

Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee

14 June 2016, – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7 pm at The John De Bohun Room, Woodlands Centre, Rustington

Present:

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

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

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

In attendance:

West Sussex County Council: Monique Smart (Democratic Services Officer), Mike Thomas (Area Highways Manager)

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

Chairman's Welcome

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Apologies had been received from Councillors Mr Buckland, Mr Peters, Mr Gammon and Mrs Walker.

Appointments

3. Following the decision that the Chairmanship of the Joint Arun Area Committees should rotate amongst the three tiers, the Chairman for 2016/17 would be a County Councillor and the Vice Chairman would be a District Councillor.
4. **Resolved** that Mr Tyler be appointed Chairman of JEAAC and also as the Chairman of the Joint Eastern Arun County Local Committee (CLC).
5. **Resolved** that Councillor Mr Roger Elkins be appointed as the Vice Chairman of JEAAC .
6. **Resolved** that Councillor Mr Joop Duijf be appointed as the lead Town and Parish Councillor.
7. **Resolved** that the membership of the Community Initiative Funding (CIF) Sub Group for 2016/17 be as follows.

Mrs Urquhart (WSCC)
Cllr Mrs Neno (ADC)

Cllr Mrs Walker (Kingston Parish)

8. **Resolved** that Dr Walsh be appointed as the Chairman of the Highways and Transport Sub Group.

9. **Resolved** that Councillor Mrs Walker from Kingston Parish Council be appointed as the JEAAC representative on the Arun Conservation Area Advisory Committee and that Councillor Mr Joop Dujif be appointed as the substitute representative.

Declarations of interest

10. The following personal interests were declared:

Dr James Walsh as a Member of Arun District Council and Littlehampton Town Council

Mr Peter Evans as a Member of Ferring Parish Council

Mr Graham Tyler as a Member of Arun District Council and Rustington Parish Council

Cllr Mr Paul Bicknell as a Member of Angmering Parish Council

Cllr Mrs Susan Francis as a Member of the Angmering Twinning Committee.

Minutes

11. **Resolved** that the minutes of the Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee, held on 8 March 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Progress Statement

12. The Progress Statement was noted.

'Talk with Us' – Public Questions

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

Mr Derrick Chester asked about grass cutting in Littlehampton and suggested that the gap between the cut in April and the one in June could be rescheduled. It was also asked if Town or Parish Councils can 'buy' additional cuts. *Mike Thomas, Area Highways Manager responded agreeing that the grass is particularly long at the moment, due in the most part to the wet, warm weather. It is difficult to react to this as an earlier cut this time round inevitably means a later cut next time, in order to ensure that a the final cut is carried out at the end of the growing season in around October. Unfortunately there will always be occasions where grass grows longer than desired, and the response to this is constrained by the number of cuts carried out in any one year. Mr Thomas confirmed that whilst there was no statutory requirement to provide a minimum level of grass cutting over and above that necessary to ensure the highway is safe, nationally recognised highway guidance suggests 5 cuts in urban areas would achieve a reasonable balance between maintaining the street scene and ensuring highway safety – West Sussex County Council currently deliver seven cuts in urban areas and three cuts in rural areas. It was also confirmed that Town or parish Councils can purchase additional cuts. Mr Thomas also confirmed that the grass cutting in the JEAAC area was currently underway and should be completed by the end of the week.* Other residents and Parish Councillors did also comment about the poor

quality of the cuts and that the cuttings block drains. *Mr Graham Tyler confirmed that the current Highways contract was up for renewal and he would feed these comments into that review process.*

Mr Clive Fennell asked if the new leisure centre in Littlehampton will include Sauna/Spa facilities. He handed a petition with 135 signatures asking if this could be included. *Mr Paul Askew accepted the petition on behalf of Arun District Council and said he would pass it to the relevant Head of Service tomorrow. He confirmed that a decision about what facilities would be included would be made by the relevant Cabinet Member in the next few months.*

A resident of River Road asked about progress regarding a parking study for Littlehampton. *Mr Graham Tyler confirmed that a pilot study for Chichester had taken place and the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport was now to set up a Member Task and Finish Group to analyse the findings and suggest a way forward for other areas of the County. Dr James Walsh confirmed that the JEAAC Highways and Transport Sub Group would be kept up to date of progress.*

Another local resident asked about the lack of Doctors and Locums in the area and suggested it may be due to a lack of affordable housing. Cllr Mr Ricky Bower confirmed that Arun does have starter homes and affordable housing and suggested the problem lays more with the NHS to invest in new medical facilities. However Mr Paul Askew agreed to report this back to the relevant head of service at Arun District Council to look in to.

A representative from the Angmering twinning Association spoke in favour of their Community Initiative Funding application that was included for consideration this evening. She confirmed the planter was in keeping with the rest of the street furniture in the conservation area. She also confirmed that it had the support of the Parish Council and Angmering in Bloom. She also confirmed they had obtained sponsorship for the plants to go in the planter.

Community Police Issues

14. The Chairman deferred the Community Police update as Inspector Marc Clothier was not present.

Highways and Transport Sub Group

15. The Chairman referred Members to the notes from the last meeting of the Highways and Transport (H&T) Sub Group (appended to the signed minutes). The report was noted with the following questions being raised:

- It was confirmed that Alan Feist was not in attendance but that the findings of the A259 consultation had been circulated to all Members via email earlier this week and they were available on the WSCC website.
- A written update from Alan Feist would be circulated via email to all Members tomorrow. Dr Walsh summarised the update stating that the consultation had resulted in nearly 80% approval for the proposals and that the County Council was now reviewing the scheme in light of the feedback received. In particular more detailed traffic counts and models have been commissioned for the section

between Station Road and the A280 where potential improvements to the design will be explored taking customers comments into account.

- On completion of the review, it was anticipated that the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport would be asked, in July 2016, to approve procedures for the acquisition of land and a contract for Detailed Design & Construction should then be awarded by November 2016. The current delivery programme includes a start on site in Autumn 2017 and completion by Spring 2019.
- Dr Walsh confirmed that the Committee would be kept up to date via the H&T Sub Group.
- It was confirmed that the River Beach School crossing would be delivered in this financial year.

Proposed Traffic Regulation Order – Marine Drive Ferring

16. 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.

17. Area Highways Manager, Mr Mike Thomas, took the Committee through the Report. He explained that in recent years Marine Drive and Marine Crescent had been used for long term parking by increasing numbers of motor caravans. Based on information provided by local residents and the fact that the area was promoted on several "Wild Camping" websites, it was believed on balance of probability that these long staying motor caravans were being used for camping on the highway. He added that this long term parking by motor caravans restricted the ability of other visitors to find suitable parking when visiting the area for recreation. He advised that in order to provide a sustainable solution to this issue it was proposed to introduce (where there are no existing restrictions) a restriction prohibiting motor caravans from waiting between 10pm and 9am as detailed in Section 3. A formal consultation had taken place to which there were 33 objections and 68 communications of support. He clarified that the level of objections was 33, rather than the 32 detailed in the report as one objection had been received which had not been counted.

18. Mr Thomas explained that the same report had been presented to Worthing County Local Committee last week in relation to the elements of the proposals in Goring. They had approved the recommendation.

19. Members and the public raised a number of points, including those that follow.

- Mr Peter Evans as the local member stated that he and Steve Waight, Member for Goring, had worked with officers to try and resolve this issue and that he fully supported the recommendation of the report to prohibit parking of motorised caravans overnight.
- A resident of Goring spoke in favour of the proposals.
- Dr James Walsh confirmed that the H&T Sub Group had previewed the decision and supported the recommendation.
- Cllr Roger Elkins, Arun District Councillor for Ferring and Cllr Mrs Carole Robertson, Ferring Parish Council, spoke in support of the recommendation.

20. Resolved: - That the County Council Members of the Committee, having considered the communications of objection and support as well as the Officers

response, authorises the Director of Law, Assurance and Strategy to make the Order for the restrictions in the Ferring area as advertised.

Community Funding

21. 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 decisions from the County Council Members of the Committee on the applications received under the CIF scheme.

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

The following applications were approved:

955/JEAAC- Angmering Twinning Association, £800.00, to provide planter costs for the Angmering Twinning Association's 40th Anniversary.

983/JEAAC - Littlehampton Fort Restoration Project, £1,490.34, to purchase tools and other items to clear and maintain the fort and surrounding area.

Nominations of Authority School Governors

23. The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director Care, Wellbeing and Education (copy attached to the signed minutes). The report included a list of the current vacancies for Local Authority Governors in the CLC area.

24. Resolved –That the County Council Members of the Committee approves the following nomination under the 2012 Regulations: -

Nomination for Appointment:

- Mr S Barnard to East Preston Infant School for a four year term.

25. Members also noted the urgent action report that was approved in April 2016.

Items to be raised by Town and Parish Council representatives

26. The following items were raised:

- Cllr Mr Squires reported that Beach Road was in a terrible state and needed resurfacing. Mr Thomas agreed to pass this onto his colleague Ben Whiffin but encouraged Mr Squires to report any defects via the West Sussex County Council 'Love West Sussex' app.
- Cllr Mr Paul Bicknell asked about signage outside the shops in the centre of Angmering. He said that it used to be half all day parking and half limited to 1 hour but the signage had been removed. Mr Thomas agreed to pass this onto his colleague Ben Whiffin to investigate.
- Members raised concern about the lack of Police attendance this evening and that no apologies had been received. Members asked the Chairman

to seek confirmation of their commitment to attend the Joint Area Committees.

Items for future meetings.

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

- WSCC Cycling and Walking Strategy
- Arun Future Vision – to include proposals for Area Committees

Date of next meeting

28. The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday 6 September 2016 at The Millennium Chamber, Manor House, Littlehampton Town Council. 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 8.20pm

Chairman