

Joint Western Arun Area Committee

18 March 2015– At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 p.m. at The Arena Sports Centre

Present:

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

Arun District Council: Councillors Mr Brown, Mr Cunard, Mr Edwards and Mr English, Mrs Warr and Mr Wotherspoon (Chairman)

Town/Parish Council representatives: Councillors Dr Poland (Aldwick), Mr Knight (Bersted), Mr Wells (Bognor Regis), Mr Peerman (Felpham)(Vice Chairman), Mrs Pendleton (Middleton) and Mrs Hall (Pagham)

Officers: Paul Askew, Head of Policy and Partnerships (ADC), Monique Smart, Democratic Services Officer (WSSC) and Gregory Merrett, Principal Community Officer (WSSC).

Chairman's Welcome

82. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

83. Apologies had been received from Councillor Mr Hitchins.

Declarations of Interest

84. No declarations of interests were declared.

Minutes

85. Resolved –that the minutes of the Joint Western Arun Area Committee (JWAAC) held on 7 January 2015 are confirmed as a correct record and that they are signed by the Chairman.

Progress Statement

86. 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.

- Felpham Parish Council stated that the trees on the new relief road had not been cut back yet. Mr Merrett agreed to discuss this with Highways.
- Mr Oppler confirmed that in the absence of an alternative solution he had advised officers that he did not support changes to parking on the Esplanade.
- Mr Coster stated he was still dissatisfied with the response he had received from West Sussex County Council regarding the evaluation of the kick start money used for London Road. Mr Jones suggested that a future agenda item focusing on the works undertaken in London Road.

Talk with us – public question time

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

- The Chairman read out a question submitted by Mrs Gina Hall asking for an update on Kings Beach Hotel Pagham. Mrs Hall understood that the Co-op put planning permission in that was turned down. It has now been boarded up for seven months and looks a disgrace. *The Chairman advised that an application for planning permission was refused and the applicant has appealed against that decision. Arun District Council is awaiting the outcome of that appeal before deciding what action to take next.*
- A Felpham resident asked if Members could support a Theatre remaining in Bognor Regis. *The Chairman replied saying that there are no plans to close it and the next council will be looking at proposals but in the meantime no decisions have been taken.*
- Mr Wright from Pagham explained that Pagham Harbour Local Nature Reserve is managed under a Service Level Agreement to the RSPB and that part of the agreement is that one of the four local ward Members takes a lead on issues. This year it should transfer from Mr Bernard Smith to Mr Tony Sutcliff but Mr Wright was concerned that neither knew of this role. *Mr Sutcliff agreed to take this up with the Cabinet Member or relevant officers at County Hall.*
- Mr Coster asked when the County Council would replace the trees in the High Street and York Road. *Mr Merrett agreed to look into this and arrange for a response to go back to Mr Coster.*
- A Felpham Parish Councillor asked why the Highways and Transport Sub Group was cancelled at short notice when there were issues to discuss. *Mr Merrett confirmed that the decision was taken by the Chairman of the Highways and Transport Sub Group due to lack of substantive items. Members are encouraged to discuss any item requests with the Chairman of the Highways and Transport Sub Group at the earliest opportunity.*
- Councillor English stated that the H&T meeting should not have been cancelled. He also stated that the Felpham Parish Council Freedom of Information (FOI) request had not been fully answered and that the Felpham mitigation was failing. *Mr Merrett commented that he understood the FOI had been responded to and that the Project Manager for the Felpham Mitigation scheme was in conversation with the Parish Council.*
- Mr Coster highlighted a petition that was currently running on the West Sussex County council website requesting a stop to cuts to the Fire Service. Mr Coster said this should be a concern to all. *Mr Sutcliff stated that he had voted against the cuts at County Council asking for reserves to be used but this was rejected and he was assured that things can be done differently.*
- Mr Goodheart raised the issue of promoting events on the highway and that the current 4 banners in Arun are not sufficient. *Mr Merrett stated that he was aware that Mr Goodheart had discussed this with West Sussex Highways and they are open to expanding the locations but the primary concern is safety. It was suggested that this be discussed further at a future meeting of the Highways and Transport Sub Group.*

- Mr Goodheart also asked if the public realm works would extend to improving lighting in Station Road. *Officers agreed to find out and inform Mr Goodheart.*
- A request was made for additional rubbish bins to be provided. The main area of concern was at the bottom of the bridge over the railway. *Paul Askew agreed to take this back to Arun District Council.*

Community Policing Update

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

- The previously circulated crime data showed a slight increase mainly around 'violence against the person'. Inspector Clothier stated this was a trend across the force but there was no trend as to why this was happening apart from that a lot of work has been done to improve reporting in this area.
- A multi-agency group had been established to tackle issues around street drinking.
- At present there is one Chief Inspector for the Arun and Chichester Districts and resources are being shared across the Districts. It is likely this model will become permanent as the force looks to the future.

South East Coast Ambulance Service

89. The Chairman welcomed Geraint Davies, Director of Commercial Services and Lorna Stuart, Senior Operations Manager from South East Coast Ambulance Service. Mr Davies provided a powerpoint presentation (attached to the signed minutes) that detailed who they are and what they do as well as their vision for the future that includes the creation of a 'Make Ready' centre at Tangmere.

90. Following the presentation a number of questions were raised and answers provided as follows:

- It was noted that Ambulances may be based at Community Response Posts between calls. It was confirmed that if someone approached an ambulance at these locations then they provide a response in the same way as if it had been called in.
- Concern was raised about taking patients out of area. It was acknowledged that the local trauma centres are Portsmouth, Brighton and London so if a patient requires that specialist service they will be taken out of area by ambulance. However the number of patients taken to these trauma centres is low.
- It was acknowledged that private ambulances are used when demand is high.
- Planning permission for the Make Ready Centre at Tangmere has been granted and they are working towards a go live date during the Autumn of 2016.

91. The Chairman thanked Mr Davies and Ms Stuart for their time. Mr Davies offered to come back to JWAC in 6 months and update Members on progress.

Community Initiative Funding

92. 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.

93. The County Councillors on the Committee resolved that Community Initiative Funding be allocated as follows:

a) The following awards were made:

451/JWAAC, Youth of Bognor, £1,000.00 to purchase craft materials, to subsidise leader's and children's places at YOB camp 2015.

572/JWAAC, ROX Music & Arts Festival, £4,767.90 towards costs associated with the ROX FREE festival 2015.

615/JWAAC, Regis Gymnastics CIC, £2,500.00, towards the purchase of sports equipment.

639/JWAAC, International Bognor Birdman, £3,500.00 for events costs.

648/JWAAC, Bognor Regis Table Tennis Club, £2,000.00 equipment and venue hire costs.

655/JWAAC, Armed Forces Day Bognor, £1,661.24 marquee and covered stage hire.

658/JWAAC, Pagham Village Hall Trust, £3,123.55 remodel and replace kitchen area and units.

b) The following award was declined:

520/JWAAC, Number 18 Project (Bognor Regis) Ltd, to pay for a webmaster and programmer. This was declined as staffing costs are ineligible for funding under the CIF policy.

Expenditure of developer contributions for play facilities arising from new housing developments

94. The Committee considered a report by Assistant Director Environmental Services, Arun District Council (copy appended to the signed minutes), which sought the Committees approval on how developer contributions should be spent on children's play provision.

95. It was noted that the report should have stated that the recommendation was to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services not Community Services.

96. Resolved that the Committee approve the allocation as set out in the appendix of the report.

97. Councillor Wells commented that as the report stated that discussions would have taken place with the relevant Parish Council but Councillor Wells was not sure that this had happened. Mr Askew agreed to check and report back to Councillor Wells.

Items to be raised by Town and Parish Council representatives.

98. The Chairman invited questions from Town and Parish representatives on the Committee. No questions were raised.

- Councillor Wells raised concern about the standard of the roads in the area, he made particular mention of the A29 Roundabout near McDonalds. Mr Merrett agreed to check if this was scheduled for any works and arrange for a response to go back to Mr Wells.
- Councillor English stated that lorries attending Site 6 are causing problems when using Hoe Lane. He had requested that the developer or West Sussex County council install signs to stop them using Hoe lane but this had not been actioned. Mr Merrett agreed to take this forward to Highways and come back to Mr English.

Items for Future Meetings

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

- University of Chichester – update on plans for a new Digital technology Park at Bognor Regis campus. – June 2015
- Prevention and Wellbeing grants – June 2015
- Bognor Regis Parking Review Formal Consultation – June 2015
- Update and evaluation on Public Realm Improvement
- SECAMBS follow up – September 2015 or January 2016
- Advertising on the Highway (via H&T Sub Group)

Date of Next Meeting

100. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Wednesday 10 June 2015 at Chichester University Bognor Regis campus.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Chairman