mr J Thompson to St Mary's Primary School Clymping for a 4 year term
- ii. Mrs S Nichol to Eastergate Primary School for a 3 year term

New Homes Bonus

18. The Chairman introduced an information report from Yapton Parish Council. On behalf of the Parish Council, Councillor Mr Haymes and Councillor Mr Taft asked for the support of the Joint Downland Area Committee in making representations to the District Council to ensure that in future an appropriate percentage of the New Homes Bonus in respect of larger housing developments is made available directly to the Parish or Town Council concerned for the benefit of the local community.

19. Mr Roberts replied on behalf of Arun District Council. He explained that last year Arun had decided to passport 10% of the New Homes Bonus to the Joint Area Committees (JACs). It was also agreed that this arrangement would be reviewed year on year. He confirmed that because of the reduction in government grant to Arun District Council, no money will be passported to the JACs but it will stay centrally to benefit the whole of the District.

20. Following much discussion and debate, the Committee were asked to approve the recommendation as stated in 3.3 of the report. An amendment was proposed to change the word 'concerned' to 'affected'. This was rejected with a vote of nine in favour and eleven against the amendment.

21. A vote then took place for the original proposal as stated in 3.3 of the report. This was agreed with ten in favour and nine against.

22. Resolved that:

The Joint Downland Area Committee support the Parish Council in making representations to the District Council to ensure that in future an appropriate percentage of the New Homes Bonus in respect of larger housing developments is made available directly to the parish or town councils concerned for the benefit of the local community.

Area Action Plan

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

- 02 – Bollards are expected to be delivered in May.
- 03 – Mr Roberts would check if Nick Gibbs seeking of funds has progressed.
- 07 – Councillor Mr Dendle stated that WSCC, Arun and Horsham had agreed to put £25k into a fund to build a case for the economic benefit of A27 improvements. Mr Roberts stated that the Lyminster bypass was moving forward and so far £4million was available from developers to help fund the scheme.
- 09 – A sub group meeting would take place in the next few weeks.

Items to be raised by Town and Parish Council representatives

24. It was confirmed that JDAC would receive regular update from the South Downs National Park.

Items for at consideration at future meetings

25. Additional items suggested included a presentation from Redeeming Our Communities (ROC).

Date of next meeting

26. The next meeting would take place on Monday 9th July 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 9.45pm

Chairman