

Joint Western Arun Area Committee

30 November 2016– At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 p.m. at The University of Chichester, Bognor Regis Campus.

Present:

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

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

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

Officers: Monique Smart, Democratic Services Officer (WSCC), Ben Whiffin, Highways Manager (WSCC) and Nick Burrell, Senior Advisor (WSCC).

Chairman's Welcome

50. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

51. Apologies had been received from Councillors Mr Radmall and Mr Cunard. Substitute Member Mr Goodheart was welcomed.

Declarations of Interest

52. No Interests were declared.

Minutes

53. Resolved – that the minutes of the Joint Western Arun Area Committee (JWAAC) held on 28 September 2016 are confirmed as a correct record and that they are signed by the Chairman.

Progress Statement

54. The Progress Statement was noted.

Talk with us – public question time

55. The Chairman invited questions from members of the public. A number of issues were discussed including those set out below (responses in italics):

- Mr Jan Cosgrove updated the Committee on the JWAAC area Youth Services project and confirmed that a consultation was due to be launched soon. *The Chairman thanked Mr Cosgrove for the update and looked forward to hearing more about the consultation.*

- Mr Hugh Coster asked The Leader of West Sussex County Council, Louise Goldsmith, to reverse the decision to change the boundaries of the Joint Area Committees as the new JWAAC will be too big and not meet often enough. He also asked for them to have more powers. *Mrs Goldsmith responded stating the decision was not an easy one to make but it will be implemented as planned. She stated that as with all new processes there would be an opportunity for review but suggested that should be after a full year.*
- Mr Paul Wells reported that the problems associated with Willows Edge are still not resolved. The main problem being that the developer does not respond to reported faults and the County Council will not adopt the roads until all issues are resolved. *The Chairman confirmed that JWAAC had previously written to the developer about this but Mr Graham Jones undertook to follow up again with the assistance of the Area Highways Manager, Ben Whiffin.*
- A local resident asked who was responsible for applying for S106 funds from developers and made particular reference to the proposed development of 13 homes by West Sussex County Council at Middleton. *The Area Highways Manager, Ben Whiffin, stated that S106 is dependent on the size of a development and such a small development would not trigger S106.* Members and residents raised concern that multiple small developments could increase traffic significantly but no S106 money would be sought. *Mr Jones confirmed that this could be discussed further at an H&T Sub Group meeting.*
- Mr Jones from Jeneses Community Centre informed the Committee that he had been told they need to pay £15,000 in business rates. Resident, Mr Hugh Coster informed them that if they set up as a Charity or not for profit organisations then Arun District Council are able to waive business rates.

Devolution

56. The Chairman welcomed the Leader of West Sussex County Council, Louise Goldsmith, who provided a presentation (attached to the signed minutes) and update on the Three Southern Counties (3SC) devolution proposals. She explained that it was a highly complex project but was progressing well. All 26 authorities are engaged and work stream areas include Housing and Planning, Infrastructure, Skills and Governance. She was encouraged by the level of interest by the Parish and Town Councils in the JWAAC area.

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

- Concern was raised about the level of housing needed in the area and lack of infrastructure. A Member asked if infrastructure can come prior to housing. Mrs Goldsmith stated that West Sussex County Council had made representation to Government about this issue but unfortunately at present that was planning law.
- A Member asked why a Northern Bypass option was not considered in the recent A27 consultation. Mrs Goldsmith confirmed that was a decision for Highways England. She did also explain that part of the 3SC proposal was to take over some responsibilities from Highways England.
- Some concern was raised that the concept and proposals were prior to Brexit and therefore changes needed to be considered. There was also fear that

proposals would be costly. Mrs Goldsmith confirmed that there was no management organisation or new building to fund and that the existing authorities were working together with existing resources. She stated that Brexit made it even more important to work together and with businesses to boost the local economy.

Community Police Update

58. The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Christian Thomas who provided an update on Neighbourhood Policing in the JWAAC area. A number of issues were discussed including those set out below:

- The Local Policing Plan was working well with less border restrictions locally, bigger hubs and the ability to allocate resources where and when required.
- There will be an increase in visibility in the Town Centres in the lead up to Christmas.
- It was confirmed that untaxed vehicles should be reported via Operation Crackdown <http://www.operationcrackdown.org/> or directly to the DVLA.
- Cllr Mr Knight stated problems with drug use near the Willow Pond in Bersted but also problems with the 101 number to report it. Sergeant Thomas acknowledged the problems with 101 but stated it was being addressed. He did also inform members that they can email reports to : arunandchichester.localteam@sussex.pnn.police.uk
- The increase in crimes for Bersted was associated with the Shripney Road Retail parks and the Police confirmed they are working with Business Wardens to address it.

Highways and Transport Sub Group

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

60. Mr Jones, Chairman of JWAAC Highways and Transport Sub Group welcomed Mr Bob Lanzer, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, West Sussex County Council. Mr Lanzer thanked the Committee for the opportunity to come and listen to issues of local importance. He explained that he had been in post since 21 October so may not have all the answers but was happy to take issues away for consideration. A number of issues were discussed including those set out below:

- A resident from Middleton asked for a review of parking arrangements at the Eastern end of the village. A suggestion had been put to the local Member, Joan Phillips.
- Mr Hugh Coster asked 2 questions. The first was about on street car parking charges and asked why Bognor Regis was the only Town in the Arun District to have such charges. He asked if 2 hours free on street car parking could be considered. *Mr Lanzer responded stating that there are a number of free on street parking spaces in Bognor and the reason for some being chargeable is to ensure turnover of spaces and avoid commuter parking.* Mr Coster's second question was asking if the numerous faded lines and markings in the Town could be repainted. *Mr Lanzer confirmed he would work with the Highways Area Manager, Ben Whiffin, to look at this.*

- Mr Tony Dixon referred to his request to Mr Lanzer's predecessor to drive the A259 between 8.15am and 8.45am and also between 5.15pm and 5.45pm each day for a two week period, and asked if Mr Lanzer would do this? *Mr Lanzer confirmed that he lived in the Crawley so this would neither be practical nor best use of resources. However he would look at the data for the peak times for both junctions of concern.*
- Cllr Mr Allsopp stressed the need for improvements to Comet Corner and raised concern about further development in the area and the need to secure funding for improvements ahead of more housing. *Mr Lanzer confirmed that improvements to Comet Corner are planned for the New Year that seeks to make the junction safer and reduce driver error. He asked Mr Allsopp to allow time for those improvements to be accessed.*
- Cllr Mr Goodheart asked Mr Lanzer to consider diverting buses away from the High Street and implementing a one way system for the Town Centre. *Area Highways Manager, Ben Whiffin, explained that this proposal had been looked into before but for various reasons including bus access in some streets it was not progressed. However both Mr Whiffin and Mr Lanzer stated that it could be looked at again as part of any future development or regeneration of the Town Centre.*
- Cllr Mr Bence made reference to the A27 consultation and disappointment that it took pressure from Bognor Councillors for a consultation event to added for the JWAAC area. He urged the County Council to consider the west of Chichester. Mr Goodheart raised the issue of the Northern Bypass. *Mr Graham Jones confirmed that the County Council is a statutory consultee and supported local councillors in lobbying Highways England for a consultation event in the JWAAC area. Mr Jones did also state that the Environmental & Community Services Select Committee did recommend that the County Council response to HE consultation should ask them to re-evaluate the northern bypass option.*

61. The Chairman thanked Mr Lanzer for taking the time to come to JWAAC and listen to issues of local concern and importance.

Community Initiative Funding

62. 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.

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

The following applications were approved:-

1088/JWAAC- Bognor Regis Swimming Club, £1,000.00, towards the cost of training a level 2 coach.

1089/JWAAC-Armed Forces Day Committee, £1,000.00, for the cost of marquee and stage hire.

1090/JWAAC - Willowhale Community Association, £2,000.00, towards replacing radiators and hot water cylinder and upgrade lighting.

1091/JWAAC - RAFA Branch 381, £395.00, to manufacture a memorial plaque.

1096/JWAAC – Clowns International, £2,000.00, for funding towards International Clown Festival.

1099/JWAAC – Bognor Community Action Network (CAN), £1,000.00, towards 'Young Ones' multisport project for children.

1100/JWAAC - Bognor Community Action Network (CAN), £1,750.00, towards 'Older and Boulder' variety of Arts drop in.

1107/JWAAC - Bognor Parkrun, £1,392.00, towards the purchase and mounting of a defibrillator in Hotham Park.

The following application was declined:-

1019/JWAAC - The Base SkatePark Community Interest Group, £2,486.96, to cover cooling fan installation, as well as purchase replacement foam for the training pit. Members agreed that the organisation had already received significant funding from the County Council and it was not the purpose of CIF to provide on-going support.

Nominations to School and Academy Governing Bodies

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

65. Resolved that the County Council Members of the Committee approved the following nomination for appointment under the 2012 Regulations: -

- Mrs D Norris to Bartons Infant School for a 4 year term.

Items to be raised by Town and Parish Council representatives.

66. The Chairman invited questions from Town and Parish representatives on the Committee. The following issues were discussed:

- It was suggested that the new Parishes set to join JWAAC in May 2017 be invited to attend the next JWAAC and observe.
- It was confirmed that discussions would take place with the new Parishes about joining the JWAAC H&T Sub Group.

Items for Future Meetings

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

- Evaluation on Public Realm Improvement - 2017

Date of Next Meeting

68. The Chairman confirmed that the next scheduled meeting of the Committee was due to be on Wednesday 15 March 2017.

The meeting closed at 9.08pm

Chairman