

Joint Downland Area Committee

27 February 2017– At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 p.m. at The White Swan Hotel, Arundel.

Present:

West Sussex County Council: Mr Peters (Chairman) and Mr Whittington

Arun District Council: Councillors: Mr Charles, Mr Dendle, Mr Dingemans and Mr Wensley

Town/Parish Council representatives: Councillors: Mr Beaton (Aldingbourne), Mr Phillips (Arundel), Mr Oldfeild (Angmering), Mr Phillips (Barnham), Mr Ward (Clymping), Mrs Mackerell (Findon), Mr Ford (Ford), Mr Hulmes (Lyminster & Crossbush), Mrs Brimblecombe (Slindon), and Mr Brown (Warningcamp)

Officers: Paul Askew, Head of Policy & Partnerships (ADC), Monique Smart, Democratic Services Officer (WSCC), Tracey Light, Principal Community Officer (WSCC) and Benjamin Whiffin, Area Highways Manager (WSCC)

Chairman's Welcome

74. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

75. Apologies had been received from Councillors: Mrs Urquhart, Mrs Phillips, Mr Ambler, Mr Tompkins, Mr Goldsworthy, Mrs Harriott and Mrs Wallsgrove.

Declarations of Interest

76. The following personal interests were declared:

- Councillor Mrs Mackerell in relation to agenda item 11 and the grant application from Findon Village Pre School.

Minutes

77. Resolved – that the minutes of the Joint Downland Area Committee (JDAC) held on 21 November 2016 are confirmed as a correct record and are signed by the Chairman.

78. It was agreed that the Arun Local Plan should have been included as an item for future meetings.

Progress Statement

79. In relation to changes to the Joint Area Committees from May 2017, Councillor Mr Dingemans expressed concern that the District Council ward for Arundel and Walberton would not be represented on the new JWAAC. It was explained that this was a decision for Arun District Council and therefore Mr Dingmans agreed he would raise it at the next Full Council meeting.

Talk with us – public question time

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

- A resident from Warningcamp referred to the letter from Highways England (HE) about the A27 Arundel bypass project and stated that she had not received a copy. Some other local residents also stated they had not received it. *Monique Smart undertook to feed this back to HE via WSCC.*
- Mr Ralph Smith from the British Horse Society had submitted a letter in advance asking for JDAC to support his request for a speed limit reduction in Blakehurst Lane and Clay Lane and also recognise a gap in the Bridleway in that area. *The Area Highways Manager confirmed that the details of how to apply for a Traffic Regulation Order had been forwarded to Mr Smith. Mr Whittington responded in relation to the Bridleway gap and stated the gap in question was HE land but Mr Whittington's suggestion would be to speak to nearby landowners to try and create a safer route further away from the A27. Mr Whittington stated he would be happy to discuss this further with Mr Smith outside of the meeting.*

Community Policing Update

81. The Chairman welcomed Christian Thomas who provided an update on Neighbourhood Policing in the JDAC area. A number of issues were discussed including those set out below:

- A new resolution centre has been established to try and resolve issues at the first point of contact.
- The roll out of mobile devices continues and allows officers to update reports without having to return to base.
- Arrests have been made in connection with the recent spate of crime in rural car parks and beauty spots.
- Business Wardens have been given increased powers to help deal with anti-social behaviour and street drinking.
- Concern was raised about campervans parking overnight in Mill Road Arundel. It was understood that some are causing a nuisance and a request was made for the Police to look into this. Councillor Mr Dendle agreed to email Sargent Thomas with details.
- Members expressed disappointment that they no longer received the printed crime statistics and that the website was not able to give a comparison or clear picture of the reported crimes with the Committee area.
- It was confirmed that the Police do record Flytipping as a crime but unless there is evidence of who has committed the crime it would simply be passed to the District Council to collect. District Councillors did state that they do check the rubbish for evidence of where it comes from.

Area Action Plan

82. The Chairman referred Members to the Area Action Plan previously circulated. The Committee noted the Action Plan and the following points were made:

- It was confirmed that Karl Roberts was coordinating the collective statement in relation to Flooding and Drainage and it would be circulated as soon as it was finalised.
- It was confirmed that the planning application for the northern section of the Lyminster Bypass would be submitted by the County Council to the District Council. It was also confirmed that the southern section of the road would start when a certain number of houses were occupied, as set out in the planning conditions for the development. The Area Highways manager agreed to speak to Councillor Mr Hulme after the meeting with any further queries.
- The Area Highways Manager confirmed that a path from Ford Station to Arundel had been explored and an estimate of cost provided to Arundel Town Council. However he confirmed that at present it was not a priority scheme for West Sussex County Council. Councillor Mr Dendle also asked about the possibility of a larger car park at Ford Station but there was no update in relation to that.

Community Highways Improvement Schemes

83. The Area Highways Manager introduced the previously circulated information report that detailed the Community Highways Schemes that, subject to a Cabinet Member Decision expected in late March 2017, would be designed in 2017/18 and delivered in 2018/19.

84. As detailed in Appendix A of the report, there were two schemes in the JDAC area. The first being a 20mph speed limit and associated improvements in Arundel and the second a crossing and speed reduction on the A29 at Slindon.

85. Members welcomed and noted the report.

Community Initiative Funding

86. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law and Assurance, West Sussex County Council (copy appended to the signed minutes), which sought a decision from the County Council Members of the Committee on the applications received under the Community Initiative Funding (CIF) scheme.

87. The Chairman explained that the applications received totalled £11,708.97 but the fund available was only £4,356.14 so some difficult decisions would have to be made. The Committee debated the respective merits of the projects for which funding was sought.

88. The County Councillors on the Committee resolved that Community Initiative Funding be allocated as follows:

The following applications and amounts were approved: -

1130/JDAC - Lyminster and Crossbush PC, £700.00 towards, Communications modernisation project.

1140/JDAC - 1st Barnham Scout Group, £1,050.00 towards new tents.

1169/JDAC – Walberton Pavilion (PC), £509.00 towards replacement of windows and doors.

1170/JDAC – Walberton Village Hall, £1679.99 to replace a dishwasher.

1171/JDAC - Home-Start Arun, £417.15 to purchase replacement IT equipment.

The following applications were declined: -

1124/JDAC - West Sussex Mediation Service, towards volunteer training and development. Declined due to limited funds and also that other applications fitted the criteria better. It was suggested they should apply to the West Sussex County Council Small Grants Fund.

1164/JDAC - Arundel Festival LTD, towards new signs for the festival. Declined due to limited funds and the fact that the Arundel Festival had received grants from JDAC and the Members Big Society Fund in recent years.

Community Grant Applications

89. The Committee considered a report by Director, Arun District Council (copy appended to the signed minutes), which sought a decision from the Committee on the applications received under the Community Grant Fund.

90. Councillor Mr David Phillips declared a personal interest in relation to the application from Barnham Parish Council, as a Member of Barnham Parish Council.

91. The Committee resolved that Community Grant be allocated as follows:

- (i) To support and set aside £16,524.00 towards the demolition of the existing Findon Village Pre-School and the erection of a replacement wooden building.
- (ii) Not to support the request in the sum of £2,952.00 towards the entrance fees and light refreshments for "The Man Bus" initiative piloted by St Barnabas House Hospice.
- (iii) To support the request in the sum of £1,100.00 towards the purchase of a laptop and projector for the Yapton & Ford Local History Group.
- (iv) Not to support the request in the sum of £1,160.00 to provide free brain injury awareness training events.
- (v) To support the request in the sum of £1,500.00 to provide 3no. new benches in the Parish of Barnham.

Nominations to School and Academy Governing Bodies

92. The Chairman confirmed there were no nominations for Authority Governors but asked the Committee to note the vacancies in the area and encourage anyone suitable to apply.

Items to be raised by Town and Parish Council representatives.

93. Councillor Mr Hulme raised concern about the maintenance and control of open spaces. He stated that it is not clear to the public who owns such land and therefore who to contact when problems arise. He asked if JDAC could help with a coordinated approach.

94. Mr Paul Askew from Arun District Council confirmed that it would be the responsibility of either a private developer, Arun District or West Sussex County Council. He explained that it is a developer and it is not being maintained then report it to Arun District Council who could look into the planning agreement and enforce action if appropriate.

95. The Area Highways Manager added that developers can sign a section 38 agreement for the County Council to take over responsibility but many do not.

96. Some of the other Parish Councillors stated that the Parish Councils can request to take control and therefore arrange the maintenance more locally. It was suggested that Councillor Mr Hulme explore this option in his local area.

97. Other Councillors did expand the subject to ask about the maintenance of play areas, and SUDs. It was suggested if there is an issue then then contact your local District Councillor who will look follow up each case with officers at Arun District Council.

Items for Future Meetings

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

- A27 (public consultation for Arundel expected summer 2017)
- Local Plan/Planning

Date of Next Meeting

99. The Chairman thanked all the Members of JDAC for their participation over the years and hoped the good work of the Committee would continue with the new Committee set up.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm
Chairman