

Joint Western Arun Area Committee

10 June 2015– At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 p.m. at Chichester University – Bognor Regis Campus

Present:

West Sussex County Council: Mr Jones, Mr Oppler (left the meeting at 8.30pm), Mr Patel, Mrs Phillips, Mrs Rapnik and Mr Sutcliffe

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

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

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

Chairman's Welcome

01. The Chairman, Councillor Mr Wotherspoon, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that following the recent elections and annual meetings of Councils, JWAAC had a number of new Members. Each Member and Officer introduced themselves.

Appointments

02. Following the decision that the Chairmanship of the Joint Arun Area Committees should rotate amongst the three tiers, the Chairman for 2015/16 would be a Town or Parish Councillor and the Vice Chairman would be a County Councillor.

03. **Resolved** that Councillor Mr Cunard be appointed Chairman of JWAAC.

04. **Resolved** that Mrs Rapnik be appointed as the Vice Chairman of JWAAC and also as the Chairman of the Joint Western Arun County Local Committee (CLC).

05. **Resolved** that Councillor Mr Wotherspoon be appointed as the lead District Councillor of JWAAC.

06. **Resolved** that the membership of the Community Initiative Funding (CIF) Sub Group for 2015/16 be as follows.

Mr Jones (WSCC)
Mrs Phillips (WSCC)
Cllr Mr English (ADC)
Cllr Mr Bence (ADC)
Cllr Mr Peerman (Felpham PC)

07. **Resolved** that Mr Jones be appointed as the Chairman of the Highways and Transport Sub Group.

08. **Resolved** that Councillor Mrs Richardson from Aldwick Parish Council be appointed as the JWAAC representative on the Arun Conservation Area Advisory Committee.

Declarations of Interest

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

- Mrs Rapnik as a volunteer for Cancerwise
- Cllr Mr Peerman as a Member of the Felpham Village Conservation Society
- Cllr Mr English as a Member of the Felpham Village Conservation Society

Minutes

10. Resolved –that the minutes of the Joint Western Arun Area Committee (JWAAC) held on 18 March 2015 are confirmed as a correct record and that they are signed by the Chairman.

Progress Statement

11. 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.

Talk with us – public question time

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

- A Felpham resident raised concern about Public right of way FP3038_3. She explained that it is used by a number of children who live in Felpham village on their journey to and from Felpham Community College and at present the path is overgrown with vegetation. The resident explained that she had reported it and it had been inspected but would not be cleared until July. She asked if the committee thought it acceptable that Public rights of way are essentially closed to the public because they are impassable for 2 to 3 months? *Mr Gregory Merrett, Principle Community Officer, responded by stating that the County Council has an annual summer clearance programme and works are packaged together to ensure best value for money. He confirmed that it would be cut back in July.*
- A Felpham resident also asked what action is being taken regarding the exit from the Bognor Regis Retail Park onto Rowan Way. She stated that the opening of the Bognor Relief Road has made it increasingly more difficult to exit safely. With the prospect of the Felpham section of the relief road due to open later this year that is only likely to increase further. *Mr Gregory Merrett, Principle Community Officer, responded stating that this junction has*

been identified as an area of concern at various forums since the upgrading of Rowan Way to the A259. As a result, the location is being monitored on a regular basis and which to this point has not identified a significant increase in waiting times leaving the estate. This monitoring has involved site inspections at various times over the course of a week, including weekends and evenings. This will continue once the Felpham section of the Relief Road is opened. Some Members concurred with the residents' concerns and it was suggested this be discussed at a future Highways and Transport (H&T) Sub Group meeting.

- In relation to the decision on minor amendments to parking this evening Mr Goodheart stated that he hoped County Councillors would vote positively for the Spencer Street recommendation. He also asked if Richmond Road parking bays could be open for shared use. Lastly he asked for his suggestion of one way parking on the seafront to be reconsidered. *The Chairman noted Mr Goodheart's points and stated that County Councillors could consider these points at agenda item 9 if appropriate or alternatively take them forward for consideration at a future H&T Sub Group meeting.*
- Mr Goodheart also referred to the issues he had raised at the last JWAAC meeting that were noted on the progress statement. He explained that he still wished to progress these issues.
- Mr Cosgrove referred to a recent County Council vote against supporting proposals to lower the voting age to 16. He asked specifically if the Youth Cabinet, Youth Parliament, Arun Youth Council or school councils had been consulted before the vote was taken. *It was agreed that Monique Smart, Democratic Services Officer, would seek clarification on this and provide Mr Cosgrove with a written response.*
- Mr Coster handed the Chairman a written question in relation to Kickstart funding. He requested a written response and for it to be included in the progress statement for the next JWAAC.
- Mr Coster also asked if he could raise a question at agenda item 12 as it was in relation to that item. *The Chairman agreed.*

Chichester University – Digital Technology Park Update

13. The Chairman welcomed Professor Clive Behagg, Vice-Chancellor of Chichester University and Pete Tierney, Director of Estate Management, who provided a presentation (appended to the signed minutes) on the proposed new Digital Technology Park at the Bognor Regis campus.

14. Following the presentation, questions were asked to which responses were given (in italics), including those set out below:

- Many Members welcomed the plans and the benefits for both the University and Bognor Regis.
- Concern was raised about the proposed access to the new site on Felpham Way and the possible additional congestion this would result in. However Members welcomed the plans to discourage students from bringing cars onto campus.
- It was also stressed that that local residents and Parish Councils will be consulted as the plans progress.
- It was requested that the building include a 'Welcome to Bognor Regis' sign.
- A question was asked by a Member of the public about proposals to establish a temporary village of old shipping containers on the campus to

accommodate pop up studio spaces. Professor Clive Behagg confirmed that he was in discussion with West Sussex County Council about that but it was not part of the proposals for the Digital Technology Park. He confirmed that a scoping exercise would take place and until he knew the outcome of that he was sceptical. Mr Graham Jones added that he was too sceptical as the original plan had been to create an arts community in central Bognor Regis as part of the regeneration plans.

Bognor Regis Parking Review – Minor Amendments

15. The Committee considered a report by Director of Highways and Transport, West Sussex County Council. Jeanette Napper, Senior Technician from the Parking Strategy Team introduced the report. She explained that a formal consultation on changes to parking in Bognor Regis town centre took place in April 2015 with residents, Businesses and stakeholders. Overall 9 representations were made, 1 in support, 2 neutral and 6 objections. The report contained details of the objections and the officer's recommendations to modify the proposals to address some of the concerns. These proposals were detailed in Appendix C.

16. Many Members spoke in support of the revised proposals. One Member did ask if the proposals for Victoria Drive could be extended. Jeanette Napper confirmed that this could not be done without re-advertising and holding up the other proposals. It was therefore suggested that Victoria Drive be revisited if other TROs are progressed in the area.

17. **Resolved** that The County Council Members of the Committee, having considered the objections, recommended to authorise the Director of Law Assurance and Strategy to bring the Traffic Regulation Order into operation as advertised but with the modifications as outlined in Appendix C of the attached report. It was noted that Appendix C should include Cheshire Court, Sudley Gardens and Regis Court as proposals that received no representation.

Prevention and Wellbeing Grants 2015-16

18. The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director Care, Wellbeing & Education and Director of Public Health and Social Care Commissioning (copy appended to the signed minutes).

19. The report set out the prevention & wellbeing commissioning objectives for 2015 along with the Prevention and Wellbeing Grant applications received for 2015-16. It also identifies how the grants were spent in 2014/15. Grants are awarded annually on merit in relation to the application and awarding criteria. The criteria reflect countywide and service area objectives, as well as specific local needs.

20. The County Council Members of the Committee considered the grant applications for 2015-16 as set out in Appendix B and approved those that it considered most appropriate to the local needs of the community

21. **Resolved** – that the following be approved:

- Albion in the Community £2295
- Arun Co-ordinated Community Transport £1000
- Autism Sussex £2295
- Blueprint 22 £1500
- Bognor & Worthing Shopmobilty £1500
- Cancerwise £750
- Cruse West Sussex Area £420
- Frame of Mind £2000
- Headway £1500
- Lifecentre £600
- My Sisters House £1500
- PBS Foundation £24.36
- SASBAH £250
- St Peters House Project £200

Community Initiative Funding

22. 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.

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

- 714/JWAAC Bognor Regis Air Training Corp £3000 towards the costs of a replacement minibus
- 733/JWAAC Felpham Village Conservation Society £712.80 for the purchase of equipment for various society events.
- 742/JWAAC Number 18 Project £3000 to hire a webmaster for a specific project.

Highways and Transport Sub Group

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

25. As previously agreed the Chairman allowed Mr Coster to ask a question. Mr Coster expressed disappointment that issues such as Comet Corner and the Oyster Catcher junctions have not been resolved. Mr Coster also referred to plans submitted by the Civic Society to both Felpham Parish Council and the JWAAC H&T Sub Group that provide a possible solution to traffic congestion around Butlins and the University. He stated that the Civic Society would like to participate in discussions around this again. Mr Jones as the new Chairman of the H&T Sub group agreed to look into this.

26. Some Members stated that they shared Mr Costers frustration regarding Comet Corner and they would continue to push forward for a solution. Cllr Mr English stressed that the £500,000 S106 money must be spent on traffic mitigation and not drainage works as had been suggested at the H&T Sub group meeting. Mr Gregory

Merrett, Principle Community Officer, agreed to take all the concern raised back to the project manager.

27. It was confirmed that the Oyster Catcher junction had been cleared of vegetation and the 40mph speed limit was being monitored.

28. Members requested that the A29 Shripney Road be discussed at a future H&T Sub group.

Items to be raised by Town and Parish Council representatives.

29. The Chairman invited questions from Town and Parish representatives on the Committee. Questions were asked to which responses were given (in italics), including those set out below:

- Middleton Parish Council requested an update on the progress of Yapton Road drainage survey. *The Chairman asked Mr Gregory Merrett to ensure that a response was provided to Middleton Parish Council after the meeting.*

Items for Future Meetings

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

- Update and evaluation on Public Realm Improvement
- SECAmbS follow up – September 2015 or January 2016
- Advertising on the Highway (via H&T Sub Group)
- Police update on services

Date of Next Meeting

31. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Wednesday 16 September 2015 at The Arena Sports Centre.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Chairman