

Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee

6 September 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 (Chairman), Mr Evans, Mr Peters, Mrs Urquhart and Dr Walsh.

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

Town / Parish Council representatives Councillors Mrs Francis (Angmering), Mr Duijf (East Preston), Mr Chester (Littlehampton), Mrs Cooper (Rustington), Mrs Robertson (Ferring) and Mrs Walker (Kingston).

In attendance:

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

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

Chairman's Welcome

29. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

30. Apologies had been received from Councillors Mr Buckland, Mr Cates, Mr Squires and Mr Bicknell. The Chairman welcomed substitute Members Councillor Mr Cooper and Mr Chester.

31. The Chairman drew the Committees attention to the 'safer in our hands' campaign in response to plans by the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner's office to look at taking over West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service. He advised that West Sussex County Council (WSCC) believed that West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service should remain under the control of the County Council where it sat at the heart of the authority's Communities and Public Protection Directorate, fully integrated with all services. He encouraged Members and the public to take an information card and sign the petition of the WSCC website.

Declarations of interest

32. 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 Elkins as a Member of Ferring Parish Council
Cllr Mr Gammon as a Member of Littlehampton Town Council

Minutes

33. **Resolved** that the minutes of the Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee, held on 14 June 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Progress Statement

34. Mr Ben Whiffin, Highways Manager, updated Members on items in the progress statement including:

- Beach Road was on the list for resurfacing in 2017/18 although there is a chance it may be done in 2016/17. Mr Whiffin did comment that he was working closely with Arun District Council on the proposals for improvements to the public realm in Littlehampton and this may involve Beach Road.
- With regard to the previous query about parking in Angmering, Mr Whiffin had inspected the area and confirmed none were missing. Cllr Mrs Francis confirmed the query could have been that one had moved.

'Talk with Us' – Public Questions

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

- A Ferring resident raised concern and expressed the local anger about proposals to close both public toilet facilities in Ferring. He asked why Arun District Council had not undertaken full public consultation on the proposals. Mr Paul Askew from Arun District Council responded stating that the Council was aware of the local concerns and was arranging local meetings with the Parish Councils. He confirmed that following that a report on the proposals would be go to Cabinet and then full Council for final decision.

Community Police Issues

36. The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Pipkin who provided an update on neighbourhood policing in the JEAAC area. A Number of issues were discussed including these set out below:

- An increase in vehicle crime was noted. Sgt Pipkin reported that this was being investigated and there are campaigns to alert people to ensure valuables are not on show in parked cars.
- Sgt Pipkin assured Members that teams do review and monitor the crimes statistics on a daily basis and resources are targeted based on these and intelligence.
- It was noted that the ward boundaries used in the crime statistics do not have equal populations therefore making it difficult to make comparisons. Sgt Pipkin would feed this back into the unit that provide the statistics.

Proposed Changes to the Joint Area Committees.

37. Mrs Monique Smart, Democratic Services Officer, West Sussex County Council, introduced a report that detailed proposed changes to County Local Committees and Joint Area Committees. The Cabinet Member for Corporate Relations at West Sussex County Council had agreed to deliver a Democratic Services savings target of £378,000 for 2016/18 as part of the West Sussex County Council's two-year savings programme. It had been proposed that savings of £165,400 came out of the County Local Committees budget over the next two years. For the Arun area the proposal included reducing the number of Joint Area Committees from 3 to 2 and reducing the number of meetings of each Committee from 4 to 3 per year. The proposals also included a reduction of the Community initiative Fund both in year and next year.

38. Mrs Smart advised the Committee that the proposals had been developed by a cross party Executive Task and Finish Group. Further engagement had also been carried out with County Council members and town, parish and district councils to help inform the county councils governance Committee's on 12 September before a decision would be taken at Full County Council in October 2016.

39. Mr Paul Askew, Head of Policy and Partnerships, Arun District Council, confirmed that Arun District Council supported the proposals as they too are required to make savings. The proposal from Arun included the withdrawal of their grant funding and a reduction in the administration grant paid to West Sussex County Council due to fewer meetings.

40. The majority of the Committee stated that they broadly supported the proposals and would welcome the additional Parish and Town Councils into JEAAC. There was some disappointment expressed about the reduction in grant funding but acceptance that savings needed to be made. There was also some concern about having fewer meetings a year but it was confirmed that there would be flexibility about meeting dates and possibly the option of additional meetings if needed.

41. All those who spoke in support of the proposals also raised concern about the alternative option mentioned in the report of a North/South divide. Members stated that one Committee for the coastal area would be unwieldy.

42. The Committee noted the Report.

Highways and Transport Sub Group

43. 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:

- Dr Walsh expressed dismay at the delays in relation to the A259 and looked forward to hearing a clear explanation from officers later in the meeting.
- Mr Evans asked when the scoring would be available for the request by Ferring Conservation Society for improvements in Sea Lane. Mr Ben Whiffin, Highways Manager confirmed that it had been scored under the new Highways Improvements scheme process and would go to a review panel later this week. Mr Whiffin undertook to update Mr Evans and Dr Walsh of the outcome.

A259 & A284 updates

44. The Chairman welcomed Team Manager Mr Alan Feist and Project Manager Mr Tony Bathmaker.

45. Firstly Mr Feist confirmed that the A284 Lyminster Bypass had funding in place from the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise partnership (LEP) and was progressing to detailed design. He explained that the business case for the A284 was linked to the A259 but a conversation was to be had with the LEP to ensure that one scheme is not held up by delays in the other.

46. Mr Feist also explained that the developer, Persimmons, have experienced delay of up to 12 months with their element of the A284 project and therefore we need to wait until that is sorted before finalising our element of the scheme.

47. Mr Feist also explained that full planning permission, not outline planning as originally thought, was required.

48. Members understood the delays but expressed disappointment and urged the officers to keep the public and stakeholders up to date of this information. Cllr Mr Bower suggested that the County Council pursue a bond as they did with the Felpham bypass.

49. With regard to the A259 improvements, Mr Bathmaker confirmed that the public consultation had been successful with many responses and attendance at events. Overall approval for the scheme was 78% but also a high number of comments. As a result more detailed traffic models had been commissioned. A video of the revised proposals had been shown to Members prior to the meeting and would be made available on the WSCC website in due course.

50. Some additional points raised as a result of the new proposals were:

- Concern about increasing the width of lanes on Roundstone Lane.
- Ensure good signage in place for the 2 proposed lanes on the A280

51. Dr Walsh praised the officers for undertaking a good consultation and taking into account the comments raised by both the public and Councillors.

Prioritisation of Traffic Regulation Orders

52. 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.

53. Resolved that the County Council Members of the Committee agreed to progress the two highest scoring TRO priorities from the list attached at Appendix A, those being:

Pier Road, Littlehampton - Waiting restrictions

Clarence Avenue, Littlehampton - Waiting restrictions.

Provision of Public Toilets

54. Mr Paul Askew, Head of Policy and Partnerships, Arun District Council, explained that as part of the District Councils review of services and need to make £4million savings by 2020 there are proposals for savings of £150,000 from the public conveniences budget. Mr Askew explained that this included some closures as well as some improvements and 1 new facility. Within the JEAAC the proposals are to improve Coastguards, Mewsbrooks, St Martins and Norfolk Gardens but for Norfolk Gardens to be summer opening only. Proposals also included closure of North Street Wick, Ferring and Ferring Rife.

55. Consultation was taking place with the effected parish and Town Councils and would be feedback to Cabinet in November before a report is put to full Council in January 2017.

56. Members raised a number of issues, including:

- Many areas are popular with tourists and therefore public conveniences are essential.
- Norfolk Gardens and the surrounding area are visited all year round not just in the summer.
- There seems to be little rationale other than cost saving.
- Ferring has a large elderly population therefore making the facilities essential.
- Ferring has a new playpark with great facilities attracting lots of young families who will no doubt need conveniences.
- Lack of information from Arun to the affected Parishes.

57. The Chairman in summing up the issues asked that Arun District Council reconsider the proposals carefully and that officers pass on the concerns raised this evening.

Community Initiative Funding

58. 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.

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

1013/JEAAC- Ferring Conservation Group, £300.00, to purchase litter picking equipment and high visibility jackets.

1016/JEAAC- Sussex Tornado's, £2,952.20, to cover entry costs for the Legacy Cheer and Dance competition and purchase 93 competition t-shirts.

1034/JEAAC- Jamie's Wish Trust, £2,200.00, to cover event costs such as fencing, 5 gazebos, first aid boxes, and events license.

1050/JEAAC - St Andrew's United Reformed Church, Rustington, £970.00, to widen 2 doors to allow wheelchair access

Nominations of Authority School Governors

60. The Committee noted the vacancies in the JEAAC area and encouraged anyone with an interest to contact West Sussex County Council or their local County Councillor for more information.

Items to be raised by Town and Parish Council representatives

61. Cllr Mrs Walker informed the Committee that she had been appointed as the Chairman of the Arun Conservation Area Advisory Committee.

Items for future meetings.

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

- Cluttering of pavements/highways
- A259/A284 – via H&T Sub group

Date of next meeting

63. The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday 29 November 2016 at the John De Bohun Room, Woodlands centre, Rustinton. 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