

Joint Western Arun Area Committee

6 January 2016– At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 p.m. at Bersted Park Community Centre.

Present:

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

Arun District Council: Councillors, Mrs Pendleton, Mr Maconachie, Mr Dillon, Mr English and Mrs Hall.

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

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

60. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting including Mrs Barbara Piedot as the new Parish Council representative from Felpham.

61. Apologies had been received from Councillors Mr Bence, Mrs Phillips and Mr Wotherspoon.

Declarations of Interest

62. In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, the following personal interests were declared:

- Cllr Mr English as a Member of Felpham Parish Council

Minutes

63. Resolved –that the minutes of the Joint Western Arun Area Committee (JWAAC) held on 16 September 2015 are confirmed as a correct record and that they are signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

64. The Chairman stated that a nomination for a School Governor had been received after the agenda had been published and he had agreed for it to be considered alongside the other nominations at agenda item 10. The application form had been circulated to the County Councillors and the report had been amended on the County Council website.

Progress Statement

65. 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 following issues were raised:

- It was agreed that Monique Smart would circulate the new Traffic Regulation order policy to all JWAAC Members. It was noted this would be discussed further at the next H&T Sub Group.
- Members asked if street lighting levels had improved in Station Road and upper London Road as a result of the recent works. Monique Smart undertook to ask Caroline Gosford at Arun District Council and report back to JWAAC.

Talk with us – public question time

66. The Chairman invited questions from members of the public. A number of issues were discussed including those set out below:

- Mr Bell from Middleton raised concern about the future of 3 trees, two Ashes and a Maple, that are protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and have been deemed healthy. The trees stand near the entrance to the village and can be seen from a wide area. Mr Bell asked if the Councils could clarify the situation and reassure residents that the original TPOs still stand. Mr Jones replied stating that he was aware of the Trees and the concern raised about their future. He had spoken to officers at West Sussex County Council and understood the trees had been inspected and any TPOs would be upheld. Cllr Mr Allsopp confirmed that the TPO was temporary and any representation to retain the TPO should have been submitted to Arun District Council by 24 December. Cllr Mr Allsopp understood that 61 letters of support and a petition had been submitted but also asked if JWAAC would consider a letter in support of the TPO's. This was agreed.
- Mr Wells asked for confirmation of progress regarding double yellow lines in Willows Edge. Mr Graham Jones responded stating that the developer had not yet entered into the legal road adoption agreement with West Sussex County Council, so there was very little that could be done at this stage. He suggested that JWAAC write to the developer to ask for them to progress this. This was agreed.
- Nick Stuart-Nicolson asked if JWAAC would support an initiative to raise funds for better disabled toilet facilities in Bognor Regis. Paul Askew stated that Arun District Council, as part of its review to be discussed at Full Council next week, was looking at public toilet provision. He did also state that the issue had been raised by others at a meeting at Bognor Regis Town Hall earlier this week.
- Jan Cosgrove raised a number of issues in relation to Youth Services. Firstly he noted that local Councillors were not attending events when invited to the No 18 Project. Secondly he made mention of Bognor Regis Town Council putting aside money for local Youth Services and said this was a statutory service that West Sussex County Council should also be funding. He stated that Youth Services in the local area are in decline and he asked JWAAC to take a thorough look and consider this as a future agenda item.

- Jim Brook asked about the recent consultation by Arun District Council on car parking charges. He asked that Arun work with West Sussex County Council to ensure that there is joined up thinking when it comes to car parking on and off street. Paul Askew agreed to take this back to the relevant officer at Arun District Council. Graham Jones stated that he and many of the other County Councillors had replied to the public consultation.
- Nick Stuart-Nicolson asked if any improvements were planned to the access junction from Rowan Way to Halfords and Lidl? Graham Jones replied stating this was discussed at the last H&T Sub Group and further discussions with the appropriate officer from West Sussex County Council will take place at the next H&T Sub group. Cllr Mr Paul English said it was a shame that Bersted Parish Council would not be part of the H&T sub group to contribute to these discussions and he called on them to reconsider their position with regard to the H&T Sub Group.

Community Police Update

67. The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Ian Cheesman, 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 local policing model would include up skilling of PSCOs but also a reduction in numbers of PCSOs.
- The one District hub with Arun and Chichester was working well.
- A number of Members raised concern about increases in crime in certain wards/areas and the ability for a reduced police service to respond. Sgt Cheesman confirmed that resources would be shared and therefore be targeted where the need was.
- Sgt Cheesman confirmed that the Roads Policing Unit would remain but with the possibility of more joint working with other teams.

Community Initiative Funding

68. The Chairman referred members to item 8A on the agenda that confirmed a vacancy for a Town or Parish Council representative on the Community Initiative Funding Sub Group (WSCC Fund) had arisen.

69. **Resolved** that Cllr Mr Brian Knight be appointed as the Town/Parish Council representative on the Community Initiative Sub Group.

70. The Committee went on to 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.

71. Due to the number of applications and the fact that they totalled a lot more than the Committee had available to allocate, Monique Smart confirmed that some of the County Councillors had met before the meeting to look at the sub group recommendations and discuss the applications in detail. It was confirmed that no decisions were made at that meeting.

71. Following an individual vote on each application it was RESOLVED that the County Councillors on the Committee allocate Community Initiative Funding as follows:

The following applications were approved:-

833/JWAAC – Felpham Arts Group, £1,000 towards the purchase of a trailer.

834/JWAAC – Bognor Regis Youth FC, £2,250 towards the conversion of waste ground to another pitch and purchase of goals.

835/JWAAC - 2351 (Bognor Regis) Squadron Air Training Corps, £2,500 towards the purchase of a trailer and upgrade the flight simulator.

841/JWAAC - Voluntary Action Arun and Chichester, £584 to commission a video to encourage volunteering.

847/JWAAC - Mini Light Leisure Services CIC, £2,299 for soft flooring and wall mats

851/JWAAC - Pagham Action Group, £3,750 towards printing and design work for communication materials.

854/JWAAC – Bognor Regis Kite Festival, £1,000 towards stage, fireworks and St Johns Ambulance.

855/JWAAC - Making Theatre Gaining Skills CIC, £1,472.25, for equipment and other items

The following applications were approved with the condition that no further applications from the groups be submitted:

852/JWAAC - International Bognor Birdman, £2,000 towards running the Birdman event

849/JWAAC - Rox Music and Arts Charity, £2,000 for security equipment.

The following applications were declined as they were all from schools who are government funded and Members felt what was being requested should come from core funding:

846/JWAAC - Rose Green Infant School PTA, to replace reception year fencing and furniture.

850/JWAAC - Felpham Community College PTA, PCs for College library

853/JWAAC - Rose Green Junior School, towards the refurbishment of the ICT Suite.

Highways and Transport Sub Group

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

73. Cllr Mr English referred to the options for Comet Corner and suggested that cutting back of vegetation should not be funded by S106 as it was something the County Council should be doing routinely. Kevin Moss, Highways Engineer, explained what was being suggested exceeded normal maintenance and included removal of vegetation to improve the site lines associated with option 3. Nick Burrell, Senior Advisor Democratic Services, understood that the current cutting back does meet standards for the current road layout but it was requested this be checked by Ben Whiffin, Highways Manager.

74. The notes of the last meeting of Highways and Transport Sub Group were noted.

Highways and Transport Sub Group – Administration.

75. The Committee noted a report by the Director of Law, Assurance and Strategy, West Sussex County Council (copy attached to the signed minutes).

76. It was agreed that JWAAC would write to Bersted Parish Council to ask them to reconsider being a part of the group, emphasising that the next meeting is due to discuss the A29 and traffic around the Bersted area.

Site 6 Developer Contributions – Comet Corner, Middleton On Sea.

77. The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director Residents Services and the Head of Highways Engineering, West Sussex County Council (copy attached to the signed minutes). The Chairmen welcomed Kevin Moss, Highways Engineer, to introduce the report. Kevin Moss explained that the proposals had been discussed at the H&T Sub Group and the recommendation was for option 2 (cutting back vegetation) and Option 3B (constructing a deceleration lane to the South) to be progressed to detailed design.

78. Mr Graham Jones informed Members that the County Council was reviewing the process for Highways Improvements Schemes and this would include a rigid scoring system. He said that if this decision was delayed until a further JWAAC meeting there was a danger that it would have to go through the new scoring system and he could not pre-empt the result. Cllr David Allsopp also raised concerns about a decision not being made tonight and the scheme being delayed further. Officers confirmed that the decision required by JWAAC County Councillors was to move forward with the principles of the scheme and that the costs were estimates at this stage.

79. Resolved:

1. That the County Council Members of the Joint Western Arun Area Committee (JWAAC) agreed to progress of Comet Corner Options 3B and 2 as indicated on the attached plans.
2. That the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport be requested to add the proposals to the 2016/17 Integrated Works Programme for (IWP) to allow the detailed design to progress.

Nominations for Local Authority Governors

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

81. As mentioned under Urgent Matters the Chairman confirmed that an additional nomination had been received since the original papers were published and that the County Councillors had agreed to consider it this evening.

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

Appointments:

Mrs Joan Kent to Bersted Green Primary School for a four year term
Mrs P Downs to South Bersted Cof E Primary School for a four year term
Miss Marzena Plonka to St Mary's Catholic Primary School for a four year term

Items to be raised by Town and Parish Council representatives.

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

Items for Future Meetings

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

- SECAmbS follow up – Written update requested
- WSCC Cycling and Walking Strategy (March 2016)
- Evaluation on Public Realm Improvement (2017)
- Felpham (Site 6) Mitigation – review of Options (March or June 2016)
- Traffic regulation Orders – New Process and prioritisation (March 2016)
- A27 consultation (Chichester) – Spring 2016
- Youth Service Provision

Date of Next Meeting

85. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on 9 March 2016 at Felpham Methodist Church.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Chairman