

Agenda Item 3

Joint Downland Area Committee (Incorporating Downland County Local Committee)

2 December 2013– At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 p.m. at The White Swan Hotel, Arundel.

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), Councillors Mr Dendle, Councillor Mr Dingemans, Councillor Mr Jones and Councillor Mr Bicknell.

Town/Parish Council representatives: Councillor Ms. Verrinder (Angmering), Councillor Ms Standing (Arundel), Councillor Mrs Chapman (Clapham), Councillor Mr Hockley (Clymping), Councillor Mr Allington (Eastergate), Councillor Mr Fox (Patching), Councillor Mr Taft (Yapton), Mrs C Harriott (Lyminster), Councillor Mr Ward (Aldingbourne), Councillor Ms Mackerell (Findon), Councillor Mr Fox (Patching), Councillor Mr Roddham (Walberton), Councillor Mr Brown (Warningcamp).

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

79. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

80. Apologies had been received from, Councillors Mr Phillips, Mr Haymes, Mrs. A Harriott and Mr Goldsworthy.

Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor Mr Allington as Chairman of Barnham Community Hall.

Minutes

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

83. The Chairman allowed Councillor Mr Jones to read a statement about events around a recent traveller encampment in the village of Findon. Mrs Urquhart followed this by stating that all Local Authorities in West Sussex have now identified a transit site for travellers near Chichester. Going forward this would mean that the police can issue section 62 notices and hopefully allow travellers to be moved from unauthorised sites quicker. It was agreed this was step forward.

Progress Statement

84. 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.

85. Principal Community Officer, Mr Nick Burrell, provided a verbal update about Winter Maintenance. He mentioned that padlocks for salt bins could be provided if Parishes would like them.

Talk with us – public question time

86. The Chairman stated that two written questions had been received in advance of the meeting but neither of the residents were in attendance. The Chairman summarised the questions as follows:

- A resident of Findon asked if Councillors were prepared to offer their views on the future potential of renewable energy supplies and renewable energy cooperatives in West Sussex? *The Chairman explained that the resident had recently attended the Joint Western Arun Area Committee and asked the same question and had therefore received a formal response. A copy of this would be appended to the minutes for information.*
- A resident from Clapham had asked if the bank at the entrance to Clapham Village could be cleared (On A280 North side of entrance) to make it safe to see when exiting North. *Principle Community Officer, Mr Nick Burrell, stated that some cutting back had taken place but that some trees are protected and required a tree surgeon to check them. Mr Burrell also stated that a new path is due to be installed and it was hoped these works could be coordinated. Mr Burrell agreed to communicate this to Clapham Parish Council.*

Community Police

87. The Chairman welcomed Ian Cheesman, Neighbourhood policing team Sergeant for the rural area in Arun. Sergeant Cheesman provided an update about Neighbourhood Policing in the Downland Arun Area. The Committee discussed a number of issues, which included those set out below:

- Sergeant Cheesman stated that he had been in post since August and had already attended many Parish meetings and would attend such meetings where he could. He also confirmed that an additional police constable will be in post in February/March next year.
- From 12th December Operation Tinsel will begin with the aim of reducing crime over the festive period.

- Operation Angler was working to target known individuals in relation to vehicle crime. This has already had some positive outcomes.
- Sergeant Cheesman is involved in looking at ways to improving community engagement for issues such as the recent traveller encampment in Findon.
- A Police Room has been established at the new Barnham Community Hall.
- The issue of raves and noise around the underpass on the A27 at Patching was raised. Councillor Mr Fox agreed to forward information to Sergeant Cheesman who would look to get a response for Councillor Mr Fox.
- Councillor Mr Fox also asked about a police contact for a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Again Sergeant Cheesman agreed to arrange for someone to contact Councillor Mr Fox.

Area Action Plan

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

- It was requested that Assistant Director, Mr Karl Roberts continue to seek to initiate the possibility of using the temporary works car park opposite Ford Station as a permanent car park. Mr Roberts did state that he now had the details for the landowner so would look to seek their position regarding the land.
- Members asked when BT is likely to upgrade the exchange in Arundel to allow better broadband provision. Monique Smart would seek to get this information for the next update.

Arun District Local Plan

89. The Chairman welcomed Karl Roberts, Assistant Director Planning and Economic Regeneration, Arun District Council to provide a powerpoint presentation, appended to the minutes, on the progress to date on the Arun Local Plan.

90. Mr Roberts explained that Arun District Council is in the process of preparing its new Local Plan that will shape and guide development and the protection of the natural, built and community resources. The document will guide development and be the official blueprint for the district.

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

- Sites included in the SHLAA (available on the Arun District Council website) included land identified by landowners as well as other sites. Sites where the landowner state they would be willing to sell would be considered more acceptable.
- Some Members expressed concern that housing should not be approved without the infrastructure to support it, in particular the A27. Mr Roberts stated that the A27 could not be funded by developments but local solutions such as the Angmering bypass, Bognor Relief Road and the Lyminster bypass could be progressed with development. Mr Roberts did also add that the Government have committed to a feasibility study for the A27.

- Mr Roberts stated that they have tried to engage with businesses to determine likely employment needs.
- Mr Roberts confirmed that some other developments are being put forward by developers. Once the Local Plan is agreed it would be more difficult for speculative applications for developments to get approved.
- Mr Whittington raised concern about the rerouting of the A29 and suggested this would destroy the communities of the villages and could not understand how it would improve traffic flows.

South Downs National Park

92. The Chairman welcomed Anna Ludford, Planning Policy Officer, South Downs National Park, to provide a powerpoint presentation, appended to the minutes, on the progress to date on the National Park Local Plan.

93. Ms Ludford explained that the National Park Local Plan would be the key mechanism for the progressing Management Plan. She went on to detail the timetable for the options consultation as detailed in the presentation.

94. Members asked if the Local Plan would include an agreed number of houses. Ms Ludford was not aware of a number but the focus would be on affordable housing.

95. Members requested a progress report on the progress of the Local Plan in a years time.

Community Initiative Funding

96. 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.

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

Approved:

140/JDAC: Walberton Cricket Club, £2,500, towards a new caged practice pitch.

Declined:

159/JDAC: Arundel and Downland Community Leisure Trust, £1166.32, for a new Lifeguard Chair. Declined as the Committee stated that they had received significant funding from the Prevention and Wellbeing Fund and also via the CIF to Arundel Farmers Market, a subsidiary of the trust.

Community Grants

98. The Committee considered a report by the Assistant Director, Planning & Economic Regeneration, Arun District Council (copy appended to the signed minutes), which sought decisions from the Committee on the applications received under the grant scheme.

99. Councillor Mr Hockley stated that he could confirm that St Mary's Church was used by a wide variety of community groups and asked that the Committee review the recommendation and support the application. It was noted that this was not made clear on the application and that evidence must be provided that groups other than just religious groups do use the facility.

100. Mr Whittington spoke in favour of the Barnham Community Hall application. He mentioned that the fence was a requirement from Ofsted for the playgroup that operate at the centre. Mr Whittington asked the committee to consider granting this and the path in full.

101. Resolved that the Committee agreed the following:

- a) Barnham Community Hall:
 - (i) Fence around patio area - £3,060
 - (ii) Path from hall to road - £600
 - (iii) Stage and window curtains - £1,022.50

- b) St Mary's Church, Climping deferred pending evidence of wide community support.

- c) Arundel Rotary/Festival:
 - (i) Arundel Rotary - New low voltage bright traditional LED lights - £600 subject to indicative quotations being provided for the cost of the lights and an indication of what matching funding would be available for the other 50%
 - (ii) Arundel Festival – New low voltage bright traditional LED lights and bunting - deferred to seek further information regarding the cost and details of match funding.
 - (iii) Arundel Festival – Storage container – declined as the sum sought appeared to be very generalised and not based on a quotation.

- d) Arundel Community Partnership for new larger skate park at the site off Canada Road that caters for a wide range of ages in the sum of £30K be deferred until a more detailed project plan be made available which included information regarding cost, scheme details and other funding sources.

Items to be raised by Town and Parish Council representatives

102. 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 Ford raised the issue of the Grundon Planning application. He asked fellow Councillors to register their views via the formal process on the County Council website. It was noted that the consultation ran until 6th January. Some Members expressed that this was not enough time due to the Christmas holidays. Nick Burrell agreed to pass this concern onto the relevant officers.

Items for at consideration at future meetings

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

- Presentation about the Slindon affordable housing project
- Broadband Update
- Renewable Energy/Sussex Energy Partnership
- Redeeming Our Communities

Date of next meeting

104. The next meeting would take place on Monday 17 March 2014 at a venue to be confirmed. Members wishing to place an item on the agenda should notify Monique Smart.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Chairman