

Joint Western Arun Area Committee

26 February 2014– At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 p.m. at Pagham Village Hall.

Present:

West Sussex County Council: Mr Oppler, Mr Jones, Mr Patel, Mrs Rapnik (Chairman), Mrs Philips and Mr Sutcliffe

Arun District Council: Councillors Mr English, Mr Brooks, Mr L Brown, Mr Edwards, Mr Cunard, Mr Hitchins and Mr Wotherspoon

Town/Parish Council representatives: Councillors Mr Wells (Bognor Regis), Mrs Pendleton (Middleton on Sea), Mr Peerman (Felpham), Mrs Meyers (Aldwick) and Mrs Hall (Pagham).

Officers: Philippa Dart, Assistant Director (ACD) Monique Smart, Democratic Services Officer (WSSC) and Greg Merrett, Principal Community Officer (WSSC).

Part I

Chairman's Welcome

93. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

94. Apologies had been received from Councillors Mrs Warr, Mr Hasting and Dr Poland.

Declarations of Interest

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

- Mrs Ann Rapnik as a member of Cancerwise and the Bognor Pier Trust
- Councillor Mr Cunard as a member of Bognor Pier Trust
- Councillor Mr Wells as mayor of Bognor Regis in support of the Bognor Pier Trust
- Councillor Mr Brook as a member of Bognor Pier Trust and a member of the Alexandra Theatre and Bognor Birdman.

Minutes

96. Resolved –that the minutes of the Joint Western Arun Area Committee (JWAAC) held on 27 November 2013 are confirmed as a correct record and that they are signed by the Chairman.

Progress Statement

97. The Committee had before it a progress statement on matters arising from the previous meeting (copy appended to the signed minutes). Members noted the statement.

98. Councillor Mrs Hall referred to the significant disruption and erosion from the recent flooding in Pagham. She asked if WSCC would reconsider the premature withdrawal of kickstart grants to assist. The Principal Community Officer, Mr Gregory Merrett, agreed to get a full response for Mrs Hall.

Talk with us – public question time

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

- Mr Faulkner from Yapton raised concern that the scheme to provide traffic light control at comet corner may now be replaced by an alternative scheme which does little to alleviate the problem experienced by vehicles crossing and joining the A259 from the B2132 the main reason for improving the junction. He asked for support of the County Council members on JWAAC to take steps to ensure that consultation takes place with Yapton Parish Council?
The Chairman thanked Mr Faulkner for his question and stated that as this issue was the subject of an agenda item, and would be answered at that item.
- Mr David Huntley asked if JWAAC would support Pagham Beach Residents and raise with the appropriate DEFRA Ministers and members of the new Cabinet Committee on Flooding that when they review the Treasury/Defra/EA investment decision guidelines on flood defences, that funds are further boosted to take account of the additional costs involved in managing rural/coastal FCERM schemes. Current guidelines seem to operate to the disadvantage of rural/coastal communities.
The Committee agreed that the Chairman should write in support of Pagham Beach Residents.
- Mr Steve Goodheart asked if JWAAC would reconsider a proposal to introduce a one-way system within the town.
The Chairman did confirm that this had been considered previously and the outcome was to enhance existing arrangements. The Principal Community Officer, Gregory Merrett, did add that the priority around the High Street was progressing and he would be happy to discuss this further with Mr Goodheart.
- Mrs Harvey asked if Arun District Council had any plans to redistribute shingle in Felpham, particularly in the Summerley area?
Assistant Director, Environmental Services, Arun District Council, stated that Coastal Engineers have been busy in Pagham but the next priority was to access all frontages. Mrs Harvey congratulated Arun District Council on keeping the promenades clear.
- Mrs Daniels asked if parking restrictions in Durban Road could be reviewed. Councillor Mr Wells added that a number of lines are unenforceable as they have disintegrated. *Principle Community officer, Gregory Merrett, stated that Traffic Regulation Orders are on the agenda this evening but that any request does need the support of the local County Councillors as well as evidence of wider community support. In relation to the disintegrated lines Mr Merrett agreed to get Highways to look into that.*

Community Policing Update

100. 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:

- Marc Clothier introduced himself as the new Inspector covering the JWAAC area. Although only in the post for 2 weeks he has a history of policing in the Bognor area.
- There has been a reduction of 8% in overall crime compared to this time last year.
- A number of partnership projects are in place to address the issue of street drinking and homelessness. The Stonepillow hub has had some positive results. Members did state that the issue was not just in the Town Centre and provided Inspector Clothier with some other known areas. He urged members and residents to report incidents when they occur.
- Members asked if they could receive statistics by Parish for this meeting. Marc Clothier would look into this.

Highways and Transport Sub Group

101. The Chairman referred Members to the minutes of the last meeting of the Highways and Transport Sub Group (copy attached to the signed minutes). A number of issues were discussed including those set out below:

- Members expressed concern that the pilot 'Vehicles for Sale' project had concluded. The Principal Community Officer, Gregory Merrett, stated that the effectiveness of the pilot was currently under review and it was hoped that a report will come forward for the next round of Joint Area Committees. The Chairman acknowledged the strength of feeling and asked Mr Merrett and Mrs Phillips, as Chairman of the H&T Sub Group, to take this on board and follow up with the relevant officers at County Hall.

Infrastructure Plan Update: Identification of Traffic Regulation Order Priorities

102. The Committee considered a report by the Director Communities Commissioning and Community and Economic Development Manager (copy appended to the signed minutes). Gregory Merrett, Principal Community Officer, outlined the report.

103. Resolved - that the County Council Members of the Joint Western Arun Area Committee:

- i. Agreed to the inclusion of a package of TRO priorities within the IP, which appear technically deliverable and have evidence of community support, to be programmed for delivery alongside other IP priorities as set out in Appendix A.
- ii. Agreed that the TRO package of priorities will be reviewed annually recognising that additional TRO proposals can only be added if funds are identified, see paragraph 1.7.

- iii. Noted issues requiring further investigation (e.g. technical and/ or evidence of community support) prior to considering a TRO solution and any subsequent prioritisation in the IP as set out in Appendix B and requested that these issues are always referred back to the Committee for decision.

Site 6 Developer Contributions

104. The Committee considered a report by the Director Communities Commissioning and Community and Economic Development Manager (copy appended to the signed minutes). Duncan Barratt, Community and Economic Development Manager, introduced the report. In addition Mr Barrett referred to the representation from Yapton, Middleton and Felpham Parish Councils (copy appended to the signed minutes). In reviewing the written representations from the Parish Councils, Mr Barratt presented an alternative recommendation (copy appended to the signed minutes).

105. A number of issues were discussed including those set out below:

- Councillor Mr Wotherspoon said that there was a strong feeling in Middleton that traffic lights are essential and although the H&T Sub group voted in favour of option 1b, he feels that the rest of Middleton oppose this option. He asked for no decision to be made on this until an effective traffic light solution is investigated further.
- Councillor Mrs Pendleton stated that the S106 money does not have to be spent until 2018 so would support a deferral until a traffic light scheme could be fully costed.
- Councillor Mr English thanks Mr Barratt for the alternative recommendation and urged County Councillors to move this forward. He did request that all three Parish Councils could be included in reviewing options for Comet Corner.
- A number of Members spoke in support of the alternative recommendation.

106. A recorded vote was taken for the original recommendation as detailed in the report. All County Councillors present voted against the original recommendation. A recorded vote was then taken for the alternative recommendation with the addition that Felpham Parish Council be included in discussions to move forward proposals for Comet Corner, this alternative option was agreed by all County Councillors present.

107. Resolved - that the County Council Members of the Joint Western Arun Area Committee:

- Support the allocation of up to £0.5M of the Site 6 S106 funds to progress the Felpham package of proposals - estimates suggest that this will provide sufficient funds to deliver the package identified. If the package can be delivered for less than £0.5M then any remaining funds will be made available to support proposals at Comet Corner.
- Request that officers work with local members and Yapton, Middleton and Felpham Parish Councils to review options for Comet Corner in order to identify an effective proposal at minimum cost. The agreed proposals will be progressed to delivery if

sufficient funds are available. If sufficient funds are not available then scope to secure additional funding will be explored further.

- Request that where possible developer contributions are secured from appropriate developments to supplement the Site 6 S106 funds and support the delivery of the Comet Corner and Felpham proposals.

Community Initiative Funding

108. As agreed at the previous meeting, the Chairman invited representatives from the Bognor Regis Pier Trust to make a presentation about their application for Community Initiative Funding. Councillor Mr Wells provided the presentation and answered questions from the Committee. The main questions centred around the Community Interest Company (CIC) and Councillor Mr Wells confirmed that the Pier would be a CIC and therefore be owned by the Community with a leaseback arrangement with the current owner.

109. The Committee then considered a report by the Head of Law and Governance (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.

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

Approved

- 166/JWAAC – Restoration of Bognor Regis Pier, £3500 for equipment to promote the growth of the organisation. This should not be for staffing costs.
- 183/JWAAC - Youth of Bognor, £2200, to subsidise the children places at YOB Camp
- 215/JWAAC – South Downs Folk Festival, £3500, towards support for festival.
- 220/JWAAC – International Bognor Birdman Ltd, £3,500, towards support for Birdman event.
- 229/JWAAC - Sussex Community Rail Partnership, £1,288, for various items to celebrate the 150 anniversary of the railway in Bognor and Barnham.
- 236/JWAAC – ROX, £3,500 towards the hire of security equipment.
- 239/JWAAC – Bognor Regis Seafront Lights £3089 towards the cost of installing new decorative lights on Bognor Seafront.
- 272/Big Blake Arts £400 towards materials for the project.

Declined

- 182/JWAAC- Friends of the Regis School of Music, Declined as this does not fit the CIF criteria.
- 212/JWAAC - Chichester Lymphoedema Support Group, Declined as this does not fit the CIF criteria. Suggested they apply to the Prevention and Wellbeing Fund that JWAAC will consider at next meeting.

- 223/JWACC – Cancerwise, Chichester). Declined as this does not fit the CIF criteria. Suggested they apply to the Prevention and Wellbeing Fund that JWAAC will consider at next meeting.
- 225/JWAAC – Jeneses, Declined as building materials do not fit the CIF criteria but suggest that they reapply for equipment once the building works are underway.
- 235/JWAAC – BCAN, Declined as this does not fit CIF criteria. Suggested they apply to the Prevention and Wellbeing Fund that JWAAC will consider at next meeting.

Deferred

- 227/JWAAC – 4BR, Deferred as Members felt that Bognor Regis has many other websites of this type and therefore requested further information about how the website would benefit the wider community and how it differs from those that already exist.

Community Projects Fund

111. The Committee considered a report by the Assistant Director, Environmental Services, Arun District Council (copy appended to the signed minutes), which sought decisions from the Committee on the applications received under the grant scheme.

112. Resolved that the Committee considered the Community Projects Funding application and allocated £1,000 to The Alexandra Theatre, Bognor Regis for the purchase of 150 banqueting chairs.

Appointment of Authority Governors

113. The Committee considered a report by Director of Communities Commissioning, West Sussex County Council (copy appended to the signed minutes), which set out proposed nominations to school governing bodies and the criteria for their appointment and sought decisions from the County Council Members of the Committee on the applications received.

114. Resolved that the County Councillors of the Committee agreed the following Authority School Governor:

Appointments:

Mrs Ann Roberts to Nyewood CE Infants School for a 4 year term

Re- appointment:

Mr B Reeder to Rose Green Junior School for a 4 year term

Mrs V Morris to Downview Primary School for a 4 year term

Items to be raised by Town and Parish Council representatives.

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

Items for Future Meetings

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

- Prevention and Wellbeing Grant Applications – June 2014
- Appointments (Chairman, Vice Chairman etc.) – June 2014

Date of Next Meeting

117. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Wednesday 11 June 2014 at The Arena Sports Centre, Westloats Lane, Bognor Regis.

Exclusion of Press and Public

118. Resolved - That under Section 100(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I, of Schedule 12A, of the Act by virtue of the paragraph specified under the item and that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption of that information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Summary of Matters discussed in the absence of the Press and Public

(Exempt, paragraph 1, Information about Individuals)

Appointment of Authority School Governors

The Committee had before it a report by the Director Communities Commissioning asking Members to review the nominations for the governing body at Felpham Community College. Members had previously considered this on 27 November 2013 and appointed Mr Graham Jones.

119. Resolved - that the appointment of Mr Graham Jones to Felpham Community College for a 4 year term be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Chairman