

Agenda item 3

Joint Western Arun Area Committee

27 November 2013– 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 Oppler, Mr Patel, Mrs Rapnik (Chairman), Mrs Philips and Mr Sutcliffe

Arun District Council: Councillors Mr English, Mr Evans, Mr L Brown, Mrs Warr and Mr Edwards

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

Officers: Philippa Dart, Assistant Director (ACD) Monique Smart, Democratic Services Officer (WSCC) and Greg Merrett, Principal Community Officer (WSCC).

Chairman's Welcome

66. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

67. Apologies had been received from Councillors Mr Jones, Mr Bence, Mr Wotherspoon, Mrs G Brown, Mr Cunard and Mrs Pendleton.

Declarations of Interest

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

- Councillor Mr Wells as mayor of Bognor Regis in support of the Bognor Pier Trust Community Initiative Funding (CIF) application.

Minutes

69. Resolved –that the minutes of the Joint Western Arun Area Committee (JWAAC) held on 25 September 2013 are confirmed as a correct record and that they are signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

70. The Chairman stated that two additional Authority Governor applications had been received for Bishop Tufnell Infant School and she had agreed that County Councillors would consider them alongside the other applications at agenda item 12.

Progress Statement

71. The Committee had before it a progress statement on matters arising from the previous meeting (copy appended to the signed minutes). Members noted the statement.

Talk with us – public question time

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

- A local resident Ms Cuppleditch asked for Councillors to offer their views on the future potential of renewable energy supplies and renewable energy cooperatives in West Sussex? *The Chairman thanked Ms Cuppleditch for her question and for the information she had sent in advance. The Chairman stated that her discussions with various Councillors suggest that generally they are in support of such schemes. Principal Community Officer, Greg Merrett added that the County Council have just finished a renewable energy study that identifies different technologies and their potential use in West Sussex. Several areas of the County are already looking at this for example Crawley and Horsham are working on the business case for combined heat and power plants. Also the Sussex Energy Saving Partnership have now procured Carillion to work with the Council on energy efficiency schemes. We are also looking at large scale photo-voltaic arrays, where possible, which could be roof mounted or ground mounted. Finally we have been talking to District Councils about opportunities on their social housing. Philippa Dart from Arun District Council also added that more than 150 solar panels have been installed on the roof of Arun's Civic Centre.*
- Jan Cosgrove asked the Committee to note the reductions to Youth Services across the County and the effects these are having on local young people. Mr Cosgrove also stated that he was disappointed that West Sussex County council had not consulted the young people on any recent changes. *The Chairman noted Mr Cosgrove's comments. Councillor Mr English stated that Felpham Parish Council consulted young people about youth services via the Neighbourhood Plan and felt this was important for Parish Councils to do.*
- The Deputy Chairman of Bognor Regis Civic Society asked if West Sussex County Council could explain what evidence is available to explain how the London Road public realm scheme fulfils the objectives of kickstart. *The Principal Community Officer agreed to arrange for a response for Mr Coster.*
- A resident of Pagham asked for Members support in getting work on the Pagham Rock revetment finished. *The Chairman agreed to write to the Marine Management organisation in support of this.*

Community Policing Update

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

- Overall crime is down 8.9% in the Bognor area compared to this time last year.
- Shopwatch is progressing in partnership with retailers.
- A night shelter in Bognor is now up and running with the aim to reduce rough sleeping. The Police are aware of the problem of street drinking and advice and guidance is being made available at shelters to try and reduce this.

- With regard to street drinking in the vicinity of the railway station, a joint project with British Transport Police will be undertaken within the next few weeks.
- Operation Tinsel is being planned for the Christmas period to deter shoplifters.

Arun District Local Plan

74. The Chairman welcomed Karl Roberts, Assistant Director Planning and Economic Regeneration, Arun District Council to provide a powerpoint presentation, appended to the minutes, on the progress to date on the Arun Local Plan.

75. Mr Roberts explained that Arun District Council is in the process of preparing its new Local Plan that will shape and guide development and the protection of the natural, built and community resources. The document will guide development and be the official blueprint for the district.

76. Following the presentation a number of issues were discussed including those set out below:

- It was noted that the agreed allocation was a minimum number.
- The issue of land banking, where developers buy land but do not develop it, was raised by Members. Mr Roberts stated that he has attended a meeting with the Leader of Arun District Council and the Planning Minister and this very issue was raised as a concern.

Bognor Regis Regeneration

77. The Chairman welcomed Karl Roberts, Assistant Director Planning and Economic Regeneration, Arun District Council to provide a powerpoint presentation, appended to the minutes, about Bognor Regis Regeneration.

78. Mr Roberts explained that regeneration was a very broad topic area. He went on to detail some areas of regeneration including Butlins, The Regis Academy, a Learning Resource Centre at the University, site 6, Sainsburys and the relief road. In the future an improved Morrisons would also provide additional investment and the café at Hotham Park and the London Road Public Realm Scheme were both moving forward. He added that the St Modwen scheme was still subject to further discussion with the developers but initial plans showed a raised decked area, restaurants, residential, retail and a cinema with car parking under the decked area.

79. Mr Roberts went on to address questions asked during Talk with Us. The first was about investment in the Theatre. Mr Roberts stated that investment would depend on the financial outcomes of the St Modwen scheme and the Hothampton sites. More detail should be known in about six months. The second question was in relation to the proposed water sports centre. Mr Roberts explained that further discussions with Butlins would take place in the New Year but at present they were not in a position to move forward with this project.

80. Finally Mr Roberts referred to the unsuccessful application for an Enterprise Zone around the old LEC site. However he stated that there was still a need to help facilitate industry and referred to a planning application for low key retail and industry at Oldhams Farm.

81. Following the presentation Members discussed a number of issues including those set out below:

- Councillor Mr English expressed concern that Felpham Parish Council had not been consulted on the Oldhams Farm plans and would have significant concerns about the traffic. Mr Roberts explained that in 2003 the Local Plan identified a route linking north and south but that how, when and if that road gets built is still subject to many factors. Mr Roberts agreed to clarify the current situation with Councillor English via email after the meeting.
- Flooding was discussed and concern was raised that any plans do not currently have to consult the Local lead Flood Authority (in this case West Sussex County Council). However both Mr Roberts and Mr Merrett confirmed that the Districts and Borough Councils have development relationships with the County Council.

Highways and Transport Sub Group

82. 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 Merrett confirmed that a letter would be sent to all Parishes requesting confirmation of their representative on the H&T sub group.
- Councillor Mr Wells referred to the state of the road surfaces in the town centre and requested that they need attention in the near future.
- The Chairman of the Sub group confirmed that she would include speed on Rowan Way on a future H&T agenda.

83. The Chairman referred Members to the revised terms of reference of the H&T sub group. It was resolved that the revised terms be agreed.

Community Initiative Funding

84. 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 applications received under the Community Initiative Funding (CIF) scheme.

85. Members felt that they needed more detailed information about the Bognor Regis Pier project and asked if they could have a presentation at the next meeting before making a decision. However they did state that £7000 of the application was for staffing costs and as this was against the CIF criteria that could not be considered.

86. With regard to the No 18 Project again Members stated they could not support the staffing elements of the application.

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

Approved:

133/JWAAC- Number 18 Project, £2810 granted for IT Equipment.

154/JWAAC - Regis Gymnastics, £980 granted or the cost of an Evo Floor to enable safer training.

Deferred:

166/JWAAC – Bognor Pier Trust, £10,000 requested towards set up costs for the organisation. Members felt that they did not have sufficient information about this project. Further information will be requested and the application, with the staffing element removed, would be reconsidered at the next meeting in February 2014.

Appointment of Authority Governors

88. The Committee considered a report by Director of Communities Commissioning, 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.

89. The County Councillors of the Committee agreed the following Authority School Governor:

Appointments

Mr Richard Greenwell to Laburnum Grove for a 4 year term

Mr Graham Jones to Felpham Community College for a 4 year term

Mr Graham Jones to Bishop Tufnell CE Infants School for a 4 year term

Re- appointment

Revd A Clarke to Bartons Infant School for a 4 year term

Items to be raised by Town and Parish Council representatives.

90. 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.

- Mr Merrett confirmed that speeding on Pevensey road had been discussed at a previous H&T sub group. He also confirmed that Frith Road was earmarked for some maintenance work in the next financial year and this could include signage. Mr Merrett also stated that he is working with local residents with regard to bin stickers about speed.

Items for Future Meetings

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

- Traffic regulation Orders – February 2013
- Bognor Regis Pier Presentation (for CIF application) – February 2013.

Date of Next Meeting

92. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Wednesday 26 February at a venue to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm