

**Joint Western Arun Area Committee**

6 March 2013– At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 p.m. at The Arena Sports Centre

Present:

West Sussex County Council: Mr Coleman, Mrs Coleman, Mr Blampied, Mr McDougall and Mr Wells.

Arun District Council: Mr English, Mr Bence, Mr Wotherspoon, Mr Edwards and Mr Patel.

Town/Parish Council representatives: Councillors Mr Dillon (Bognor Regis), Mr Hastings (Bersted), Mrs Phillips (Middleton on Sea), Mrs Kissell (Felpham) and Mrs Hall (Pagham).

Officers: Monique Smart, Democratic Services Officer (WSCC), Ben Whiffin, Principal Community Officer (WSCC) and Philippa Dart, Assistant Director (ADC).

**Chairman's Welcome**

87. Councillor Mr Wotherspoon welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that the Chairman had tendered his apologies for the meeting so as lead District Councillor, he would become Chairman and George Blampied as the lead County Councillor would become Vice Chairman for this meeting.

88. Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mr Oppler, Mrs Brown and Mr Peerman.

**Declarations of interest**

89. The following declarations of interest were declared:

- Councillors Mr Bence and Mr Dillon declare personal interests in Item 12 as Members of Bognor Yacht Club.

**Minutes**

90. Resolved that the minutes of the Joint Western Arun Area Committee (JWAAC) held on 12 November 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

**Progress Statement**

91. The Committee had before it a progress statement (copy appended to the signed minutes) that contained brief updates on matters arising from the last meeting. The following was discussed:

- Resolved that that this year's allocation from the New Homes Bonus be split evenly between the Parish and Town Councils of JWAAC.
- Community Projects Fund. It was agreed that this would be re-advertised on the Arun District Council website and links would be sent to parish Councils to encourage them to advertise it in Parish newsletters and on Parish websites.

### **'Talk with Us' Public Question Time**

92. The Chairman invited questions from members of the public present at the meeting. A number of questions were asked to which responses were given, including those set out below:

- The Chairman of Pagham Parish Council asked why Section 106 monies resulting from the demolition of the King's Haven Care Home facility, are proposed to be allocated outside of the Parish. He stated that when Pagham Parish Council produced its Parish Plan in 2004, it identified a severe deficiency of public recreational open space within the Parish and as a result purchased land adjacent the Village Hall in 2010. The emerging Neighbourhood Plan will almost certainly support the Council's intention to extend that purchase and provide for recreational facilities thereupon. *Philippa Dart replied by confirming that Arun District Council were awaiting the Parish Councils formal response to this proposal. She also explained that the decision regarding this expenditure was one for JWAAC and that it was expected that a report will be put forward to the next meeting in June.*
- The Chairman of Pagham Parish Council also asked for support from Members at District and County level to press the Environment Agency to act with some measure of urgency to deal with the serious deterioration of the inner harbour flood banks. This threatens the inland part of the Parish from the Parish Church to Pagham Road and beyond. It includes approximately 100 dwellings and a significant part of the Haven Holidays site. *All members stated full support and the Chairman resolved to write to the Environment Agency in support.*
- Mrs Aubrey Jones from Felpham raised concern about the state of the roads in Limmer Lane, Upper Bognor Road and Felpham Road. She also asked if the County Council would consider 20mph speed limits on those roads. Ben Whiffin replied stating that Mr Blampied had also recently reported the poor state of those roads and he had requested that the planned resurfacing be bought forward to 2013/14. This would be known by the end of this month. With regard to the speed limits, Ben Whiffin confirmed that he was in discussion with the Parish Council and the local County Councillor regarding the possibility of 20mph speed limits.
- Mr Jones thanked the Committee for the recent Community Initiative Fund for the Jeneses Arts Centre. He asked if the committee would consider using the venue for a future meeting. It was agreed that Mr Jones would liaise with Monique Smart to arrange this.

- Councillor Mr Harvey (Felpham) asked if the traffic island outside the new Sainsbury's could be extended to discourage people from making U turns. Ben Whiffin agreed to look into this.
- Steve Goodheart from Rox Music and Arts Festival said he had submitted an application for CIF to be considered at the next meeting. However he asked if Members would consider using any underspend on this year's CIF to consider bringing his application forward. Mr Blampied said Members would consider this at agenda item 12. He did also suggest that Rox apply to the Community Projects Fund. Mr Blampied also suggested that Rox should arrange a meeting with County and District to look at funding as the CIF was not really meant for on-going funding. Mrs Coleman also suggested they contact the Arts Council for funding.

### **Community Policing Issues**

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

- Crime incidents reported to the police for Bognor Regis have dropped more than any other area in Sussex.
- An increase of around six to nine thousand seasonal workers will continue to be monitored by Operation Ascent. The Police work with charities and agencies to reduce vulnerabilities and crime.
- The Police will also support a number of local events including Rox, Birdman and Rag race.
- Following a public question, Inspector Bowman confirmed that resources are shared across the County as well as with Surrey police.
- Mrs Coleman stressed the need for stability in communities and asked that any changes in PCSO's remain minimal.

### **West Sussex Flood Investigation Report**

94. The Chairman welcomed Stuart Smith and Kevin Macknay from West Sussex County Council and Brian Holland from Arun District Council, who provided an update following the publication of the report into the June 2012 Flooding and events since.

95. Stuart Smith introduced the item by reminding Members that the County Council had the responsibility, under the Flood and Water Management Act, to coordinate the work and response from all agencies with regard to drainage. He went on to explain that since June a multi-agency group had been established to look at what happened and to establish the roles and links between agencies.

96. With regard to local issues within the JWAAC area, Mr Smith confirmed that some key area of work have included establishing responsibilities for infrastructure but that there were still a number of unknown riparian issues. Some areas of neglect or unknown responsibility have been single households, some large land owners. Mr Smith also confirmed that the County Council and the Environment Agency were looking at standards of maintenance

97. Work was also underway with Parish Councils and other local groups to establish flood groups. In addition to this national funding was being applied for to assist with works. Mr Smith also referred to Operation Watershed that included a fund to assist with flooding related issues. This included specific sites as well as roads that had suffered as a result of the poor weather.

98. The Chairman then opened the meeting to questions from the Committee and the public. A number of issues were discussed including those set out below:

- Mr Smith referred to the Lidsey Catchment Surface Water Management Plan and stated that it was hoped to implement plans within the next 12 to 24 months. Mr Macknay also confirmed that alongside Lidsey they were looking at the capacity of all rifes.
- A29 Shripney Road. A scheme was being worked on to deal with problems, this included upgrading pipework.
- A resident of Yapton Road, Middleton, which flooded in June, stated that a pipe below the A259 had been sealed and he asked if it could be reinstated. Mr Smith confirmed that the pipe was redundant. He also confirmed that Worms Lane had no drainage however there was no risk to property if this flooded. Mr Smith confirmed that if it flooded onto the A259 then action would be taken to remove that water. Improvements to this junction would take place once the new junction configuration was known.
- Councillor Mr Graham Matthews questions if any of the £8million for Operation Watershed included Felpham or Bersted. Mr Smith confirmed that most of Felpham issues are Southern Water and are included in their plan of works. In Bersted it was a combination of Southern Water and the Environment Agency. Mr Simon McDougall questioned if improvements to the Bersted pumping station were included in the Southern Water capital programme. He stated that the Parish Council and local MP Nick Gibb would be writing to Southern Water to seek clarification. Mr Brian Holland confirmed that Southern Water had told him it was in their capital programme.
- Mr Blampied asked if Mr Smith could clarify what funds were available for local communities. Mr Smith confirmed that he was working on a communications plan to inform local communities what all the authorities are doing and responsible for. Mr Blampied used an example of some local residents wanting financial help with clearing ditches. Mr Smith confirmed that he was aware of the case Mr Blampied referred to and that the County Council was assisting with skips for removal of the soil but that it was for the local residents/owners of the land to fund the digging and clearing. Mr Smith explained that the fund could not accommodate all riparian issues across the County.
- Jackie Pendleton a resident of Middleton on Sea Southdean Estate stated she was grateful for the remedial work that had recently taken place but she stated this was a sticking plaster on a bigger problem. She asked if a plan was in place for full replacement. Mr Smith replied stating that there was not a quick answer for Middleton but there was a robust plan in place to address the issues.
- Mr Smith confirmed that Bersted Community Group would benefit from some of the Operation Watershed funds.

- Councillor Mr Dillon questioned why such a small pipe was being installed in Hook Lane, Rose Green. Mr Macknay agreed to look into this.
- Members requested details of riparian ownership and rights and the works needed and already progressed. Mr Smith agreed to provide this information for the next meeting.
- Mr Ted Brodie submitted a detailed written question regarding new housing and flooding issues in Pagham. It was agreed to provide Mr Brodie with a written response to his question.

### **Highways and Transport Sub Group**

99. The Chairman referred Members to the previously circulated papers in relation to the last meeting of the Highways and Transport Sub Group. Members noted the minutes.

### **Traffic Regulation Order Priorities**

100. The Committee considered a report by the Director for Communities Commissioning and Head of Highways and Transport, West Sussex County Council (copy appended to the signed minutes). Ben Whiffin introduced the report and asked the County Council Members of the Committee to approve the top three Traffic Regulation Orders for the CLC area to commence delivery in 2013/14.

101. Resolved that the County Council Members (CLC) of the Joint Western Arun Area Committee approved the priority order for implementing Traffic Regulation Orders within the area with the top three priorities as:

1. JWA1015 Middleton Road, Middleton and JWA1011 Andrew Avenue, Felpham (can be progressed together as with half a mile)– Waiting restrictions
2. JWA1007 South Way, Bersted – Waiting restrictions
3. JWA1016 Pagham Road, Pagham – Waiting restrictions

### **Proposed Signalled Controlled Pedestrian Crossing, Hawthorn Road, Bognor Regis.**

102. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Service Operations and Head of Highways and Transport, West Sussex County Council (copy appended to the signed minutes). Ben Whiffin introduced the report and asked the County Council Members of the Committee to consider the objections and agree the recommendation as listed in the report.

103. Resolved that the County Councillors of the Joint Western Area Committee having considered the benefits of the proposed crossing in light of the objections received, gave approval for the installation of the Signal Controlled Pedestrian Crossing on Hawthorn Road, Bognor Regis as advertised.

### **Community Initiative Funding**

104. The Committee 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 application received under the Community Initiative Funding (CIF) scheme

105. Mr Wells raised concern about the application for £5000 towards a new organ for Felpham Church. He stated that the information provided by the applicant appeared to show a large amount of reserve funds. Mr Blampied, the local member, confirmed that the reserves were not available to access as they are invested and the profits of the investments are used for running the Church. Mrs Coleman asked if the organ could be used by the wider community. Mr Blampied confirmed that it is used by wider community and would continue to be available, under supervision. Mr Wells and Mr McDougall asked for it to be noted that they did not support the application for £5000 to Felpham Church. The other County Councillors present did support it.

106. Resolved that the County Councillors of the Joint Western Area Committee approve the following applications for funding:

**1998/JWAAC**, St Mary's Church, £5,000, towards a new organ.

**2002/JWAAC**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Pagham & Aldwick Guides, £650, towards a Guide International Camp at Ardingly.

**2004/JWAAC**, Bognor Vineyard Church, £1,500, towards hot Friday meals.

**2026/JWAAC**, Bognor Regis Yacht Club, £1,500, towards a Topper for sailing school.

**2027/JWAAC**, Felpham Village Hall, £2,000, towards replacement chairs.

107. The County Council Members also agreed to set aside £2000 to allow the Rox Music and Arts Festival and The Bognor Birdman to submit applications before the end of March. It was agreed the Chairman would consider these applications under the 'Urgent Action' procedure.

108. The County Council Members also agreed to allocate the remaining funds of £612.00 to Bognor Food Bank. In the event that the applications from Rox Music and Arts or the Bognor Birdman were not received or not successful, any other remaining funds would also be allocated to Bognor Food Bank.

### **Appointment of Authority Governors**

109. The Committee considered a report by Head of Learning, 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.

109. Resolved that the County Councillors of the meeting agreed the following appointments and re-appointments of Authority School Governor:

Appointments:

Mr Colin Powell to Nyewood Junior School for a 4 year term  
Mrs J Budge to Laburnum Grove Junior School for a 4 year term

Re-appointment:

Mr D Lind to Bishop Tufnell CE Junior School for a 4 year term

110. Mr Wells left the meeting at 8.40pm.

### **Items to be raised by Town and Parish Council representatives.**

111. The Chairman invited questions from Town and Parish representatives on the Committee. A number of questions were asked to which responses were given, including those set out below.

- Bersted Parish Council raised concern about the Boundary Commissions proposals and how this would affect the Parishes. Many parishes are in the process of producing Neighbourhood Plans and if boundaries are likely to change this would affect such plans. It was agreed that Philippa Dart would raise concern with the Boundary Commission.
- Dawn Hall asked if the new Homes Bonus moneys from last year had been received by the Parishes. Philippa dart agreed to look into this.

### **Items for Future Meetings**

112. It was agreed to add Arun Local Plan as a future agenda item.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

113. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Wednesday 19 June 2013. Members wishing to place an item on the agenda should notify Monique Smart via e-mail:

[Monique.smart@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Monique.smart@westsussex.gov.uk) or on (033022) 22540.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm