

Joint Western Arun Area Committee

21 November 2012– At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 p.m. at The Rowland Rank Centre

Present:

West Sussex County Council: Mr Coleman, Mr Oppler, Mr McDougall and Mr Wells.

Arun District Council: Mr English, Mr Bence, Mr Wotherspoon, Mr Cunard, Mr Edwards.

Town/Parish Council representatives: Councillors Ms Myers (Aldwick), Mr Dillon (Bognor Regis), Mr Hastings (Bersted) , Mrs Phillips (Middleton on Sea), Mr Peerman (Felpham) (Chairman) and Mr Huntley (Pagham).

Officers: Monique Smart, Democratic Services Officer (WSCC), Ben Whiffin, Principle Community Officer (WSCC) and Nigel Lynn, Chief Executive (ADC).

Death of Councillor Mr Robin Brown

58. The Chairman reported the death of Councillor Mr Robin Brown. The Committee stood for a minute's silence.

Chairman's Welcome

59. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that the Vice Chairman had tendered his apologies for the meeting so Councillor Mr Wotherspoon would become Vice Chairman for this meeting.

60. Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mrs Coleman, Mrs Brown and Dr Poland.

Declarations of interest

61. The following declarations of interest were declared:

- Councillor Mr Dillon declared a personal interest in relation to Item 11 as a Member of Arun Arts, Jeneses Ltd, the Big Love Association and Bognor CAN.
- Mr Wells declare a pecuniary interest in Item 11 application from Bognor Birdman as his business supports the Birdman.
- Mr Oppler declared a pecuniary interest in Item 11 application from The Big Love Association as his business had approached the Big Love Association to provide office furniture.

Minutes

62. Resolved that the minutes of the Joint Western Arun Area Committee (JWAAC) held on 12 September 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

63. The Chairman informed the Committee that the County Councillors had agreed to consider an additional Community Initiative Fund application on the agenda. This was from the Friends of the Regis School of Music and the funds being applied for are required before the next meeting of the Committee. This would be considered alongside the other applications at agenda item 11.

Progress Statement

64. The Committee had before it a progress statement (copy appended to the signed minutes) that contained brief updates on matters arising from the last meeting. A number of questions were asked to which responses were given, including those set out below:

- Ben Whiffin stated that it was hoped that the 'Welcome to Felpham' sign would be installed in this calendar year.
- Nigel Lynn confirmed that his officers had made contact with Mr Jones about signage.

'Talk with Us' Public Question Time

65. The Chairman invited questions from members of the public present at the meeting. A number of questions were asked to which responses were given, including those set out below:

- Mr Mansfield presented the County Council with a drainage scheme for Yapton Road, Middleton. Ben Whiffin agreed to pass this on to the relevant officers.
- Mrs Harvey from Felpham raised concern about a road hazard on the A259 north of the site 6 roundabout. She had witnessed a number of people crossing to walk dogs and was concerned as this is a fast stretch of road. This was noted by Ben Whiffin.
- Kirsten Lancaster notified the Committee that with regret her organisation had had to return £5000 of Community Initiative Funding as the project was no longer going ahead. She asked for assurance that the money could be returned to the JWAAC CIF for this year. Mr Coleman informed the Committee that he would try and ensure this went back into this year's fund but that the policy was not to roll forward CIF money from year to year.
- A Pagham resident asked Councillors to put pressure on the Environment Agency (EA) and MP's to get a solution to the problems regarding coastal defences at Pagham. Mr Coleman replied by stating that all local Members were indeed putting pressure on both the EA and MPs. Nigel Lynn also informed the Committee that a letter had been sent to Pagham Beach residents this morning with details of some pilot work that would be starting on 26th November and it was hoped this work could help judge how to proceed in the future. Councillor Mr Huntley urged Members to write in opposition to the proposed Marine Conservation Zone at Pagham.
- Mr Stuart-Nicolson stated that his question to the last meeting about a dedicated left hand lane was in reference to Tesco not Sainsbury's. Ben Whiffin explained that this would be difficult due to the traffic lights being phased and such a dedicated lane would result in pedestrians not being

able to cross safely. Ben also stated that there was no indication of a problem of queuing traffic but that he would ensure this was monitored. Mr Stuart-Nicolson's second question was in relation to 'No Through Road' signage into North Bersted Street. Ben Whiffin informed the Committee that this had been inspected and considered well signed.

- Mr Brian Green asked if Bersted Parish would receive any of the allocated £250,000 from the Sainsbury development. Mr Lynn replied stating that unfortunately it is unlikely projects in Bersted will be the recipient of the £250,000. He said that it is a common misunderstanding that Councils can spend monies received to mitigate the impact on new developments on what they like but this is not the case. First, we have to identify what the likely impact will be if the development goes ahead. Secondly, we have to negotiate with the developers to reduce or remove that impact and this can involve direct works or a financial contribution. In the case of a financial contribution, the money must be spent on ways of mitigating the impact it was given to address. In this case the £250,000 is to mitigate the impact of Sainsbury's on trade in Bognor Regis Town Centre. If the Council spends the money on other matters or does not spend it in time, then by law the Council is required to return it with interest. In terms of what the money could be spent on, there are no concrete plans for any projects at the present time and we will be working with partners in the Bognor Regis Regeneration Board to look at possibilities over the forthcoming year.

Community Policing Issues

66. The Chairman welcomed Inspector Nick Bowman who provided an update on current issues in the JWAAC area. A number of issues were discussed including those set out below:

- Inspector Nick Bowman referred to the previously circulated crime statistics and stated that overall Arun was performing well with 15% less crime than that recorded this time last year.
- Additional patrols would be visible in shopping areas in the lead up to Christmas.
- Councillor Mr Dillon reported that he has been involved in observing a Police Operation recently and was very impressed.

Changes in the NHS

67. The Chairman welcomed Mr Steven Pollack, Managing Director and Dr Katie Armstrong, Clinical Chief Officer both from the Coastal West Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). Mr Pollack and Dr Armstrong provided a PowerPoint presentation (appended to the signed minutes) about the NHS in transition both nationally and locally.

68. Following the presentation a number of issues were discussed including those set out below:

- Mr Coleman asked if purchasing was being reviewed locally. Dr Armstrong confirmed that as a commissioner they would be working with providers to ensure that the right price was paid.
- Mr McDougall asked what areas are likely to be looked at to achieve savings. He specifically asked if A&E would be at threat. Dr Armstrong referred back to the slide titled 'What are we going to Focus on' and confirmed the commitment made to retain two A&E departments for the foreseeable future.
- Councillor Mrs Phillips asked if additional staff would be employed to cover elderly care at home. Dr Armstrong confirmed that the proactive care model was to provide more and better care in the community and they are and will continue to work with partners to develop this. She also confirmed that they are learning from others area such as Torbay where this service is better.
- Councillor Mr English raised concern that savings would mean cuts to service and also that there was not sufficient detail behind the plans. He also stated that there had not been enough engagement with the community. Dr Armstrong confirmed that there was detail behind the plans and that meetings like this are part of their engagement plan.
- Mr Wells asked if the proposals will result in a further reduction in management. Dr Armstrong confirmed that they had already made a 30% cut and that this would not be cut anymore under current proposals.

Youth Support and Development Service Update

69. The Chairman referred Members to the previously circulated information report about Youth Support and Development Service in the JWAAC area. The Chairman introduced Carl Burton, Service Manager, West Sussex County Council and asked Members for any questions. A number of issues were discussed including those set out below:

- Councillor Mrs Phillips asked why the report does not mention the possibility of the 39 Club merging with another group. She stated that they had been trying to meet with Carl as they had produced a business plan. Mr Wells and Mr Oppler also raised concern that a meeting had not taken place with the club despite requests being made. Carl Burton apologised if the communication had not been satisfactory and that he would be happy to meet. He did confirm that the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) was on hold whilst the review across the Bognor area was undertaken. He confirmed this could be an opportunity to enhance the quality of the service across the area and needed to be investigated fully.
- Local Members asked Carl to ensure that they are kept up to date about what is happening in their local area. Carl did confirm that he sends updates out to Members every month.
- Members asked to hear from the 39 Club representatives who was present at the meeting, Mrs Rosemary Warren stated that she had been promised another meeting but was disappointed that had not happened or that they had not been informed the situation had changed. Carl Burton replied stating he was more than happy to meet and move forward.

Highways and Transport

70. The Chairman referred Members to the previously circulated papers in relation to the last meeting of the Highways and Transport Sub Group. Members noted the minutes.

71. Members raised the issue of parking machines being old and not fit for purpose. Miles Davy confirmed that there was a budget to replace these machines and he would confirm when this was expected via the H&T Sub Group.

72. In relation to Fish Lane, Mr Wells confirmed that strips to monitor traffic would be installed in the New Year.

73. Miles Davy confirmed that he had, in the last few days, received the consultants report regarding the recent parking consultations in various areas of Bognor Regis. He confirmed that 6000 letters had been delivered in July and covered four areas. The first was within the existing Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ), the second was in Felpham, the third was to the west of the existing CPZ and the fourth was in the Glenwood Estate.

74. Miles summarised the findings as follows:

- The existing CPZ area received a 17% response rate. The vast majority of responders expressed satisfaction for the current days and hours covered. There was a suggestion that more resident bays be provided in various roads.
- in the area to the west of the existing CPZ there was a 24% response rate with 47% of respondents in favour of further consultation and 29% against.
- To the east of the CPZ (Felpham), the response rate was 43% with 48% of respondents wanting further consultation and 35% against.
- The area around the University and Glenwood estate received a 24% response rate with 58% of respondents against the idea of further consultation.

75. Miles confirmed that the consultation reports would be presented to the H&T Sub group to recommend any action for the future. He reminded Members that this was still at an early stage and that no decisions had been made. The investigations would only progress to the next stage if they had the full support of local members.

76. Mr Oppler stated that he was disappointed with the level of objections for the Glenwood Estate.

77. Mr McDougall requested that each local member discuss the results with Miles before any proposals for further consultation and before it being reported to the H&T Sub Group.

78. The Chairman referred Members to the previously circulated information report regarding Highways Infrastructure Integrated Works Programme. Ben Whiffin provided a brief summary of the report. Members noted the report.

Community Initiative Funding

79. The Committee considered a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (copy appended to the signed minutes), which sought a decision from the County Council Members of the Committee on the application received under the Community Initiative Funding (CIF) scheme

80. Mr Wells declare a pecuniary interest in application 1952/JWAAC from Bognor Birdman as his business supports the Birdman. He left the room when this application was discussed and decided upon.

81. Mr Oppler declare a pecuniary interest in application 1904/JWAAC from The Big Love Association as his business had approached the Big Love Association to provide office furniture. He left the room when this application was discussed and decided upon.

82. Resolved to approve the following applications for funding:

1904/JWAAC, The Big Love Association, £2,000, towards the purchase of leisure facilities, furniture, stationery, washing and shower facilities and computers.

1929/JWAAC, Jeneses Ltd, £1,000, towards materials for picture hanging fixtures for community art projects.

1949/JWAAC, Sussex Cricket Board, £1,000, various itemised costs towards the 'Street20' project

1952/JWAAC, International Bognor Birdman Ltd, £2,500, towards an audio system and large TV screens.

1958/JWAAC, Headway West Sussex, £1,000, various itemised promotional costs, also a laptop and software.

1962/JWAAC, Pagham Village Hall Trust, £1,500, towards the OFSTED required construction of children's toilet facilities.

1978/JWAAC, Friends of the Regis School of Music, £400, towards prizes in the 2013 West Sussex Youth Music Awards.

Items to be raised by Town and Parish Council representatives.

83. The Chairman invited questions from Town and Parish representatives on the Committee. A number of questions were asked to which responses were given, including those set out below.

84. Councillor Mr Dillon raised a number of issues including:

- requesting that any proposals for changes to parking in the high street be deferred until after the St Modwen consultation. Ben Whiffin noted.

- The height of trees outside the railway station. Ben Whiffin asked Councillor Cunard to provide him with information about who had previously been contacted about this.
- Update on real time bus stops. Ben Whiffin confirmed this was being discussed at H&T Sub group.
- Cycleway/footpath along the coastline. Ben Whiffin and Councillor Dillon would discuss outside of the meeting.
- Regarding an issue with a fence by the railway it was suggested that the Town Council write to Network Rail.

Items for Future Meetings

85. It was agreed to request a presentation from St Modwens for the next agenda

Date of Next Meeting

86. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Wednesday 6 March 2013. Members wishing to place an item on the agenda should notify Monique Smart via e-mail: Monique.smart@westsussex.gov.uk or on (033022) 22540.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm