

**Joint Downland Area Committee** (Incorporating Downland County Local Committee)

24<sup>th</sup> January 2011– At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 p.m. at The White Swan Hotel, Arundel.

**Present:**

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

**Arun District Council (ADC):** Councillor Mr. Dingemans, Councillor Mrs Goad, Councillor Mr Dendle and Councillor Mrs Hazelhurst.

**Town/Parish Council representatives:** Councillor Mr. Biss (Clymping), Councillor Mr. Prior (Findon), Councillor Mr Donabie (Eastergate), Councillor Mrs. West (Aldinbourne), Councillor Mrs. Harriott (Arundel), Councillor Mr. Tomkins (Clapham), Councillor Ms.Verrinder (Angmering), Councillor Mrs. Harriott (Lyminster & Crossbush), Councillor Mr. Phillips (Barnham), Councillor Mrs Brimblecombe (Slindon).

**In attendance:**

West Sussex County Council (WSCC): Mr. Downy (Highways and Transport), Ms. Gardiner and Mrs. Smart (Democratic Services).

Arun District Council (ADC): Mr. Roberts (Assistant Director)

**Chairman's Welcome**

83. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

84. Apologies had been received from Councillors Mike Barnett, Philip White, Peter Looker, Jerry Fox, Richard Taft and Paul Bicknell. The Chairman welcomed Councillor Mrs Hazelhurst as substitute for Councillor Mr Bicknell.

**Declarations of Interest**

85. None declared at this stage.

**Minutes**

86. **Resolved** – that the minutes of the Joint Downland Area Committee (JDAC) held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

**Urgent Matters**

87. The Chairman informed the Committee that West Sussex County Council Highways had received a petition from residents of Clapham for a 20 mph speed limit in The Street, Clapham. The Chairman reminded the Committee that this had been high in the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) priority list when it was last considered by JDAC in July 2010 but it was withdrawn from the list as Clapham Parish Council objected to the proposal. The Chairman stated that she was happy for Highways to respond to the petition and inform the residents of Clapham that

their request would be assessed along with other TRO proposals later this year. The local County Councillor, Mrs Deborah Urquhart also supported this.

88. Mr Tompkins, representative of Clapham Parish Council confirmed that the Parish Council still objected to the TRO as previously stated. Mr Tompkins was hoping to meet Highways Officers to discuss the Parish Councils concerns.

89. The Chairman went on to inform the Committee that Barnham Parish Council had requested two issues be raised under Urgent Matters. The first was regarding reforming the Barnham Drainage Group. It was agreed that this was something that could be progressed outside of the meeting by the relevant Parish Councils and Arun District Council.

90. The second issue was regarding Parish Council consultations on the allocation of Section 106 monies. On this matter the Chairman introduced Graham Glenn from West Sussex County Council. Mr Glenn explained that the S106 in question would require a deed of variation that Barnham Parish Council would need to negotiate with Arun District Council. Karl Roberts from Arun District Council confirmed that in future there will be much greater opportunity for consultation and changes to take place. It was agreed that if appropriate the Committee would like to receive an update on this issue at the next meeting in April 2011.

### **Appointment of representatives to the Conservation Area Advisory Committee**

91. The Chairman informed the Committee that JDAC was required to nominate one Parish Councillor to act as a member and one Parish Councillor to act as his/her substitute to the Arun Conservation Area Advisory Committee.

92. No nominations were forthcoming so it was agreed that Monique Smart would email all Parish Council Clerks and JDAC representatives to ask if any Member of the Parish Councils would be happy to be nominated. Nominations would come back to the next JDAC meeting for approval.

### **Progress Statement**

93. The Committee had before it a table detailing progress on matters from previous meetings (copy appended to the signed minutes). Comment/queries were as follows:

- Mr Whittington stated that a schedule of works to restore the Barnham Signal Box had now been agreed. The fencing that JDAC had helped fund would be erected later this week.

### **Comprehensive Spending Review Update**

94. The Chairman introduced Councillor Michael Brown, West Sussex County Council Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources who provided an update on the County Council budget 2011/12 onwards. A number of issues were discussed and questions asked including the following:

- The reality of the cuts in Government grants is a reduction of 14.3% and equates to £79 million.
- The County Council was lobbying Government regarding the distribution of funds and how this is calculated. At present it is viewed as unfair.
- WSCC Cabinet was determined to have no increase in Council Tax this year.
- Frontline Services would be protected as much as possible. Of the £79 million 20% would be saved from Frontline Services.
- £60 million had already been saved over the last six years during the Fundamental Service Review undertaken by the County Council.
- Mr Brown confirmed that the County Council reserves were in tact.
- The number of administrative Buildings would be reduced from 46 to 6 over the next few years.

95. The Chairman thanked Mr Brown for his presentation and requested a written update for the next JDAC in April as at that point the County Council budget would have been approved.

### **Community Police Issues**

96. The Chairman welcomed Inspector Rob Moore to provide the Committee with an update on current issues in the Downland Area. Inspector Moore began by reporting the latest crime statistics (as previously circulated). He stated that the various crime increases in Aldingbourne, Arundel and Walberton where a mixture of offences including auto theft, garage break-ins and criminal damage.

97. Inspector Moore also reported on recent operations that his teams had been involved in including Operation Alloy combating the theft of cabling and copper wiring, Operation Petra focusing on anti social behaviour at Railway Stations and Operation Axal investigating the recent events at Ford Prison.

98. Inspector Moore also reported that following the merger of the West and North Downs divisions from 1<sup>st</sup> April, Jane Derrick had been appointed the new Chief Inspector for Arun. He also reported a number of changes regarding opening hours of Police Stations in the area. From 1<sup>st</sup> April, Arundel would become appointments only, Littlehampton and Bognor would be open from 10am – 6pm Monday to Friday and the Neighbourhood Response team would be based at Bognor Regis.

99. Members had a number of comments and queries which included those set out below:

- A suspect was arrested in connection with the Barnham Signal Box fire but there was not sufficient evidence to charge.
- Concern was raised that the reduced hours for stations would place additional pressure on PCSOs.
- Inspector Moore advised that rubbish being thrown out of cars should be reported via Operation Crackdown. This was reported as a problem around the McDonalds Restaurant at Crossbush. It was also suggested that this should be reported to Environmental Health as they are able to prosecute.
- It was requested if the statistics provided at this meeting could be by each Parish in the Downland Area, including Clapham and Angmering. Inspector Moore agreed to request this.

## **Talk with us – public question time**

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

- The Clerk to Clapham Parish Council requested clarification on the issue of Councillor bias as referred to in the Localism Bill briefing paper that had been previously circulated. His example was in relation to Traffic Regulation Orders and the process for prioritising Traffic Regulation Orders was explained to the Clerk but he was requested to take advice about Councillor bias and the Localism Bill outside of the meeting.

## **South Downs National Park**

101. The Chairman introduced Councillor Norman Dingemans who provided a PowerPoint presentation on the progress of the South Downs National Park (SDNP) (copy appended to the signed minutes). A number of issues were discussed and questions asked including the following:

- A District Councillor asked what local democratic legitimacy the SDNP would have. Mr Dingemans stated that they would continue to have open communication with all tiers of local government.
- It was confirmed that finances for the SDNP would come directly from central government. However for planning central government has deducted grants from both the District and County Councils to fund the SDNP.
- The County Council would continue to be responsible for maintenance of footpaths.

102. The Chairman thanked Mr Dingemans for his presentation. She then asked the Committee for views on whether to invite the SDNP to join JDAC and gave some options on how this could be done. The general consensus was that the Committee already had two representatives that were also Members of the SDNP and the issue was not informing the Committee but the Committee informing the SDNP. It was suggested that the Chairman write to the SDNP and ask that a Member of JDAC be appointed to the new Local Access Forum.

## **Expenditure of Developer Contributions for Play Facilities Arising from New Housing Developments**

103. The Committee considered a report by Karl Roberts, Assistant Director Planning and Housing Strategy at Arun District Council (copy appended to the signed minutes). The report had been prepared in acknowledgement of the decision making role of the Joint Arun Area Committees on how developer contributions arising from new housing development should be spent on children's play provision. The Committee was requested to recommend to the Cabinet Member for the Community Safety that he approves the expenditure proposals for the identified sites as set out in the report.

104. Barnham Parish Council asked to be informed exactly what equipment the money would be spent on. Mr Roberts agreed to email this information to Barnham Parish Council.

105. **Resolved** that the Members of the Committee agreed to recommend to the Cabinet Member for the Community Safety that he approves the expenditure proposals for the identified site as set out in the report appendix.

### **Community Initiative Funding (CIF)**

106. 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. The Committee discussed a number of issues, which included those set out below:

- Mrs Urquhart declared an interest in application 1435 as a resident of Clapham.
- Mr Whittington did states that he felt application 1435 could be funded by the Parish Council precept however as the Parish Council were part funding it he was willing to support the application.
- The Chairman stated that application 1472 was not from the Parish Council but the Parochial Church Council

107. Resolved – That Community Initiative Funding be allocated as follows:

**1435/JDAC**, Clapham Parish Council, £222.71, for the purchase and installation of a notice-board for an isolated part of the community.

**1472/JDAC**, Yapton with Ford Parochial Church Council, £1,000.00, towards the pollarding of trees in St Mary's, Yapton Churchyard.

### **Appointment of Authority School Governors**

108. 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.

109. The Chairman declared an interest as she knows both the applicants personally.

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

- i) Mrs SF Robinson to Walberton and Binsted Primary School for a 4 year term
- ii) Mrs M Ramacciotti to Westergate School for a 4 year term

111. Councillor Mr Dendle asked how people know of forthcoming vacancies. The Chairman confirmed that all vacancies in the Downland area are listed as an appendix in the report. It was also agreed that the link to the relevant section of the County Council website would be emailed to Councillor Mr Dendle.

## **Heavy Goods Vehicle Movements in the Downland Area**

112. The Chairman introduced an Information Report by Executive Director for Customers and Communities and Director Operations – Infrastructure and asked Mr Martin Downy to highlight the key findings.

113. Mr Downy highlighted that the overall number of goods vehicles surveyed had fallen by 2,534 since the last comparable survey was undertaken in December 2008. The decrease was thought to be due to a national trend to use fewer but bigger vehicles. The Committee discussed a number of issues, which included those set out below:

- It was noted that Yapton Lane north bound was not covered in the report. Mr Downy confirmed that this could be added to the next survey or he could request a one off survey prior to that.
- Mr Downy would check whether Angmering was covered in JDAC or JEAAC and report back to Councillor Ms Verrinder of Angmering Parish Council.
- Barnham Parish Council informed JDAC that an application had been submitted that would increase HGV movement in Lake Lane east.

114. The Committee noted the report.

## **Area Action Plan**

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

- Item D03 was still awaiting probate in relation to the car park on the Industrial Estate.
- Item D12, the Chairman informed the Committee that a Minister for Transport has been invited to West Sussex and it was hoped this would happen in the next month or so. She also informed the Committee that she had written to Nick Herbert MP and copied to Nick Gibb MP asking if they could provide JDAC with an update on any lobbying they had been doing on the issue of an improved A27. Arundel Town Council requested to be informed when the Minister Visit was confirmed.
- D07, the planning application had been approved and work was anticipated to start in the summer.

## **Items already identified / to be raised by Members for consideration at future meetings**

116. Items were confirmed as:

- Young People/Youth Council in Arun
- The future of Children's Centres
- Changes in the Health Service

- Meals on Wheels (and School Meals)
- Update on the Localism Bill – July
- Review of Winter Maintenance

**Date of next meeting**

117. The next meeting of the Joint Downland Area Committee is scheduled for Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2011. Members wishing to place an item on the agenda should notify Monique Smart. Future dates for 2010/11 were noted.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

**Chairman**