

Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee

8 September 2015, – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7 pm at The Millennium Chamber, Littlehampton

Present:

West Sussex County Council Mr Buckland, Mr Peters, Mr Evans, Mrs Urquhart and Dr Walsh.

Arun District Council Councillors Mr Bicknell, Mr Bower, Mr Elkins, Mr Purchase, Mr Gammon and Mrs Neno.

Town / Parish Council representatives Councillor Mrs Francis (Angmering), Councillor Mr Duijf (Chairman) (East Preston) Councillor Mrs Robertson (Ferring), Councillor Mrs Walker (Kingston), Councillor Mr Squires (Littlehampton) and Councillor Mr Bennett (Rustington).

In attendance:

West Sussex County Council: Monique Smart (Democratic Services Officer), Peter Lawrence (Principal Community Officer)

Arun District Council: Paul Askew (Head of Policy and Partnerships)

Chairman's Welcome

31. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting including Peter Lawrence who introduced himself as the new Principal Community Officer for Arun.

32. The Committee observed one minutes standing silence to pay tribute to the families affected by the tragedy at the Shoreham Air Show.

33. Apologies had been received from Councillors Mr Tyler and Mrs Robertson. It was also noted that Councillor Mrs Cooper was substituted by Councillor Mr Bennett.

Declarations of interest

34. The following interests were declared:

- Dr Walsh and Mr Buckland declared an interest in relation to the update on the Arun Local Plan as Members of Arun District Council and Littlehampton Town Council.

Minutes

35. **Resolved** that the minutes of the Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee, held on 30 June 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Progress Statement

36. The Committee had before it a progress statement on matters arising from the previous meeting (copy appended to the signed minutes). A number of issues were discussed including those set out below:

- Members expressed disappointment about the advance communication in relation to the road works near Arundel Train Station. They stated that they had caused long delays that people could have tried to avoid had they known about the works in advance. It was agreed this would be fed back to West Sussex Highways and for them to ensure that timely advice is given for all future works.
- Members also asked for the West Sussex Highways to ensure that Highways England consult on diversion routes they suggest when closing roads. It was suggested that the route being suggested when the A27 Arundel Bridge is closed overnight in September and October is far too long.

'Talk with Us' – Public Questions

37. There were no questions from members of the public.

Community Police Issues

38. The Chairman welcomed Inspector Marc Clothier, who provided an update on crime statistics and current issues in the JEAAC area. A number of issues were discussed including those set out below:

- The changes to Neighbourhood Policing, introduced in July, were showing real benefits across the Districts and provided much more flexibility with deploying resources.
- Inspector Clothier informed Members that it was National PREVENT Awareness week and partners locally were working together to engage with vulnerable people to prevent extremism.
- Some Members raised concern about increase in crime statistics. Inspector Clothier stated that these are reviewed each week and resources are targeted where appropriate. He also stated that the recording of crimes has improved.
- Inspector Clothier agreed to look into whether the wards shown on the statistics take into account the recent boundary changes at Arun District level.
- It was confirmed that body worn video equipment was being used increasing more across Sussex Police but that it was not yet issued to each officer personally.

Community Funding

39. The Chairman welcomed previous successful Community Initiative Fund (CIF) applicants and asked them to provide a brief update of their project and how the funds had benefitted their organisation and the local community.

- Jennifer Rowley from Voluntary Action Arun and Chichester thanked the Committee for the £170 towards tablet computers. She explained that they are

being used by volunteers in workshops and community events and makes access to information much easier for the volunteers.

- Derek Moore from Arun Sunshine Group thanked the Committee for £600 that was spent on an HD projector that is used regularly to show films and information to Members. He also thanked the Committee for a previous grant that was used to purchase pop up information boards that have helped a great deal in promoting the charity and raising money.
- Rob Elliot from Arun Youth Aqua Centre thanked the Committee for the £2800 granted to purchase an outboard engine. He stated that the boats are well used by youth and community groups and has been used in competitions. He confirmed that the club is run entirely by volunteers and currently has about 50 members.
- Staci Mendoza-Quinn from Littlehampton Organisation of Contemporary Art LOCA thanked the Committee for the £2000 granted towards the LOVE Littlehampton festival. She explained that the money had been put towards staging and sound equipment as well as advertising for the festival. She reported that the festival had been a great success and thanked those Members that attended and helped set up.
- Paul Amoo from East Preston Film Society thanked the Committee for £2500 that was granted for outdoor exercise equipment. He stated that the equipment is well used by young and old. He also thanks the Committee for a previous award for money towards new chairs in the Community Hall used by the Film Club and many other local groups.

40. The Committee then went on to consider a report by the Director of Law, Assurance and Strategy, 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.

41. Resolved that the County Council Members of the Committee considered the CIF applications and allocated funding as follows:

- 736/JEAAC, Arun Short Mat Bowls Club, £4000 towards the purchase of an Electric Mat Roller.

42. Members noted an update (copy appended to the signed minutes) that detailed how the Parish and Town Councils had spent the new Homes Bonus money distributed by Arun District Council in 2014.

Update on the emerging Arun Local Plan

43. The Chairman welcomed Neil Crowther, Head of Planning Policy & Strategic Development, Arun District Council who provided Members with a verbal update on the emerging Arun Local Plan. In summary he explained that:

- The Plan was submitted to the Inspectorate in January 2015

- In February 2015, Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) published updated household projections that form the basis of calculation the housing needs of an area.
- As a result of this, Arun District Council (ADC) commissioned consultants to update the housing needs study for the District to understand the implications. This work showed a housing need figure of 758 as opposed to 550 - 650 previously
- The Inspector held three days of examination in June 2015. These covered the legal side of the Plan and the duty to cooperate.
- As a result of the change in the housing needs for the District, the council sought to continue with the current Local Plan by increasing the housing requirements through a 6 month postponement to 641.
- The Inspector held a 'procedural meeting' on 16 July to discuss this approach in public. His conclusion was that it was not possible to continue on this basis and he recommended a 12 – 18 month suspension in order to prepare a plan based on looking to accommodate the full housing need (758) for the District.
- Essentially, this means that the Council needs to find just over 3,000 further dwellings over the Plan period.
- The Local Plan sub-committee has agreed to the suspension recommended by the Inspector and ADC Full Council will consider this on 9 September. ADC will then formally go back to the Inspector confirming the course of action.
- The Inspector has recommended a formal consultation on the issue of housing numbers and he intends to hold an examination on this matter alone following the consultation so that the whole Local Plan process can proceed with certainty over what the housing figure should be. This is likely to be late November.

44. Following the update a number of issues were discussed including those below:

- Mr Buckland suggested that the number could likely rise again after the 12-18 month suspension so suggested that ADC increase the housing need figure to 1000 now.
- Concern was raised that the Neighbourhood Plans that Parish and Town Councils have worked so hard on would need to be amended and go back out for referendum. Mr Crowther stated that ADC would do all they can to avoid this but it was too early to rule it out.
- It was confirmed that any delay would not have an impact on the duty to cooperate.
- Councillor Mr Bower explained that this is a common problem and of the 210 District Councils in the Country, only 45 have adopted Local Plans. He stated that ADC was doing its best under difficult circumstances.
- Dr Walsh stated that the number needs to be deliverable and that both nationally and locally we have not built enough houses in the last 20 years.

Highways and Transport Sub Group

45. The Chairman referred Members to the notes from the last meeting of the Highways and Transport Sub Group (appended to the signed minutes). Dr Walsh, Chairman of the H&T Sub Group provided a brief update of the main issues, including:

- It is expected that the exhibitions and public consultation on the A259 improvements will take place in December and January and include a number of drop in events at venues along the route. It was confirmed that JEAAC Members would be invited to preview the information prior to it being made public.

46. Mr Evans raised an issue relating to camper vans parking on Marine Drive in Ferring. He stated that he had a meeting with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport next week but that it was likely to need a Traffic Regulation Order to resolve. He noted that TROs could not be prioritised until a review of the process had been completed by the County Council but Mr Evans asked if his fellow County Councillors would support him in making this a priority for JEAAC once allowed to do so. It was agreed this could be discussed at the next H&T Sub Group but Members made it clear that it would have to be discussed alongside other priorities.

Items to be raised by Town and Parish Council representatives

47. Councillor Mr Squires asked if West Sussex County Council have a list of Trees that they own and maintain. It was agreed that Monique Smart would ask West Sussex Highways and report back to Councillor Mr Squires.

Items for future meetings.

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

- A259 update/consultants presentations
- WSCC Cycling and Walking Strategy

Date of next meeting

49. The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on 1 December 2015 at the The John de Bohun Room, Woodlands Centre, Rustington. Members wishing to place an item on the agenda should notify Monique Smart via e-mail: monique.smart@westsussex.gov.uk or on 033022022540.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Chairman