

Joint Western Arun Area Committee

16 September 2015– At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 p.m. at The Arena Sports centre, Bognor Regis.

Present:

West Sussex County Council: Mr Jones, Mrs Rapnik and Mr Sutcliffe.

Arun District Council: Councillors Mr Bence, Mrs Pendleton, Mr Maconachie, Mr Dillon, Mr English, Mr Wotherspoon and Mr Brown.

Town/Parish Council representatives: Councillors Mrs Richardson (Aldwick), Mr Knight (Bersted), Mr Cunard (Bognor Regis) (Chairman), Ms Piedot (Felpham), Mr Allsopp (Middleton)

Officers: Paul Askew, Head of Policy and Partnerships (ADC), Monique Smart, Democratic Services Officer (WSCC) and Pete Lawrence, Principal Community Officer (WSCC).

Chairman's Welcome

32. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Peter Lawrence as the new Principal Community Officer for Arun.

33. Apologies had been received from Councillors Mr Oppler, Mrs Phillips, Mr Peerman and Mrs Hall.

Declarations of Interest

34. In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, the following personal interests were declared in relation to grant applications:

- Mr Sutcliff as a member of various yacht clubs.
- Cllr Mr English as a member of the Felpham Village Conservation Society

Minutes

35. Resolved –that the minutes of the Joint Western Arun Area Committee (JWAAC) held on 10 June 2015 are confirmed as a correct record and that they are signed by the Chairman.

Progress Statement

36. The Committee had before it a progress statement on matters arising from the previous meeting (copy appended to the signed minutes). The progress statement was noted and the follow issue raised:

- Cllr Mr Allsopp requested a copy of the draft Yapton Road drainage survey and also requested to know when it would be finalised. Ben Whiffin,

Highways Area Manager, agreed to find out and forward a copy to Cllr Mr Allsopp.

Talk with us – public question time

37. The Chairman reminded any Town, Parish or District Councillors in the audience that 'Talk With Us' was intended for public questions. He requested if any Town, Parish or District Councillors had questions in relation to their Councils that they should be directed through that Councils JWAAC representative and asked at agenda item 11.

38. The Chairman invited questions from members of the public. There were no public questions.

Community Police Update

39. The Chairman welcomed PC Christian Thomas, who provided an update on crime statistics and current issues in the JWAAC area. A number of issues were discussed including those set out below:

- The changes to Neighbourhood Policing, introduced in July, were showing real benefits across the Districts and provided much more flexibility with deploying resources.
- Issues around street drinking were being addressed with much partnership working that was resulting in success.
- Some Members raised concern about increase in crime statistics. PC Thomas stated that these are reviewed each week and resources are targeted where appropriate. He also stated that the recording of crime had improved.

Community Initiative Funding

40. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law, Assurance & Strategy, 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.

41. Mr Sutcliff restated his interest as a member of many yacht clubs and decided to abstain from voting on the application from Felpham Sailing Club.

42. RESOLVED that the County Councillors on the Committee allocate Community Initiative Funding as follows:

- 753/JWAAC, Headway West Sussex, £881.69, towards equipment and stationery.
- 781/JWAAC, Felpham Sailing Club, £5,000.00, towards the purchase of a '2000' dinghy.

Highways and Transport Sub Group

43. The Chairman referred Members to the minutes of the last meeting of the Highways and Transport Sub Group (copy attached to the signed minutes).

44. Cllr Wotherspoon stated that he had received a request for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to resolve a safety issue in Elmer Road. A local resident had written to West Sussex Highways and been advised to seek support from their local County Councillor. Unfortunately despite two emails to their County Councillor they had not received a response. Mr Jones responded asking Mr Wotherspoon to forward the correspondents on to him as Chairman of the H&T Sub Group and he will ensure it is responded to. Mr Jones also informed Members that the County Council are currently undertaking a review of the TRO process and until that review is complete no new TROs can be formally considered for progression.

45. Members did raise concern about the TRO review but were reassured that works already prioritised or underway would not be affected. Cllr Mr Bence asked specifically about Fish Lane and Mr Whiffin responded stating that the detail of that scheme would not necessarily require a TRO and that it was on the Integrated Works Programme (IWP) to be designed in 2016/17. Cllr English did remind Members that Parish Councils can use their precept to fund TROs.

46. Cllr Bence requested that Victoria Drive at its junction with Linden Road be looked at to resolve parking and yellow line issues. Mrs Rapnik did state that she was aware of the problems and had asked Arun Parking Enforcement to attend the site but was told that they had limited resources. Cllr Wotherspoon agreed to take this back to Arun for review.

47. Cllr Mrs Richardson stated that Aldwick had a request on the list for over 2 years and was unsure when this would progress. Mr Whiffin undertook to look into it and report back to Cllr Mrs Richardson. Cllr Bence asked if JWAAC could continue to have a list of issues such as this so that once any review was complete they could look at which ones to progress.

48. It was also noted that a meeting to discuss the future of the H&T Sub Group was still to be arranged. Member stressed the need for the group to continue but Mr Jones said that discussions needed to be had about the clerical arrangements for the group. The idea of having the Sub Group immediately prior to JWAAC was not favoured as this would not allow time for notes to be produced for JWAAC to consider.

49. Mr Jones stated that there had been much discussion and some misunderstanding recently in relation to the delivery of the Felpham Relief Road. Mr Jones undertook to arrange a meeting with WSCC Officers, Barratt Homes and local Councillors so that everyone can have a clear understanding of the project and the delivery.

50. Cllr English asked for confirmation of when the s106 funds for comet corner expire. The notes of the H&T Sub group stated 2024 but Cllr English was not sure if this was correct. Mr Whiffin undertook to confirm this to Cllr English and also to Cllr Allsopp.

Public Realm improvements to Station Road and Upper London Road, Bognor Regis.

51. The Committee considered a report by the Director, Planning and Economic Regeneration and Head of Economic Regeneration, Arun District Council (copy appended to the signed minutes), which sought a decision from the County Council Members of the Committee to approve the traffic calming scheme associated with improvements to Station Road and Upper London Road.

52. Ms Caroline Gosford provided a powerpoint presentation that provided a brief update on the public realm works to date including before and after photos of London Road and Station Square. The presentation also showed the proposed design for Station Road and Upper London Road. A number of issues were discussed including those set out below:

- It was confirmed that parking would remain as it is.
- The colour of the highway where the design called for it to be changed was not yet confirmed other than it would not be black.
- All corners have been modelled with transport software so should allow all vehicles including coaches to get around.
- The proposed scheme would involve Station Road pavement on the north side being widened. Following comments from the H&T Sub Group, the design team will also look to see if any improvements can be made to the pavement outside the Alex public house.
- Some Members did raise concern about the proposed low pavements and whether the drainage would be improved so that puddles do not form.
- The Chairman asked if consideration could be given to removing the traffic lights outside Station Square. Ms Gosford stated that it could not be done under this scheme but it may be something that JWAAC could consider as a future priority.
- It was also asked if Station Road and Richmond Road could be one way or have a pedestrian crossing. Ms Gosford stated that funds for this would not be possible under this scheme.
- It was confirmed that the new paving in London Road has been treated and was cleaned daily.
- The design team would also review the lighting in the scheme area to ensure that it is consistent with Station Square and London Road.
- It was confirmed that discussions have been had with shop owners about upgrading signage and shop fronts to improve the street scene further.
- A Member requested if more late night trains could be considered. It was suggested this was an issue for the Parish Council to raise directly with the Rail Operator.

53. RESOLVED that the County Council Members of the Committee approve the traffic calming scheme proposed by officers as set out in the report.

Nominations for Local Authority Governors

54. The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director Care, Wellbeing and Education (copy attached to the signed minutes).

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

Reappointment:

- Mr B Mack to Rose green Infant School for a four-year term.

Items to be raised by Town and Parish Council representatives.

56. The Chairman invited questions from Town and Parish representatives on the Committee. There were no questions.

Items for Future Meetings

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

- SECAmbS follow up – Written update to be requested and circulated to JWAAC Members.
- WSCC Cycling and Walking Strategy (January or March 2016)
- Evaluation on Public Realm Improvement (2017)
- Bognor Regis Foodbank – invite to have a display stand prior to a JWAAC meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

58. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Wednesday 6 January 2016 at Bersted Park Community Centre.

59. It was noted that the date of the following meeting had been changed from 23 March 2016 to 9 March 2016.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chairman