

Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee

27 January 2009 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 p.m. at the The Angmering School, Station Road, Angmering, BN16 4HH.

Present:

West Sussex County Council: Mr. Peter Evans, Mr. Peter Moor, Mr. George O'Neill and Dr. James Walsh.

Arun District Council: Councillor Roger Elkins, Councillor Julie Hazlehurst (Chairman), Councillor Tony Squires, Councillor Ray Steward, Councillor Dennis Wilde and Councillor Nicholas Wiltshire.

Town/Parish Council representatives: Councillor Len Barnett (East Preston), Councillor Paul Bicknell (Angmering), Councillor Bryan McCansh (Ferring) (Vice Chairman), Councillor Emma Neno (Littlehampton), Councillor Graham Tyler (Rustington) and Councillor Geraldine Walker (Kingston).

In attendance:

West Sussex County Council: Richard Bennett (Highways and Transport), Clare Gardiner (Democratic), Matt Hall (Democratic Services),

Arun District Council: Juan Baeza (Appeals Officer, Planning) (Jaqui Ball (Head of Strategy, Partnership, Economic & Cultural Development), Karen Dower (Policy Manager) and (Paul Unsworth (Head of Environmental Health).

Sussex Police: Inspector Sharon Parker.

Apologies for Absence

127. Apologies were received from Mrs. Deborah Urquhart.

Declarations of Interest

128. In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, members declared interests as follows -

- Councillor Ray Steward declared a personal interest as a member of Rustington Parish Council (Agenda Item 14).
- Councillor Len Barnett declared personal interest as a member of East Preston Parish Council (Agenda Item 14).
- Dr James Walsh declared a personal interest as a governor of Littlehampton Community School (Agenda Item No. 13).

Urgent Matters

129. It was noted that an additional Community Initiative Fund application had been received and would be considered along with the applications on the agenda under Agenda Item No. 13.

Minutes

130. Resolved – that the minutes of the Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee held on 14 October 2008, be confirmed as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

'Talk with Us' - Public Questions

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

- A member of the public asked why local police had obstructed the Beach Town Action Group and it's coordinator in it's work in the community. It was also suggested that Police Community Support Officers had made offensive comments about members of the local community. *Inspector Sharon Parker informed the Committee that Sussex Police was committed to effective community policing and that the issues in Beach Town would be taken up. The three Beach Town Ward members and the Arun District Council Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community Safety would be copied into the correspondence and invited to any meetings with the Beach Town Action Group.*
- A member of the public commented that the minutes of the previous meeting did not reflect the outcome of a meeting between Rustington Parish Council and West Sussex County Council. It was asked whether the minutes could be amended to reflect that meeting. *It was commented that the minutes summarised the discussion at the previous JEAAC meeting and had been confirmed as a correct record.*
- A member of the public commented on the design for a crossing at Sea Lane, Rustington, which had been put forward in the Infrastructure Works Programme. It was commented that the pedestrian refuge should not be considered as an alternative to the proposed signalised crossing. *The Area Highways Manager informed the Committee that the wording in the report was an error and that the refuge was not considered as an alternative to a signalised crossing.*
- A member of the public commented on the A259 Angmering Bridge. It was noted that there had recently been an accident at the old crossing point and it was suggested that that point should closed and blocked to pedestrians. *Members commented that the surface crossing point remained the only place for disabled people to cross. The A259 Sub Group regularly met to discuss issues regarding the road and worked with the school to ensure that children were encouraged to cross using the footbridge.*

132. Resolved – That the Beach Town Action Group Coordinator's concerns about community policing are taken up and the Beach Ward members and ADC Cabinet Member for Community Safety are copied into the correspondence and informed of any meetings taking place.

Community Police Issues

133. Inspector Sharon Parker informed the Committee that there had been a 17.5% decrease in crime compared to the previous year. A number of distraction burglaries targeting older people had been of some concern in the area but two arrests had recently been made. Operation Sparkler had been a success over the Hallowe'en and Guy Fawkes Night period. A new Police Officer had been appointed for Arundel and a further vacancy was being advertised.

134. Members were invited to comment or ask questions about local policing issues and in the discussion that followed a number of points were raised, which included those set out below:

- It was commented that there had been some issues on the Allangate Estate in Rustington over the Christmas period. *Inspector Parker informed the Committee that extra police had been allocated to the Allangate Estate and suggested that the issue was discussed outside of the meeting.*
- Members commented that the 20 and 30 mph speed limits in Angmering were not being enforced. *Inspector Parker informed the Committee that PCSOs had been using speed indicator devices in the area and cautionary letters had been sent to the owners of vehicles observed speeding. It was suggested that the matter was taken up between the police and Angmering Parish Council.*

135. Resolved –

(i) Rustington Parish Council's concerns about problems on the Allangate Estate are taken up with the Parish Council's representative.

(ii) Policing of the 20 and 30 mph speed limits in Angmering is taken up with the Parish Council's representative

A259 Sub Group

136. The Chairman of the A259 Sub Group commented on the suggestion to formalise the relationship of the Sub Group to the wider JEAAC. The Committee supported the suggestion that the A259 Sub Group be adopted as the JEAAC's mechanism for investigating highways and transport issues. It was agreed that Littlehampton Town Council should be invited to nominate a representative to attend the Sub Group.

137. Resolved – That the Chairman of the Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee A259 Sub Group write to Littlehampton Town Council to invite a nomination to join the Sub Group.

Infrastructure Works Programme 2009/10 and future Programme

138. Members had before them a report by the County Council Director Operations Infrastructure setting out the priorities for highways works for 2009/10. Members were asked to comment on the priorities and in the discussion that followed a number of points were raised, which included those set out below:

- Members commented on the error raised under Item 7 (minute 131) regarding Sea Lane and asked that the report was amended.
- Members commented on footway lighting Littlehampton, particularly Wick, Ham and River Wards. It was noted that much of it was still on wooden poles.

- Members commented that works appeared to take a long time to be completed and it was suggested that supervision of contractors was considered. The Chairman of the County Councillors indicated that the view would be put to the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport.

139. Resolved – That the Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee endorses the Works Programme as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, subject to the amendment of the entry for Sea Lane, Rustington.

Arun Local Development Framework Core Strategy

140. The Committee received a presentation from the Arun District Council Head of Strategy, Partnership, Economic & Cultural Development on the options for growth in the district up to 2026. Consultation on the options was to take place between 12 February and 26 March and the mobile consultation unit would be stationed in Angmering Village Hall car park between 7.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. on Monday 9 March.

141. Members were invited to comment on the presentation and the options for growth. In the discussion that followed a number of points were raised, which included those set out below:

- Members of the public asked how many of the sites were windfall sites. *It was noted that windfall sites were not part of the current consultation but that a list of windfall sites to be developed would be published in the Spring.*
- Members of the public asked whether the risk of flooding had been taken into account. *It was noted that flooding had been considered.*
- Members asked what the total distribution of Band A and B housing was across the District. *The Head of Strategy, Partnership, Economic & Cultural Development agreed to report back to the Committee with a response.*
- Members commented that the provision of infrastructure to support the new development was essential, in particular improvements to the A27 and rail network. It was asked how likely it was that these infrastructure needs would be included as pre-conditions of the development. *It was noted that the delivery of infrastructure was being considered. It needed to be demonstrated that infrastructure was necessary to support the development.*
- Members suggested that the South East England Development Agency had withdrawn support for A27 improvements in Chichester in favour of Shoreham because of housing levels. It was felt that, if Arun was to take 11,000 homes, there should be some commitment given regarding the infrastructure. *It was noted that meetings with the Highways Agency and Government Office South East to discuss these matters.*
- Members asked whether the need for jobs for the occupants of the new homes had been considered. *Members were informed that the LDF process was based around providing jobs for each of the new homes.*
- Members commented that the two primary schools in Angmering were very close to each other and that the volume of children using the same road at

the same time in the morning was potentially dangerous. It was suggested that a land transfer was considered to move one of the schools.

142. More information about the Local Development Framework is available on the Arun District Council website: www.arun.gov.uk/ldf

Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Show-people Study

143. The Arun District Council Head of Strategy, Partnership, Economic & Cultural Development informed the Committee of the consultation on the results of the site survey between 16 February and 26 March 2009. Arun District Council was required to provide between 14 and 18 additional permanent pitches, nine of which by 2011. The provision of legitimate permanent pitches improved the District Council's ability to deal with unauthorised encampments.

144. Members of the public and the Committee were invited to comment and in the discussion that followed a number of points were raised, which included those set out below:

- Members of the public asked whether residents were contacted regarding the site near to the A27. *It was noted that the consultants had spoken to the Parish Councils, not individual residents but residents now had the opportunity to have their say during the consultation.*
- Members of the public asked whether Poling Parish Meeting would be contacted. *The Committee was informed that letters to Parish Councils offering meetings to discuss the survey had been sent.*
- Members of the public asked how it was intended that pitches would be controlled. *It was noted that the purpose of identifying permanent sites was so that unauthorised encampments could be better enforced.*
- Members of the public asked how the number of pitches needed had been determined. *The Committee noted that a previous study had been undertaken to predict the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller communities until 2016.*
- Members asked what length of time of stay was permitted at the emergency pitch on the A27. *It was reported that a period had not been determined.*
- Members of the public asked how people would be moved on from unauthorised pitches. *It was commented that the taking on the new sites may allow the Police and District Council new powers to bring about immediate removal of unauthorised encampments. Residents would be able to call the police and have them removed.*
- Members asked how many of the sites were permanent and how many transient. *It was reported that the A27 site was an emergency site and the remainder were permanent.*
- Members asked to be provided with a regional map showing where the sites had been located in the rest of the county to illustrate how the pitches might

be expected to work. *It was agreed that the figures would be provided and that attempts to produce a map would be made.*

- A member of the public commented on an issue of ownership of the land on one of the sites identified in the study. *It was agreed that the matter would be taken up outside of the meeting.*

Community Initiative Funding

145. The Committee had before it a by West Sussex County Council Head of Democratic Services (copy appended to the signed minutes). It was noted that, further to the publication of the agenda, a further five Community Initiative Fund applications had been received. Members of the Grants Sub Group had met informally ahead of the meeting and discussed the new applications as follows:

- App 853 NSPCC - Talk-Up: expansion of schools domestic abuse project in two secondary schools in Littlehampton
- App 819 Orchard House - Installation of a safe surface for sensory garden (application made to all CLCs)
- App 814 Social Team: St. Andrews Church - Kitchen equipment: china, utensils, tablecloths etc. Required for fundraising events
- App 784 5th Littlehampton Sea Scouts - Purchase of one hundred new chairs for the scout hall.
- App 783 Ferring Probus Club - Assist in the purchase of a public address system
- App 773 Clymping Gap Partnership - Purchase and installation of four signs to encourage police contact in the event of anti-social-behaviour on the beach.
- App 768 Littlehampton Shopmobility - £3360.00 for the purchase of three new scooters to replace older rental stock. £1000.00 for publicity and profile raising.
- App 738 Something Grand - To pay artist fees for visits to five day-centres in the east of West Sussex with a performance and workshop package.

145. It was noted that there was an error on the agenda and the Project 82 Application had been rejected at the meeting on 14 October 2008. Application 885 Littlehampton Community School - Transport and accommodation for the Sri Lanka Schools Project had been received after the Grants Sub Group meeting.

146. Resolved – That:

(i) The following applications and amounts are approved:

• Social Team, St Andrews Church	£300
• 5 th Littlehampton Sea Scouts	£799.75
• Ferring Probus Club	£200
• Littlehampton Shopmobility	£2,240
• Littlehampton Community School	£1,500

(ii) The following applications are declined:

- NSPCC – It was felt that the application was not specific to the needs of people in the eastern Arun area.
- Orchard House - It was felt that the application was not specific to the needs of people in the eastern Arun area.
- Clymping Gap Partnership – It was felt that the signs should be funded from the Parish Precept or Sussex Police, as they were for community safety purposes.
- Something Grand – The application was for running costs, which are does not meet the criteria for Community Initiative Funding.

Village Enhancement Scheme

174. The Committee had before it a report by Arun District Council Head of Strategy & Partnerships, Economic & Cultural Development Unit, which set out Village Enhancement Scheme application from Middleton-on-Sea Parish Council and Bognor Regis Parish Council. Members were asked to consider the recommendations made by the Grant Sub Group.

175. Resolved – That the following VES grants are processed:

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|-------------------------------|----------|
| • East Preston Parish Council | £2105.12 |
| • Rustington Parish Council | £3883 |

Appointment of School Governors

176. Resolved – That Mr Ian Buckland be appointed as Local Authority Governor at Cornfield School, Littlehampton, for a term of four years.

Information Items

177. Members had before them a number of items for their information, which were noted.

Items to be Raised by Town and Parish Council Representatives

178. None.

Items for Future Meetings

179. Members noted items for future meetings, including those set out below:

- Partnerships for Older People Project
- West Sussex Waste Management Contract

Date of next Meetings

180. The Committee noted that its next scheduled meeting would be held on Tuesday 7th April 2009. Further dates were noted as below:

- Tuesday 14th July 2009
- Tuesday 20th October 2009
- Tuesday 2nd February 2010

Chairman

The meeting finished at 9.08 p.m.