

Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee

8 March 2016, – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7 pm at The Millennium Chamber, Littlehampton

Present:

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

Arun District Council Councillors Mr Bicknell, Mr Bower and Mr Elkins.

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

In attendance:

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

Arun District Council: Paul Warters (Director, Customer Services)

Chairman's Welcome

72. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

73. Apologies had been received from Councillors Mr Gammon, Mr Purchase and Mrs Neno.

Declarations of interest

74. The following personal interests were declared:

Mr Ian Buckland as a Member of Arun District Council and Littlehampton Town Council
Dr James Walsh as a Member of Arun District Council and Littlehampton Town Council
Mr Peter Evans as a Member of Ferring Parish Council

75. The following personal and prejudicial interest was declared:

Mr Graham Tyler as the applicant and member of 'Men in Sheds' (ref 941/JEAAC).

Minutes

76. **Resolved** that the minutes of the Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee, held on 1 December 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

'Talk with Us' – Public Questions

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

- Residents from Ferring and representatives of Ferring Conservation Group asked what measures the County Council will put in place to ban the overnight parking of motorhomes and similar vehicles on Marine Drive, Ferring and its continuation into Goring? *Ben Whiffin, Area Highways Manager, stated that action was being taken and it was expected that signage would be erected in the next few weeks. This signage would state that overnight camping on the highway was illegal. Mr Peter Evans, County Councillor for Ferring, added that a meeting was taking place tomorrow with all authorities to look at the options for a longer term solution. Mr Evans undertook to report back after that meeting to Ferring Conservation Group and other interested parties.*
- In relation to the proposed speed limits for various roads in Ferring (report to be considered later on the agenda), one resident asked if additional signage could be considered to encourage drivers to slow down. *Ben Whiffin responded stating that this was not something to be considered initially but if there was low compliance it is something the police could consider at a later date.*
- Other Ferring residents raised concern that the proposed 30mph limits would increase speeds and with many of the roads not having pavements and being shared by the elderly and young children, they were concerned for the safety of residents. *Ben Whiffin explained that the current 20mph signage was not legally enforceable and that unfortunately a 20mph limit did not comply with the County Council speed limit policy. He also added that West Sussex had many other areas similar to Ferring and experience had shown that speeds do not increase. Carol Robertson from Ferring Parish Council added that although the Parish Council would have liked 20mph limits they understand that it does not meet criteria so the choice is to have an enforceable 30mph limit or non enforceable limits. Peter Evans added that he understood the concerns but felt that 30mph was reasonable.*
- Derek Chester asked for confirmation of the date for the planning committee to determine the application for the WSCC portion of the Lyminster Bypass. *The Chairman confirmed that Monique Smart would undertake to get a response from West Sussex County Council and respond directly to Mr Chester.*

Community Police Issues

78. The Chairman welcomed Inspector Marc Clothier who provided an update on current issues in the JEAAC area. He also welcomed Chris Neilson who provided information about Business and Community Wardens. A number of issues were discussed including those set out below:

- Many Members voiced concern about increases in crime. Inspector Clothier confirmed that there was no evidence of a pattern and reassured Members that it is reviewed on a daily basis and the figures are still low and Arun is a safe place to live. He confirmed that resources had been deployed to deal with the increase in burglary in East Preston and this had resulted in positive outcomes.
- Dr James Walsh asked if violence against the person statistics could be broken down into categories. Inspector Clothier agreed to take this back but suspected that the resources would not be available to do this.

- The consultation with PCSOs about their future role was underway. This will see a reduction in the overall number of PSCOs as well as upskilling the role. The total numbers would not be known until the consultation was concluded.
- A letter was being sent to all Parish Councils this week with an update on the Policing Plan.
- Littlehampton was one of the pilot areas for Business Wardens. Three have been in post since September and have been well received by the Traders. The pilot was for 2 years and funded by the Home Office and Southern Coop. It was confirmed that Business Wardens cover both retail and industrial.
- Chris Neilson undertook to get details from Paul Askew about the Arun Business Partnership to ensure that the Business Wardens link in with them.
- Community Wardens would work in a similar way but at Parish level. It was explained that Trevor Leggo from SALC was leading on this initiative. It was confirmed that these would need to be funded by Parish Councils.

Highways and Transport Items

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

- It was confirmed that the results of the A259 consultation were being analysed and would be discussed further at the next Highways and Transport Sub Group in May.
- It was confirmed that the proposals for Windmill Bridge Roundabout was to install signage to indicate the appropriate lane to use.

80. The Committee went on to consider a report by Ben Whiffin, Area Highways Manager (copy appended to the signed minutes), which provided details of a petition requesting a pedestrian crossing on Arundel Road, Littlehampton. Dr James Walsh, as Chairman of the Highways and Transport Sub Group, confirmed that the Sub Group supported a crossing at the location requested. Ben Whiffin explained that at the time the report was published there were no funds identified for the scheme however it had today been confirmed that the funding was available from the Safer Routes to School Team and could be delivered in 2016/17.

81. **Resolved** that the County Council Members of the Committee support a new crossing facility for Arundel Road, Littlehampton.

82. Mrs Sue Bingham, the lead petitioner, thanked the Committee for their support and was sure this would help the school encourage more families to walk to River Beach Primary School.

83. The Committee then went on to consider a report by the Executive Director of Residents Services and the Director of Highways and Transport, West Sussex County Council (copy appended to the signed minutes), that detailed the results of a formal Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) consultation for speed limits in Various Roads in Ferring. Ben Whiffin, Area Highways Manager, introduced the report and explained that many roads in Ferring are currently unenforceable as they do not have the legal backing of a TRO. As previously explained during 'Talk With Us' it was confirmed that the feasibility of a 20 mph limit was investigated but did not comply with County Council policy.

84. Dr Walsh urged Members to accept the recommendation as the alternative was not to have any enforcement of speed limits in Ferring. Mr Evans stated he agreed it was the best option available at this time.

85. **Resolved** that the County Council Members of the Committee authorise the Director of Law, Assurance and Strategy to make the Order as advertised.

86. The Committee went on to consider an information report by the Director of Highways and Transport and Head of Highways Operations, West Sussex County Council (copy appended to the signed minutes). Ben Whiffin introduced the report and explained the new process for community led TROs as detailed in the report. Ben also refereed the Committee to the progress on current live TROs and the outcome of assessments from the 2014 'Appendix B' requests. The Committee welcomed the clarity of the new process and noted the report.

Community Funding

87. 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.

88. Mr Graham Tyler referred to his previously declared personal and prejudicial interest in application 941/Men in Sheds. This application was considered first and Mr Tyler left the room when the application was discussed and re-joined the meeting for the remaining allocation of grants.

89. It was also noted that Dr Walsh was the local County Councillor for the Men in Sheds applications rather than Mr Tyler as stated on the application form.

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

The following applications were approved:

941/JEAAC – Men in Sheds, £2,000.00, to fully equip a Man Shed in the area.

844/JEAAC - Voluntary Action Arun and Chichester, £500.00, to commission a volunteering video.

857/JEAAC – Littlehampton's Organisation of Contemporary Art, £1,000.00, to support Brit,,ish, a celebration of British Engineering and Design.

858/JEAAC - Mewsbrook Park Community Support Group, £1,000.00 towards support for events to encourage use of the park.

859/JEAAC - Littlehampton Sportsfield, £2,000.00, to improve the quality of the playing surfaces by the purchase of Germination Sheets and a Dew Brush.

912/JEAAC – Sussex Community Rail Partnership, £1500,00 towards publicity for Angmering stations 170th Anniversary Celebrations.

The following application was declined: -

902/JEAAC – Cancer United. This application was declined as Members felt that they have had a significant amount from CIF previously. It was also suggested that the application would be better suited to the Prevention and Wellbeing Fund and therefore suggest they apply for that later this year.

91. Mr Buckland did question the sub group comments about annual events and asked for confirmation if groups can apply year on year for different projects rather than annual events. Monique Smart confirmed that the criteria did allow this and also that annual events can be considered where they evidence on-going community or economic benefit.

Items to be raised by Town and Parish Council representatives

92. There were no items raised.

Items for future meetings.

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

- WSCC Cycling and Walking Strategy

Date of next meeting

94. The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday 14 June 2016 at The John De Bohun Room, The Woodland 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 8.40pm

Chairman