

## **Joint Western Arun Area Committee**

21<sup>st</sup> September 2011 – 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. Wells, and Mr. McDougall.

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

Town/Parish Council representatives: Councillors Mrs Phillips (Middleton-on-Sea), Mr. Knight (Bersted), Dr Pollard (Aldwick) and Mrs Kissell (Felpham),

### **Chairman's Welcome**

32. Mr Blampied opened the meeting and explained that both the Chairman and the Vice Chairman were absent and that as the elected lead County Councillor for JWAAC he was happy to chair the meeting tonight. This was agreed.

33. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He welcomed Ben Whiffin, the new Principal Community Highways Officer, and explained that his new role was slightly different from that previously provided by Tracey Webb.

34. Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mr Wotherspoon, Mr Blackburn, Mr Dillon and Mr Peerman.

### **Declarations of interest**

35. None

### **Minutes**

36. Resolved that the minutes of the Joint Western Arun Area Committee (JWAAC) held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2011 and the minutes of the special Adults Services grants meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

### **Progress Statement**

37. 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 confirmed that a new lead officer had been assigned and she was actively working to progress this and was confident that a contract would be in place before the New Year. Members expressed dissatisfaction about the amount of time this was taking to get

resolved. Mr Coleman undertook to raise the issue with the relevant Director at County Hall.

- New Homes Bonus. Kevin Basford confirmed that the majority of Parish and Town Council had responded and it was now for the Parishes to confirm a host council and move the group forward.
- TWU question Mr Coster. Mr Coster stated that his question to JWAAC on 29/06/11 was not the same as that to ADC Full Meeting. Mr Coster therefore requested a response to his previous question to JWAAC. Mr Kevin Basford undertook to arrange this.
- TWU Question Ms Goodman. Requested a response to her question regarding The Regis School building works. *Post meeting note – Ms Goodman provided the full question to Monique Smart who will arrange with Ben Whiffin for a full response to sent.*

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

38. 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:

- Mike Belman on behalf of Pagham Parish Council firstly apologies that due to the pressure of other meetings, Pagham had no representative at JWAAC this evening. Mr Belman also asked it to be noted that Pagham Parish Council wish to record thanks for JWAAC's support in fighting against the possible Marine Conservation Zone.
- Representatives from of Pagham Yacht Club feed back that they were pleased with the unanimous support which JWAAC had pledged at its 29th June meeting, to support the fight against Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) locally. They were then very disappointed to find in the minutes from Balanced Seas, that on July 7th officers from both WSCC and ADC met with other agencies, including the RSPB, EA, and NE, to draw up a boundary for a proposed MCZ Reference Area at Pagham Harbour. They asked if there was an agenda to designate a Coastal Change Management Area (CCMA), under PPS 25 (planning guidance) for Pagham, thereby writing Pagham off, to allow parts of it to disappear in "X" no. of years. They also ask if there was an intention to bring in such a measure whereby development would stop in the CCMA, and existing uses would be encouraged to migrate inland (for example, a new development at Chalcroft Lane)? Mr Basford undertook to provide a written reply.
- Mr Coster referred to some online consultations he had become aware of on the WSCC Website. He stated that he was not aware of any community groups being consulted on these and therefore questioned their usefulness. The consultations were regarding The Big Society and a National Highways and Transport Network Public Satisfaction Survey. In both instances Mr Coster requested to know the number of responses received. Monique Smart undertook to send this information to Mr Coster.
- A representative from Bognor Birdman reminded Members that the event had been rescheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> October and thanked Members for the Community Initiative Fund (CIF) received.
- A representative from the Rox Festival again thanked the Members for CIF and reported on a successful event. He stated that funds will be even

more critical next year and asked Members to view there next CIF application favourably.

### **Community Policing Issues**

39. The Chairman welcomed Chief Inspector Jane Derrick and also Inspector Gavin Whitehouse, who provided an update on crime statistics and current issues in the JWAAC area. A number of issues were discussed including those set out below:

- Chief Inspector Derrick reassured members that local issues and cover was not affected by Sussex Police Officers being sent to London to cover the recent unrest.
- Confirmed that the new West Sussex Division had been effective for 6 months and the new model of policing was working well with response times being met.
- Confirmed that 2 PCSO's will be working with secondary schools.
- A meeting with Butlins confirmed that they are willing to sponsor local initiatives.
- Milk theft is increasing and Chief Inspector Derrick urged anyone with any information to contact her.
- Mr Wells asked if the statistics for Hotham could show Butlins statistics as separate. Inspector Whitehouse stated that this could not be done on a continuing basis but would arrange for this for a 3 month period.

40. Chief Inspector Derrick urged any Councillors or members of the public to report incidents as they occur and to contact her or one of her team with any problems or issues as they arise.

### **West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service – Proposed Merger**

41. Lee Neale, Assistant County Fire Officer, West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (WSFRS), gave a presentation on the proposed WSFRS merger with East Sussex Fire Authority. The following key points/issues raised are noted below:

- Mr Neale confirmed that no fire station closures would take place as part of the merger.
- Concern was raised that this would mean a separate line on West Sussex Council tax bills and that could result in a higher bill. Mr Neale confirmed that this was currently being worked through but could not be confirmed yet.
- Loss of local knowledge. Mr Neale confirmed that the technology was of a standard to ensure that calls would be attended across both East and West Sussex. He also confirmed that the District structure currently used by West Sussex F&RS would continue.
- Mr Neale confirmed that replacing uniform badges and equipment with a new logo would only be done as uniforms and equipment needed replacing.
- Mr Neale also confirmed that all equipment and radios were compatible.
- Members asked if Unions support the merger. Mr Neale stated that he was aware that West Sussex Unions could see this as a good option.

## **Bognor Regis Parking Review**

42. The Committee received a verbal update from Miles Davy, CPZ Lead Professional, regarding a review of parking in Bognor Regis. Mr Davy explained that the first part of the review involved the current Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) that had been in existence for some 20 years. The County Council would examine how residents felt this was working and whether any changes need to be made to it. The second stage would be to look at other areas where concerns have previously been raised about parking issues. Mr Davy explained that this would initially involve parking surveys to look at traffic movement in the areas. The in early 2012 there would be a full and public consultation with letter drops to households and businesses in the areas concerned. Mr Davy emphasised that the review was not a proposal for a new CPZ. Any proposals would come out as a result of the consultation.

43. Members raised a number of concerns and issues about the review including those set out below:

- Mr Davy confirmed he would be consulting with Parish Councils
- Members stated that they had not been fully consulted on the proposals and could confirm that local residents do not want a further CPZ.
- Many Members raised concern about the cost of the review and suggested that money could be better spent elsewhere.
- Concern was raised that CPZ are a tax on local people with no guarantee of a parking space.
- One Member raised concern that on street parking is used for traffic calming purposes.
- Mr Davy confirmed that CPZ's do not raise money for local authorities and the cost charged to residents is then spent on administration and enforcement.

44. A proposal was made to halt the review and for Mr Davy to come back to the next H&T sub group to discuss in more detail. A full Committee vote was taken and 100% of Members agreed the proposal.

## **Priorities for Traffic Regulation Orders**

45. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Communities and Infrastructure (copy appended to signed minutes). The report sought the Committee's input and approval for the list of local TRO priorities. Mr Coleman explained that the Highways and Transport Sub group had gone through the list for the JWAAC area and recommended the top three on the list for progression.

46. Resolved that the County Council Members of the Joint Western Arun Area Committee approved the priority order for implementing Traffic Regulation Orders within the area and the top three where agreed as set out below:

- 1 Elmer Road, Middleton on Sea – Waiting restrictions
- 2 Belmont Street, Bognor Regis – Loading Restrictions
- 3 Orchard Way, Bognor Regis – HGV Restriction

## **Highways and Transport Sub Group**

47. The Chairman referred Members to the previously circulated minutes of the last meeting of the Highways and Transport sub group. A number of questions were raised in relation to items on the minutes and also general Highway issues. These included:

- Councillor Mr Bence raised concern that Fish Lane, Aldwick would not be progressed as a TRO this year as it was number 4 on the TRO priority list. Mr Coleman echoed Mr Bence concerns but explained that each County local committee could progress only 3 TROs a year. However there is an option for further TRO's to be progressed if alternative funding could be found. Mr Coleman said this could be explored with Parish Councils or possibly with the use of CIF.
- Councillor Mr Bence also raised concern about the entrance to Maywood Health centre. It was suggested he discuss it with the Local County Councillor, Mr McDougall in the first instance.
- Mr Coster asked if the edge lighting on the cycle lane of the A259 had been installed. Mr Whiffin stated that his had not been done and would find out when this was planned and report back to Mr Coster.
- Concern about a number of road surfaces. Mr Whiffin explained that a forward programme was in place as was a system of inspections and work would be carried out on a priority basis. It was agreed that Mr Whiffin would send a list of future works to be undertaken and if necessary this could be discussed at the next meeting.

## **Appointment of 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 re-appointed as School Governor:

- Mrs. M Cormell to St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Bognor Regis for a term of 4 years.

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

50. None

## **Items for Future Meetings**

51. The following issues were agreed to be added as future agenda items:

- An update/briefing note on Adult Services
- Health Issues/NHS Update
- Infrastructure Planning
- Bognor Regis Parking Review

### **Date of Next Meeting**

52. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2011 at a venue to be confirmed. 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.

53. Members were also asked to note the agreed future meeting dates:

22nd February 2012

The meeting closed at 9.15pm