

Joint Western Arun Area Committee

11 June 2014– At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 p.m. at The Arena Sports Centre, Bognor Regis.

Present:

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

Arun District Council: Councillors Mr L Brown, Mr Cunard, Mr English, Mr Hitchins, Mrs Warr and Mr Wotherspoon

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

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

Part I

Chairman's Welcome

01. Councillor Mr Wotherspoon opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.
02. Apologies had been received from Councillors Mr Edwards and Mr Knight

Appointments

03. Following the decision that the Chairmanship of the Joint Arun Area Committees should rotate amongst the three tiers, the Chairman for 2014/15 would be a District Councillor and the Vice Chairman would be a Town or Parish Councillor.
04. **Resolved** that Councillor Mr Wotherspoon be appointed as the lead District Councillor of JWAAC and therefore Chairman of JWAAC
05. **Resolved** that Councillor Mr Peerman be appointed as the Vice Chairman of JWAAC.
06. **Resolved** that Mrs Rapnik be appointed as the lead County Councillor and Chairman of the Western Arun County Local Committee (CLC).
07. **Resolved** that the membership of the Community Initiative Funding (CIF) Sub Group remains unchanged with membership as follows.

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

08. **Resolved** that the membership of the Community Projects Sub Group is as follows:

Councillor Mr Peerman
Councillor Mr Cunard
Councillor Mr English

09. Mrs Phillips asked if a County Councillor could be added to the Community Projects Sub Group. It was noted that the CIF Sub Group had all three tiers but this group did not have a County Council representative. The Chairman asked officers to look into whether the Terms of Reference would allow this.

10. **Resolved** that Mrs Phillips be appointed as the Chairman of the Highways and Transport Sub Group.

11. **Resolved** that Councillor Mr Farrell from Felpham Parish Council remain the JWAAC representative on the Arun Conservation Area Advisory Committee.

Declarations of Interest

12. In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, Mrs Rapnik declared a personal interest in the prevention and wellbeing grant application from Cancerwise as she is as a volunteer for the charity.

13. In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, Councillor Mr Cunard declared a pecuniary interest in the CIF application from Bersted Arts. Mr Cunard agreed not to take part in any discussion on this item but as it was a County Council decision he was not required to leave the room.

Minutes

14. Resolved –that the minutes of the Joint Western Arun Area Committee (JWAAC) held on 26 February 2014 are confirmed as a correct record and that they are signed by the Chairman.

Progress Statement

15. The Committee had before it a progress statement on matters arising from the previous meeting (copy appended to the signed minutes). Comment/queries were as follows:

- It was agreed that Mr Oppler and Gregory Merrett would open discussions and informal consultation with local businesses in the Durban Road area to ascertain parking requirements. It was requested updates be provided via the H&T Sub group.
- Mr Jones expressed his deep concern that the Governing Body of Felpham Community College ignored the democratic process and decision made by the County Councillors of JWAAC to appoint him as the Authority Governor. Mr Jones stated he had referred the matter to OFSTED and although they

have no powers to investigate they have logged it as an issue and will take the information into account at their next inspection. As briefly detailed in the progress statement, Monique Smart confirmed that Felpham Community School had now reconstituted, as all schools would over the next year or so, and they now have only one Authority Governor and that is the current Chair Mr Lloyd. Monique Smart also explained that under the new legislation the County Councillors role will be to nominate a candidate but the final decision on who to appoint would be made by the Governing Body. A number of Members echoed Mr Jones concern about the situation and about the change in legislation. Members asked if the Chair of Governors from Felpham could be invited to the next meeting of JWAAC to discuss this issue further.

Talk with us – public question time

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

- Mrs Phillips a resident from Orchard Way asked if the County Council could provide a crossing on Orchard Way and consider a 20mph speed limit or make the existing traffic calming measures more effective. *Gregory Merrett confirmed that Orchard Way meets the criteria for a school crossing patrol and the County Council is seeking to appoint to this position. The wider issue of traffic calming had been looked at by Highways and although feasible it is thought that solutions may not get wider community support as many use the area for parking. Mr Oppler stated his support for improvements*
- Mr Nick Stuart-Nicolson from Bognor Regis Chamber of Commerce asked if the County Council would consider creating a shared surface arrangement between the Railway Station and the Picturdrome Cinema cross roads in view of the possible savings in the High Street scheme. *Gregory Merrett confirmed that the plans for the High Street had not been finalised so no savings had yet been confirmed. Also any such scheme would need to be identified as an Infrastructure Priority by the County Councillors. It was suggested this be discussed further at a future H&T Sub Group.*
- Mr Hugh Coster asked a question in relation to previous information he had received about the Kickstart funding used for the London Road improvement. Mr Coster asked if he could have the baseline evidence that will be used to assess the future effectiveness of the works and how it fulfils the kickstart scheme. Mr Coster also asked to be informed if a planning application should have been made for the London road scheme. *It was agreed that these questions would be investigated and responses would be provided to Mr Coster in due course.*
- Mr Jim Brooks asked if Arun District Council and West Sussex County Council could confirm that they are working jointly on parking charges. He stated that the car parks in Bognor, particularly Fitzleet, are underused due to high prices and therefore more cars park on street. *It was agreed this would be considered as a future item for H&T Sub Group.*
- Mr Steve Goodheart requested the support of both County and District Councils to promote local events and activities. *Paul Askew agreed to follow this up with Phil Graham at Arun District Council.*
- A resident of Devonshire Road asked for confirmation of where on the website he could find the minutes of the H&T Sub Groups. *Monique Smart*

confirmed that these are attached to the agenda of JWAAC following the H&T Sub Group.

Community Policing Update

17. 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:

- Members thanked Inspector Clothier for supplying the Parish data ahead of the meeting. The figures showed an overall reduction in crime of 5%.
- Members noted that although generally considered a safe and secure place to live, they did question some of the crime statistics around Hotham Ward and asked if this had any connection to Butlins. Inspector Clothier agreed to look at the figures in more detail but did not think that incidents in or from Butlins were particularly high.
- Inspector Clothier reported that operations to tackle anti-social behaviour around the train station had resulted in successful outcomes and will continue. He stated that section 30 orders could now be used to disperse people causing anti-social behaviour and that PCSO had the power to use this.
- A local resident and Parish Council had raised concern about speeding in Blakesmead. Inspector Clothier confirmed that local teams had been patrolling and will continue to monitor. Councillor Mr English asked if the County Council could work to get the roads adopted to ensure that police can enforce.
- Mr Hugh Coster raised concern about a recent call made to 999 following needles being found on the street. His concern was that it was not considered an emergency for the Police and that it may not have been logged. Inspector Clothier agreed to look into this.

Prevention and Wellbeing Grants 2014/15

18. The County Council Members of the Committee considered a report by the Director of Public Health, Commissioner for Health & Social Care (copy appended to the signed minutes). The report detailed how Prevention and Wellbeing Grants were allocated in 2013/14 and gives the results from the evaluation.

19. The Committee considered the grant applications for 2014/15 as set out in Appendix B and discussed how to allocate funding.

20. The County Councillors on the Committee resolved that:

a) The following applications were approved:

4Sight	£356.00
ACCT	£1,000.00
Blueprint 22	£1,500.00
Bognor Shopmobility	£2,000.00
Cancer United	£550.00

Cancerwise	£1,000.00
Coastal West Sussex Mind- Friends in Mind	£2,000.00
Cruse West Sussex	£420.00
Enable Me	£1,000.00
Headway	£1,000.00
Impact Initiatives	£400.00
Pagham Association for the Elderly	£500.00
Pagham Luncheon Club	£500.00
Sage	£500.00
SASBAH	£200.00
West Sussex Parent Carer Forum	£500.00
WSAD- Bognor Regis	£400.00
Bognor CAN	£2000.00

b) The following applications were declined:

In Safe and Caring Hands - Decline as this duplicates a service already funded by the County Council.

The Life Centre - Decline. Although Members supported the service they had limited funds and felt this service could still go ahead without funding from JWAAC

21. One Member made a comment that the criteria for this fund should be reviewed and perhaps a scoring mechanism could be considered for future years.

Community Initiative Funding

22. The County Council Members of 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.

23. Mr Sutcliffe declared a personal interest in relation to applications 360 and 361 as a member of the Aldwick British Legion.

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

a) The following awards were made:

356/JWAAC- 4BR, £1032.08, for printing and display stand costs. Members felt that the cost of creating a website does not fit the criteria for CIF as considered to be staffing costs.

342/JWAAC – Bersted Arts, **£700**, towards the costs of purchasing an electronic keyboard, microphone, mic-stand and amp.

360/JWAAC – RAF Association Branch 381, **£1,000**, towards the costs of repainting the military memorabilia room at the Steyne and Waterloo Square Building.

361/JWAAC – Bognor Regis Armed Forces Day, **£925.00**, towards the cost of hiring a marquee. Members did not support the cost of security as this does not fit the CIF criteria as considered to be staffing costs.

371/JWAAC – Bognor Community Action Network, **£1,700**, towards the costs of marquee hire, first aid and publicity hosting a Community engagement event. Members did not support the cost of security as this does not fit the CIF criteria as considered to be staffing costs.

372/JWAAC – Bognor Regis Innovation and Enterprise Council, **£2500**, towards the costs of running a series of workshops.

b) The following application was declined:

379/JWAAC – Trees Estate Residents' Association, towards the costs of providing school summer holiday play scheme on the Estate. Declined as it does not fit the CIF criteria as considered to be staffing costs. However Members felt this was a worthwhile project and suggested the applicant apply to the District Council fund as this had different criteria.

c) The following applications were deferred until the next meeting:

359/JWAAC – Blueprint 22, to run an 8 week disability awareness training course for 16-25 year-olds from Bognor. Members had requested a breakdown of costs and needed to review this before making a final decision at the next meeting.

339/JWAAC – 4Sight, towards the costs of purchasing and installing vertical blinds in the Bradbury Centre. Members would review the accounts of this applicant before making a final decision.

Highways and Transport Sub Group

25. 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:

- Mr Hugh Coster asked why the consultation letter about 20mph speed limits in Felpham had only been sent to Felpham residents when many others visit or pass through the area. Councillor Mr English replied stating that the proposals were not for the main road but the residential areas. Gregory Merrett informed Mr Coster that a community event was taking place this Saturday about the proposals at the St Mary's Centre in Felpham. This event was open to all.
- The proposals for Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs) in Felpham and Bognor Regis were discussed. It was emphasised that the decision on whether to proceed would be taken by County Councillors at JWAAC in September. The local County Councillors stated that they had attended consultation events and received a significant level of communication by post, email and telephone and that it appeared most people were against the proposals. Councillor Mr English questioned the consultation process and stated that a lot of residents and businesses remained unaware of the proposals. Mr Jones also raised some concern about the

consultation process and acknowledged that there has been some misunderstanding about the process over the years and that lessons had been learnt. Councillor Mr English also questioned the involvement of Alpha Parking in the consultation as he understood them to be a company who make a profit from the introduction of such schemes. Councillor Mr English therefore questioned if they had a conflict of interest. Councillor Mr Cunard asked how much the consultation process has cost to date. Gregory Merrett agreed to refer these issues to the parking team for a response.

- Councillor Mr Wells asked for a copy of the Joint Car Parking Strategy between Arun District Council and West Sussex county Council. Mr Askew agreed to look into this and get back to Councillor Mr Wells.
- The Public Realm Scheme was also discussed. Councillor Mr Wells raised concern that officers were making decisions without Member involvement and urged the Members on the working group to work together. Mr Jones stated that an update on kickstart projects was discussed at a County Council Scrutiny Committee earlier today and it was raised and noted that Members need to have more involvement in these partnership projects.

Items to be raised by Town and Parish Council representatives.

26. The Chairman invited questions from Town and Parish representatives on the Committee.

- Councillor Mr Wells expressed his disappointment at the delays with the street lighting on the seafront. Mr Jones replied stating he was aware of delays and that the schedule was looking to get back on track very soon.

Items for Future Meetings

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

- Mr Oppler asked if Station Road could be added to the next agenda.
- County Council Decision on whether to proceed to formal advertisement for a Controlled Parking Zone in Felpham and Bognor Regis
- Felpham Community College Governing Body

Date of Next Meeting

28. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Wednesday 17 September 2014 at The Arena Sports Centre, Westloats Lane, Bognor Regis.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Chairman