

**Joint Western Arun Area Committee**

12 September 2012– At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 p.m. at The Arena Sports Centre

Present:

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

Arun District Council: Councillors Mrs Brown, Mr English, Mr Bence, Mr Wotherspoon, Mr Cunard, Mr Edwards, and Mr Patel.

Town/Parish Council representatives: Councillors Dr Poland (Aldwick), Mr Dillon (Bognor Regis), Mr Hastings (Bersted) , Mrs Phillips (Middleton on Sea).

Officers: Monique Smart, Democratic Services Officer (WSCC), Ben Whiffin, Principle Community Officer (WSCC), Stuart Smith, Highways Commissioning Manager (WSCC), Roger Spencer, Principal Engineer (ADC) and Nigel Lynn, Chief Executive (ADC).

**Chairman's Welcome**

36. Mr George Blampied explained that the Chairman had tendered his apologies for the meeting so as Vice Chairman, Mr Blampied would Chair the meeting. As the lead District Councillor, Councillor Mr Wotherspoon would become Vice Chairman.

37. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting including a new Member of the committee, Councillor Mr Hastings for Bersted Parish Council.

38. Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mr Peerman, Mr Coleman, Mrs Coleman and Mrs Hall.

**Declarations of interest**

39. The following declarations of interest were declared:

- Councillor Mr Dillon in relation to minute 20 Bognor Community Action Network.
- Mr Oppler in relation to Item 11, CIF application from Big Love. Mr Oppler stated that his company had made an introduction to provide office furniture to Big Love. Mr Oppler stated he would take no part in that decision and leave the room when discussed.

**Minutes**

40. Resolved that the minutes of the Joint Western Arun Area Committee (JWAAC) held on 30 May 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

41. Councillor Mr Dillon and Mr Oppler asked if the Bognor Community Action Network grant application could be reconsidered. Monique Smart, Democratic Services Officer, explained that an email had been sent explaining that the

Prevention and Wellbeing grant process is an annual process and as it was rejected it could not be reconsidered this year. They could apply next year or via the Community initiative Fund.

## **Progress Statement**

42. 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. A number of questions were asked to which responses were given, including those set out below:

- **Roadside Vehicle Sales.** Ben Whiffin, Principle Community Officer, confirmed that the pilot was now live across Arun. He stated that five vehicles had received notices in the JWAAC area but as yet no enforcement had been needed. Members welcomed this progress. Ben confirmed that a database of vehicles was being kept to ensure that cars do not simply move from one location to another.
- **Land for Allotments.** Ben Whiffin confirmed that this would be discussed further at the next Highways & Transport (H&T) sub group.

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

43. 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:

- A number of residents from Fish Lane, Aldwick, attended the meeting and asked if weight restrictions or slow signs could be considered to reduce the traffic problems, speeding vehicles and dangerous driving in Fish Lane. It was confirmed that this had been discussed at numerous H&T Sub Group meetings and suggested a Traffic Regulation Orders to restrict parking. It was agreed that the H&T Sub Group could also consider weight restrictions. Ben Whiffin did add that some 'think 30' signs could be considered. The TRO process was explained to residents in particular that the solution could take some time.
- A local resident asked about the new street lighting contract and whether white lighting would be installed on B roads. Mr Stuart Smith, Highways Commissioning Manager, confirmed that all new lighting would be white.
- Mr Mike Harvey from Felpham Village Conservation Society asked when the 'welcome to Felpham' sign would be installed. He was previously informed that it had been ordered in December 2010. Ben Whiffin stated that he was in the process of chasing this up. Mr Oppler also asked Ben Whiffin to chase the 'Not suitable for HGV' signs for Orchard Way.
- The results of the Bognor Regis parking review would be known in October. Mr Oppler confirmed that the area around the university was being dealt with separately as the University would be providing £80k worth of funding, equivalent to paying for resident parking for 6 years.
- Mr Barry Jones asked about a 'No Ball Games' sign that he requested for the side of his property, which was an Arun District Council car park. He was disappointed that the sign put up is actually for the car park and was now more of an issue as a sign was being used for ball games. Nigel Lynn, Chief Executive Arun District Council, agreed to look into this.

- Mr Nick Stuart-Nicolson asked 4 separate questions. The first was in relation to the road layout near the new Sainsburys. Ben Whiffin explained that there was a dedicated filter lane with phased lights. The second question was about a 'No Through Road' sign at Rowan Way/North Bersted Street junction. Again Ben Whiffin explained that a sign was now in place. Mr Stuart Nicolson other questions related to car parking signage for Fitzleet car park and a grant for improvements to Picturedrome. Mr Nigel Lynn agreed to take these issues forward.

## **Community Policing Issues**

44. 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:

- Sussex Police were actively involved in the supporting the London Olympics.
- Reduction in crime by 11.8%, 251 crimes down on this time last year.
- Significant successful drugs raids.
- Operation Ascent has resulted in a number of arrests and 4 people are currently on remand for significant offences. In partnership with the UK Border Agency, 17 Eastern Europeans have been repatriated.
- Members congratulated Inspector Bowman on the success of operation Ascent but stated that a new problem had emerged with regard to street drinkers around the railway station. Inspector Bowman stated he was working with the Transport Police to address this issue.

## **Flooding**

45. The Chairman referred Members to the information pack contained in the agenda and introduced Stuart Smith, Highways Commissioning Manager, West Sussex County Council and Roger Spencer, Principal Engineer, Arun District Council.

46. Stuart Smith introduced the item by providing an overview of events following the flooding on June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. He explained 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. This started with information gathering via Parish Councils and then looking into identified problems in more detail. A detailed report was expected in October or November. Stuart Smith asked any Parish Councils who had not contacted him to do so with any issues to be investigated.

47. 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:

- Riparian ownership was discussed and members asked how home owners were being notified of responsibility. Stuart Smith stated that this was not always simple as some areas owners are not known or it is mixed responsibility. This was an area being covered in the work being carried out.
- Members believed that the local pump station had failed and needed replacing.

- Some Members asked if phone numbers could be advertised for Members to obtain sandbags. Stuart Smith informed that the County Council policy was not to provide sandbags. Councillor Mr Cunard stated that the Town Council was looking into purchasing self-expanding sandbags to sell to residents.
- Councillor Mr Bence referred to a rat infestation in Middleton and asked if Arun District Council could assist. Nigel Lynn confirmed that pest control services were available from the Council.
- Members stated that the rife had not been cleared for some years by the Environment Agency and asked if this could be addressed.
- There was also a suggestion that an outlet gate was blocked as at the start of the floods it was not a high tide but no water was being released onto the beach.
- A resident asked about new developments and how they must be affecting drainage. Roger Spencer explained that any new developments of two or more properties must include sustainable urban drainage systems; run-off from the site is dealt would not be allowed to be greater than 'green field' conditions.
- Stuart Smith confirmed that funding was available to assist implementing new legislation. He also confirmed that the County Council had no additional power to enforce.
- A Middleton resident stated he had contacted the EA about the Ryebank Rife and they had confirmed it had been cleared and the issue was inadequate road drainage. Stuart Smith agreed to pursue this matter.
- A local resident stated that drains in the town centre used to be cleaned but he has not seen this happen for the last 3 years. Stuart Smith confirmed that the new contract was to do this routinely half yearly. He also stated that very few gullies in the flooded areas were blocked.

### **Appointment of Authority School Governors**

48. The Committee considered a report by Director of Operations Learning (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.

49. Resolved that the following be appointed as School Governor:

- Ms S Fisher to Bartons Infant School for a 4 Year Term.

### **Community Initiative Funding**

50. The Committee considered a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (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

51. Resolved:

- i) To approve the following applications for funding:

- 1909/JWAAC, West Meads residents Association, £388.00, to enhance public gardens West Meads Precinct
  - 1935/JWAAC, £900 allocated for the project to supply '30mph' signage for the JWAAC area.
- ii) to defer the following application for funding:
- **1904/JWAAC**, The Big Love Association, £4,000, towards the purchase of leisure facilities, furniture, stationery, washing and shower facilities and computers. Deferred until the next meeting pending further information about the organisation.

### **Community Projects Fund**

52. The Committee considered a report by the Assistant Director, environmental Services, Arun District Council (copy appended to the signed minutes), which sought a decision from the Committee on the application received under the Community Projects Fund.

53. Councillor Mr Cunard abstained from voting.

54. Resolved:

- i) To approve the following applications for funding:
- Middleton & Elmer Youth Project - £725 to provide a storage facility for youth club equipment.
  - Georgian Heritage Trail - £900 to provide a guide and map to a walking trail in Bognor Regis, with an emphasis on the Georgian Heritage of the town.
  - Regis Centre Upgrade of Studio room -£1,000 to provide a performance space for smaller theatre production in order to encourage participation by groups who are unable to afford the main stage

### **Highways and Transport Items**

55. The Chairman referred Members to the previously circulated papers in relation to the last meeting of the Highways and Transport Sub group, the Bognor Regis High Street Improvement meeting and the Infrastructure Plan Progress Report. A number of questions were raised in relation to these and also general Highway issues. These included:

- Mr McDougall asked if the Nyewood Crossing could be considered of paramount importance.
- Councillor Mr Edwards asked if the paving near Greggs and Burtons and also the alley near the dentist could be looked at. Ben Whiffin agreed to do so.

### **Items for Future Meetings**

56. The list of items was noted.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

57. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Wednesday 21 November at the Rowland Rank Centre. 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 (01243) 752730.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm