

## **Joint Western Arun Area Committee**

25 September 2013– At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 p.m. at Bishop Tufnell Junior School, Bognor Regis.

Present:

West Sussex County Council: Mr Oppler, Mr Patel, Mrs Rapnik (Chairman) Mr Jones and Mr Sutcliffe

Arun District Council: Councillors Mr English, Mr Bence, Mr Wotherspoon, Mr Cunard, Mr L Brown and Mrs G Brown

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

Officers: Philippa Dart, Assistant Director (ACD) Robin Davison, Principle Democratic Services Officer (WSSC), James Ironside, Democratic Services Officer (WSSC) and Greg Merrett, Principal Community Officer (WSSC).

### **Chairman's Welcome**

41. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting
42. Apologies had been received from Cllr Peerman and Mrs Philips.

### **Declarations of Interest**

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

Mrs Rapnik as a member of the Bognor Regis Civic Society in relation to the Highways and Transport Sub Group and the Bognor High Street Improvement Priority Plan.

Cllr Wells as a Business Owner on Bognor Regis High Street in relation to the Bognor Regis High Street Improvement Priority Plan.

### **Minutes**

44. The Committee considered and agreed an insertion to minute 25.
  - It was noted that there had been a number of induction sessions and informal briefings for all Members following the County Council elections, on County Council services, County and local issues, such as highway and transport in the Western Arun area. It was confirmed that no decisions were taken at these meetings.
45. Resolved –that subject to the insertion at minute 44, the minutes of the Joint Western Arun Area Committee (JWAAC) held on 19 June 2013 are confirmed as a correct record and that they are signed by the Chairman.

## Urgent Matters

46. None

## Progress Statement

47. 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

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

- Cllr Edwards asked a question about road safety on the A259 near the Oystercatcher pub. Cllr Edwards' suggestion was to make the junction a No Right Turn. There was already a filter lane for traffic wanting to turn left. – *The Chairman read a statement from the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport (copy appended to the signed minutes) which undertook to consider the implementation of a No Right Turn at the junction, provided this did not create unintended consequences at other locations.*
- Mr Green asked for confirmation as to who owned the land between Sun Park and Bedford Avenue in North Bersted. Mr Green had discovered Japanese knotweed and needed to know who was responsible for removal. – *The Principle Community Officer confirmed that the County Council's Boundary Inquiry Team was currently pursuing the issue of ownership. He cautioned that this was often a complex process as deeds frequently only focussed on County Council ownership and therefore may only indicate whether the land is privately owned, rather than providing details of the owners.*
- Mr Cooper for the Arun Network U3A Cycling group asked for possible funding options to progress a cycle lane between Hoe Lane, Flansham and Littlehampton. - *The Principle Community Officer stated that the County Council was currently investigating potential funding sources and identifying potential partners. Currently these included the West Sussex Cycle Forum and Sustrans and could also include the U3A Cycling Group. He recommended Mr Cooper contact Mrs Phillips, his local County Councillor, to progress this. Cllr Wotherspoon suggested that this issue be considered as a future agenda item for JWAAC.*
- Cllr Evans sought clarification regarding pollution data that Bognor Civic Society were claiming as a reason not to re-open the High Street to through traffic. - *The Chairman stated that this matter would be considered as part of the agenda item on Bognor High Street.*
- Mr Matthews asked who he should contact to raise safety issues regarding cycling on Felpham Promenade. –*Inspector Bowman stated that any action would be undertaken by the District Council and Sussex Police, with potential enforcement, if this was required. Cllr Wotherspoon agreed to look into the issue and provide Mr Matthews with a response on behalf of the District Council.*
- A representative from Brighter Bognor queried whether discussion of Bognor Regis High Street Improvement Priority Scheme should be deferred to a later

meeting, pending a District Council meeting regarding developer proposals for the regeneration of Bognor Regis. -*The Chairman stated that this matter would be considered as part of the agenda item on Bognor High Street.*

- Mr Brooks commented that that yellow light streetlamps had recently been installed at Longford Road, which gave a dull light and expressed a preference for white-light streetlamps to be installed at entrance roads to Bognor Regis.
- The Chairman of Pagham Parish Council highlighted the Parish Council's letter to the Committee at page 13 of the agenda and requested a response to the query regarding the application of the Coastal Change Management Area (CCMA) to Pagham. – *Cllr Brown confirmed that the CCMA would not apply within the life of the Local Plan.*
- The Deputy Chairman of Bognor Civic Society challenged the data obtained from a recent local survey of residents regarding a proposed multi-screen cinema, to which Cllr Mrs Brown responded that a written response could be provided if requested.

### **Community Policing**

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

- Inspector Bowman informed Members that the police were working to tackle the issue of street drinking in Bognor Regis. He stressed that the order did not represent a ban on public drinking; rather it required individuals to surrender alcohol when requested by the Police. He informed Members that Sussex Police had recruited a former Government Advisor on Street Drinking on a six-month contract to deal with this issue and Bognor Regis would be a pilot area.
- Inspector Bowman provided data (copy appended to signed minutes) and noted that overall crime continued to fall, with an 11.6% reduction in Bognor Regis.
- The Committee queried whether the rise in sexual offences represented an upward trend for Bognor. - *Inspector Bowman responded that data indicated that there was not a specific problem in Bognor and agreed to provide additional detail at a future meeting, if required.*
- Members queried whether there was a link between increases in violent crime and drugs in Middleton. - *Inspector Bowman stated that increases in drug reporting were positive, as this indicated that offenders were increasingly being caught. He acknowledged that whilst not statistically significant, any increase in crime was still of concern.*

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

49. The Chairman referred Members to the minutes of the last meeting of the Highways and Transport Sub Group (copy attached to the signed minutes).

50. Queries were raised regarding attendance at the Sub Group's last meeting and also regarding procedural matters at the meeting itself. The Chairman stated

that as Mrs Phillips, Chairman of the Sub Group, was not in attendance these issues would be raised with her at the next meeting of the Sub Group.

### **Infrastructure Plan Priorities**

51. The Committee received the report by the Director of Communities Commissioning, West Sussex County Council (copy appended to the signed minutes).

52. The Principle Community Officer explained that the Local Infrastructure Plan (IP) for the area had been developed over the last couple of years. It was established by identifying a number of local highway and transport improvement priorities and now included a Community Issues List of projects that showed local member and community support.

53. The Committee made comments, including those below.

- Cllr Bence thanked County Council Members for including Fish Lane as a priority
- Cllr Wells stated that he was pleased to see the priorities progressed.

54. The County Council Members of the Committee resolved:

1. That the inclusion of the new highways and transport priorities be approved as set out below:

- Fish Lane Speed Reduction/Traffic Calming
- Pedestrian crossing on Nyetimber Lane (near Pryors Lane junction)

2. That the current Community Issues List be noted (Appendix A).

3. That schemes in the Community Issues List be progressed if:

- (a) there is local member and community support and
- (b) either the County Council can deliver such schemes without detriment to the agreed priorities in the Infrastructure Plan (IP) or there is an alternative means of delivering them and where S.106 or alternative funding is available.

4. That progress with the IP priorities and any scheme developed in the Community Issues List be reported to the Committee at least annually.

### **Bognor Regis High Street Improvement Priority Scheme**

55. The Committee received the report by the Director of Communities Commissioning, West Sussex County Council (copy appended to the signed minutes).

56. The Principle Community Officer explained that Bognor Regis High Street Improvement was an approved Infrastructure Plan (IP) Priority from November 2012. Three option proposals to improve the existing operation of the High Street

were presented to the members of the JWAAC Highways & Transport (H&T) Sub Group for their consideration on 2 September 2013. At that Sub Group County Councillors agreed to recommend to progress option 3, to enhance the current arrangements of the High Street through better signage and improve the street scene.

57. Members of the Committee and the public commented on the options including, amongst other things:

- Regarding levels of pollution in the High Street, it was noted that, according to official data, since 1998 there had been no breaches of air quality in any part of the District.
- Cllr Mrs Brown expressed the view that the proposals under discussion were premature. This was owing to the future regeneration work in the town centre, which could have an impact on the area. She recommended deferring the decision, pending further consideration of the developer's proposals at a District Council meeting on 6 November 2013. – *Cllr Wells informed the meeting that the 6 November meeting would consider an extension of the developer's proposals, was not substantive and would therefore not have any bearing on the High Street proposals under discussion.*
- Cllr Bence informed Members that the District Council had recently committed £650k to enhancements of London Road and expressed concern regarding the potential impact of displaced commercial vehicles making deliveries to local shops. He stated that access for disabled drivers was also a concern and that issues regarding the water mains had come to light subsequent to the London Road enhancements would require careful consideration. Cllr Bence recommended deferring the decision, to allow further consideration of these issues.
- Mr Oppler supported progressing Option 3 and stated that Bognor Regis Town Council, The Chamber of Commerce and the Bognor Regis Civic Society were also supportive of the proposal.

58. The County Council Members of the Committee resolved that:

- 1) Option 3 (to maintain the existing arrangements and improve their efficiency) should be progressed.
- 2) That the H&T Sub Group consider further the merits of progressing a 20mph proposal that complements option 3.

### **Community Initiative Funding**

59. 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.

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

**87/JWAAC** Samaritans Bognor Regis, Chichester and District Branch, requested £450, towards Connect - Purchase of new communication equipment. **£450 agreed.**

**130/JWAAC** Jeneses, requested £2000, towards new lighting in the Rex hall.  
**£1000 agreed**

### **Appointment of Authority Governors**

61. 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.

62. The County Councillors on the Committee agreed the following Authority School Governor:

Mr B J Mack to Rose Green Junior School for a 4 year term

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

63. 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.

- Cllr Wells requested that free on-street parking in Bognor Regis be considered at the next meeting of the Highways and Transport sub-group. - *The Principle Community Officer agreed to discuss this with the Sub-Group Chairman.*

### **Items for Future Meetings**

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

- Arun Local Plan – November
- Bognor Regis Regeneration Update - November

65. Mr Oppler requested that issues regarding the road-surface condition and left-hand parking in Station Road be added to the agenda of the next Highways and Transport Sub-Group meeting. - *The Principle Community Officer undertook to discuss this with the Sub-Group Chairman*

### **Date of Next Meeting**

65. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Wednesday 27 November 2013 at The Arena Sports Centre.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm