

Agenda Item 3 Unconfirmed minutes

Joint Downland Area Committee

26 September 2016– At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 p.m. at The White Swan Hotel, Arundel.

Present:

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

Arun District Council: Councillors: Mr Charles, Mr Dingemans, Mr Ambler, Mr Wensley

Town/Parish Council representatives: Councillors: Mr Beaton (Aldingbourne), Mrs Standing (Arundel), Mr Oldfeild (Angmering), Mr Phillips (Barnham), Mr Burrell (Clymping), Mr Goldsworthy (Findon), Mr Ford (Ford), Mr Hulmes (Lyminster & Crossbush), Mrs Brimblecombe (Slindon), Mrs Wallsgrove (Walberton) and Mr Brown (Warningcamp)

Officers: Karl Roberts, Director (ADC), Monique Smart, Democratic Services Officer (WSCC) Ben Whiffin, Highways Manager (WSCC) and Nick Burrell, Senior Advisor (WSCC).

Chairman's Welcome

26. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

27. Apologies had been received from Councillors: Mrs Phillips, Mr Tompkins, Mr Crabb and Mr Allington.

28. The Chairman drew the Committees attention to the 'safer in our hands' campaign in response to plans by the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner's office to look at taking over West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service. He advised that West Sussex County Council (WSCC) believed that West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service should remain under the control of the County Council where it sat at the heart of the authority's Communities and Public Protection Directorate, fully integrated with all services. He encouraged Members and the public to take an information card and sign the petition of the WSCC website.

Declarations of Interest

29. The following personal interests were declared:

- Mrs Sue Wallsgrove in relation to agenda item 11 and the application from St Mary's Walberton.
- Monique Smart, Democratic Services Officer, in relation to agenda item 9 – Traffic Regulation Order Priorities – as a supporter of the scheme.

Minutes

30. Resolved – that the minutes of the Joint Downland Area Committee (JDAC) held on 4 July 2016 are confirmed as a correct record and are signed by the Chairman.

Talk with us – public question time

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

- Mr and Mrs Gaylor from Hammerpot asked if Mrs Deborah Urquhart would write to Highways England for an update on the proposed drainage works on the A27 at Hammerpot. *Mrs Urquhart stated she had been chasing as had officers at the County Council. As no response was forthcoming she stated that she would write to the local MP about the issue.*

Community Policing Update

32. The Chairman welcomed Inspector Marc Clothier who provided an update on Neighbourhood Policing in the JDAC area. A number of issues were discussed including those set out below:

- The new PCSO model had been in place since July. Arun and Chichester have a good resource that is flexible to respond to needs.
- The Contact Centre now has a Resolution Centre to try and deal with enquiries and reports at the first point of contact. If there are no lines of enquiry residents will be told that no further action can be taken.
- Barham Parish Council expressed disappointment that the office at their community centre would no longer be used by the Police. Inspector Clothier confirmed that the mobile devices that PCSOs use mean they do not necessarily need a dedicated office.
- It was suggested that the Traveller Transit site near Chichester had resulted in fewer unauthorised encampments in the area.
- It was confirmed that Police Officers still work in schools.

Area Action Plan

33. The Chairman referred Members to the Area Action Plan previously circulated. The Committee noted the Action Plan and the following points were made:

- It was noted that the broadband project was coming to an end and Members agreed that no further updates were required.
- Disappointment was voiced about the delays in relation to the new Lyminster Bypass.
- It was agreed that the Flooding and Drainage item should include concerns that there was no effective oversight. This was agreed and it was noted that a collective statement from all agencies could be shared with JDAC soon.

Changes to County Local Committees

34. Mr Nick Burrell, Senior Advisor, Democratic Services, introduced the previously circulated report that detailed proposed changes to County Local Committees and provided a short powerpoint presentation explaining the changes. Mr Burrell stated that the proposals are to deliver a Democratic Services savings target of £378,000 for 2016/18 as part of West Sussex County Council's two-year savings programme. He explained that for Arun the proposal included reducing from 3 Joint Area Committees to two and reducing the number of meetings from 4 to 3 per year. The proposals also included a reduction of the Community Initiative Fund by £1,000 per Member this year and a further £1,000 per Member next year.

35. Mr Burrell stated that feedback had been sought from Members and partners and the proposals and feedback were considered by the Governance Committee, which gave its full support. The next step would be for Full Council to consider the proposals in October.

36. Mr Paul Askew, Head of Policy and Partnerships, Arun District Council, confirmed that Arun District Council supported the proposals as they too are required to make savings. The proposal from Arun included the withdrawal of their grant funding and a reduction in the administration grant paid to West Sussex County Council due to fewer meetings.

37. Members discussed the report and raised the following points:

- There was a lots of concern about the consultation period being over the summer and Parishes not able to respond due to leave.
- The majority of Members spoke in support for a North/South divide as detailed in the alterntive options of the circulated report. Many felt that the rural areas of JDAC will be swamped by the urban and political issues of Bognor should there be an East/West divide as proposed.
- It was confirmed that Arun Cabinet had not commented about the divide but as stated did support the reduction.

38. Resolved that JDAC write to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Relations asking him to consider going out to consultation again to Arun Parish/Towns about where the boundary should be and delay this part of the decision until this further consultation was complete.

Prioritisation of Traffic Regulation Orders

39. The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Residents Services and Director of Highways and Transport, West Sussex County Council (copy appended to the signed minutes), which sought a decision from the County Council Members of the Committee.

40. Resolved that the County Council Members of the Committee agreed to progress the highest scoring TRO priority from the list attached at Appendix A, that being: Torton Hill Road, Arundel – extend Double Yellow Lines.

Community Initiative Funding

41. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law, Assurance and Strategy, West Sussex County Council (copy appended to the signed minutes), which sought a decision from the County Council Members of the Committee on the applications received under the Community Initiative Funding (CIF) scheme. The Committee debated the respective merits of the projects for which funding was sought.

42. The County Councillors on the Committee resolved that Community Initiative Funding be allocated as follows:

The following applications were approved: -

1054/JDAC – BLADE (Barnham Leisure Amenities Development Enterprise), £699.11, for 2 litter bins

1059/JDAC – Slindon Coronation Hall, £1,865.70, towards a replacement dishwasher

1060/JDAC – Walberton, Binsted and Fontwell Community Web Site Team, £556.00, towards training and development costs for new website.

Community Grant Applications

43. The Committee considered a report by Director, Arun District Council (copy appended to the signed minutes), which sought a decision from the Committee on the applications received under the Community Grant Fund.

44. The Committee resolved that Community Grant be allocated as follows:

- £2,500 for the cost of appropriate means of enclosure and other adaptations/alterations of land for the extension of St Mary's Churchyard. The offer of a grant is made on the basis that the grant is taken up within two years and is subject to the completion of the purchase of the land in question.
- £822.00 to repair the War Memorial that stands in Arundel High Street.

45. Mr Karl Roberts informed the Committee that the fund had about £38k remaining and encouraged Parish and Town Councils and community groups to make applications.

Nominations to School and Academy Governing Bodies

46. The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Care, Wellbeing and Education (copy attached to the minutes).

47. Resolved that the Committee approves the following nomination under the 2012 Regulations: -

Appointment of Mrs H Wells to Eastergate C of E Primary School for a four year term

Items to be raised by Town and Parish Council representatives.

48. None

Items for Future Meetings

49. The following items were agreed for consideration at future meetings:

- Update on Cycling and Cycling Strategy – it was noted that the strategy had recently been published and Members were encouraged to read it. Mr Whittington did add that it is work in progress and more detail would be available in the new year so suggested a report back to JDAC in March 2017.
- A27 (public consultation is expected in Spring 2017 for Arundel)
- Hydro Carbon Licence (when government legislation is published)
- Section 106 process (District Council allocations) and CIL – November 2016
- Flooding and Drainage – agreement of joint statement – November 2016.
- It was also agreed that an update on the Arun local plan would be provided the Members in January 2017.

Date of Next Meeting

50. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Monday 21 November 2016 at the White Swan Hotel, Arundel.

The meeting closed at 8.46pm