

## Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011, – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7 pm at The John de Bohun Room, The Woodlands Centre, Woodlands Avenue, Rustington, BN16 3HB.

### Present:

West Sussex County Council            Mr Evans (Chairman), Mr Peters, Dr Walsh, Mr Tyler, Mrs Urquhart, Mr Britton.

Arun District Council            Councillor Mr Steward, Councillor Mr Wiltshire, Councillor Mrs Hazlehurst (Vice Chairman), Councillor Mr Squires and Councillor Mr Elkins.

Town / Parish Council representatives            Councillor Mr Bicknell (Angmering), Councillor Mrs Robertson (Ferring), Councillor Mrs Lines (Rustington), Councillor Mrs Neno (Littlehampton) and Councillor Mr Heaver (East Preston)

### In attendance:

*West Sussex County Council:* Richard Bennett (Highways & Transport), Clare Gardiner and Monique Smart (Democratic Services).

*Arun District Council:* Wendy Ashenden-Bax (Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer)

*Sussex Police:* Inspector Rob Moore

## Chairman's Welcome

105. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He made a special welcome to Wendy Ashenden-Bax as the new Arun District Council Officer representative for the Committee.

106. Apologise for absence had been received from Councillors Mrs Walker (Kingston), Mr Roberts (East Preston) and Councillor Mr Wilde.

## Declarations of interest

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

- Dr Walsh as a Member of Littlehampton Town Council and Arun District Council
- Mr Wiltshire as a Member of Littlehampton Town Council
- Mr Graham Tyler as his granddaughter attends River Beach School.
- Mrs Emma Neno as her daughter attends River Beach School

## Minutes

108. Dr Walsh stated that the minutes of the last meeting were incorrect in saying he was a Member of Arun District Council Development Control. This should just be a Member of Arun District Council.

109. Mr Tyler stated that he had declared an interest at the last meeting as his granddaughter attends River beach School.

110. **Resolved** – that with the above amendments, the minutes of the Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee, held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2010, be confirmed as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

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

111. **Resolved** that Councillor Mrs Lines be appointed as the Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee substitute representative on the Conservation Area Advisory Committee for the forthcoming year.

### **Progress Statement**

112. 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:

- Roadside Vehicle Sales. The Chairman stated that there was now only one possible contractor to undertake this work and also that he had, in the last few days, resolved the funding issue for the first year. Therefore he was hopeful this could now move forward quickly.
- Alternative Route to Sea Lane into Rustington. Mr Tyler informed the Committee that the walk had been postponed due to a death at St Bridget's. It was hoped that it would be arranged for later in March.
- It was confirmed that the H&T sub group would monitor the Highway issues around the River Beach School Travel Plan. It was also agreed that they would look at the suggestion of a one way system around the school.
- Local members asked if they could be involved in the working group to establish the School Travel Plan. The Chairman stated that he hoped this would be the case.

### **'Talk with Us' – Public Questions**

113. The Chairman opened the meeting to questions from members of the public. In the discussion that followed, a number of points were raised, which included those set out below:

- A number of representatives from the Courtwick Lane Opposition Group (CLOG) attended the meeting. They requested that Members, rather than dealing with the planning application for new housing, which in their opinion is fraught with difficulty, concentrate on some other more imaginative way of ensuring Littlehampton's economic growth - such as tourism. Dr Walsh explained that as a Member of the Littlehampton Regeneration Committee he was aware of the need for investment and if houses have to come then developers can contribute to the infrastructure improvements that are required and this in turn would improve tourism and also quality of life of residents. Other Members agreed that housing would result in further

investment for the Town. Representatives of CLOG disagreed that housing and improved infrastructure should be linked.

- Another member of CLOG did not consider that the current system gave local residents sufficient and early opportunity to be engaged in consultation. In particular if developers engaged in pre-applications with the planning authority they should, at the same time, also engage in pre-application consultation with the residents who will be affected. The Chairman replied by stating that this application was not due to be formally considered until July so residents had until then to submit comments or objections. The Chairman also stated that he or the local Member would be happy to take forward any concerns relating to Highway issues but any formal objections need to be submitted to the District Council as the planning authority. The committee were also informed that the official County Council response to the planning application was now available to view along with the planning application on the Arun District Council website.

### **Community Police Issues**

114. The Chairman welcomed the Neighbourhood Inspector for the Eastern Arun area, Inspector Robert Moore. Inspector Moore referred to the previously circulated crime statistics for the area and stated that he was pleased to report that overall crime was down.

115. Inspector Moore went on to inform the Committee of staffing changes ahead of the merger of the West and North Downs divisions into a new West Sussex Division from 1<sup>st</sup> April. These included Martin Walker as the new Divisional Commander and Jane Derrick as the new District Commander. In addition Inspector Moore would be moving to Bognor and Gavin Whitehouse would manage Littlehampton. Inspector Moore also reported the proposals to change opening hours of Police Stations that included reduced opening hours at Littlehampton and that the response teams would be based out of Bognor. He stressed that there would be no reduction in response times to Littlehampton. In response to questions asked, Inspector Moore also confirmed that there would be no visible difference to policing in Littlehampton.

116. On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked Inspector Moore for all his work in the Eastern Arun Area and wished him well in his new area. The Chairman also stated that he would invite Jane Derrick to attend a future JEAAC meeting.

### **Appointment of School Governors**

117 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.

118 Resolved that the following be appointed as School Governor:

- Mrs L Scriven to White Meadows Temporary Governing Body as Parent Governor until establishment of New Governing Body.
- Mr D Mcaree to White Meadows Temporary Governing Body as Parent Governor until establishment of New Governing Body

119 The Chairman reminded Members of the School Governor vacancies and anyone interested to contact their local County Councillor.

## Community Initiative Funding

120 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.

121 **Resolved** that the County Council Members of the Committee approved the following applications and amount of Community Initiative Funding:

**1483/JEAAC**, Littlehampton Local History Society requested £2,000.00 towards publication costs for 100 copies of the 'Littlehampton Miscellany I'. **£2,000.00 granted.**

**1511/JEAAC**, Goring Short Mat Bowls Club requested £1,792.00 for the purchase of an additional bowls set. **£1,500.00 granted.**

**1531/JEAAC**, Littlehampton Bonfire Society requested £2,150.00, towards crowd safety costs for the 29<sup>th</sup> October Traditional Bonfire Celebrations. **£2,150.00 granted.**

The Committee also considered but deferred the following application:

**1512/JEAAC**, The Littlehampton Academy requested £3,000.00, for flights, accommodation and food for students struggling to raise funds for the Sri Lanka trip. This was **deferred** until the next meeting pending further information and more accurate figures regarding the level of contribution of participants. It was also questioned whether funds could be better used to benefit the whole Academy community. A suggestion was made that the students could be invited to present this additional information to the CIF Sub Group.

## Highways and Transport Sub Group

122 The Chairman referred the Committee to the notes of the last meeting of the Highways and Transport Sub Group (copy appended to the signed minutes), and asked Dr Walsh, Chairman of the Highways and Transport Sub Group, to run through any issues. The Committee discussed a number of issues, which included those set out below:

- Councillor Mr Wiltshire questioned whether the width of the link road to the new Littlehampton Academy was too narrow, especially if this becomes the North South link road. Richard Bennett did not have this information to hand but agreed to get back to Councillor Wiltshire.
- Councillor Mr Squires asked if there were any plans to compulsorily purchase any land for the proposed link road. Dr Walsh stated that the line of the highway was protected by but not in the ownership of the County Council but that no compulsory purchase would be made.
- Richard Bennett reported that as a result of the ongoing flooding in Sea Road, investigations had suggested possible root infestation in the pipes and CCTV surveys would be undertaken. At this point in the meeting, Councillor Mr Bicknell declared an interest as he works for Southern Water.

## Littlehampton Traffic Regulation Order

123 The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director Communities (copy appended to the signed minutes), which sought a decision from the County Council Members of the Committee to re-advertise Traffic Regulation proposals for Beach Road, Littlehampton.

124 **Resolved** that the County Council members of the Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee authorised the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to re-advertise the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) proposals in Beach Road to allow for a 24m loading bay and in the absence of any unresolved objections be authorised to make the Order.

## Date of next meeting

125 The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2011 at The Millennium Chamber, Littlehampton. Members wishing to place an item on the agenda should notify Monique Smart via e-mail: [Monique.smart@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Monique.smart@westsussex.gov.uk) or on (01243) 752730.

126. The Chairman also asked Members to note the agreed future dates for 2011/12:

- 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011
- 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011
- 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Chairman