

Joint Western Arun Area Committee

29 October 2008 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 p.m. at Laburnum Centre, Bognor Regis.

Present:

West Sussex County Council: Mr. George Blampied, Mr. Robin Brown, Mr. Mike Coleman, Mrs. Christina Freeman, Mr. Simon McDougall, and Mr. Francis Oppler.
Arun District Council: Councillor Trevor Bence, Councillor Leonard Brown, Councillor Mrs. Gillian Brown, Councillor Paul English, Councillor Paul Wells and Councillor Paul Wotherspoon.

Town/Parish Council representatives: Councillor Mr. Matthew Copeland (Middleton-on-Sea), Councillor Mrs. Jennifer Gillibrand (Bognor Regis), Councillor Mrs. Dawn Hall (Pagham), Councillor Mr. Brian Knight (Bersted), Councillor Mr. Dennis Peerman (Felpham), and Councillor Mrs. Carol Wiseman (Aldwick)

Apologies:

Nigel Croad (Arun Resources Director), Councillor Mrs. Ann Smee (Arun District Council) and Kieran Stigant (West Sussex Executive Director Customers and Communities).

In attendance:

West Sussex County Council: Clare Gardiner (Locality Manager), Matt Hall (Locality Officer), David Lambert (S106 Projects Officer) and Tracey Webb (Highways and Transport Area Manager).

Arun District Council: Calvin Bayliss (Outdoor Services Manager), Alan Peach (Head of Finance), Roger Spencer (Principal Engineer – Coastal) and Daniel Vick (Team Leader – Development Compliance).

Sussex Police: Inspector Sharon Parker.

'Talk with us' - Public Question Time

103. The Committee was handed a letter with six written questions from Mr Gillespie to the Arun District Councillor Mr. Trevor Bence. The Chairman agreed that answers to the questions would be sought outside of the meeting and a response sent to Mr Gillespie directly.

104. Mrs Aubrey-Jones raised the issue of the visibility at the corner Summerley Lane and Limmer Lane. It was felt that the corrugated iron fencing surrounding the vacant land cleared for development was causing a hazard as drivers were unable to see approaching vehicles. It was noted that the fence was over 6ft and as such was subject to planning permission, which was due to expire in December 2009. There was uncertainty regarding whether the development was planned to commence in the near future and the Team Leader – Development Compliance agreed to investigate and report back to the Committee.

105. Mr Caplin raised the issue of double yellow lines in Hook Lane. It was commented that students parking in many roads around the college were causing problems and that the proposal to prohibit up to 20 parking spaces would make parking very difficult for residents. It was suggested that the College should have provision for student parking. It was noted that the double yellow lines at the tight parts of roads on the Glenwood estate had been requested by the bus company and

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emergency services, who had difficulty with access. It was suggested that a representative from the University was requested to attend the Highways and Transport Sub-Group to discuss the problems.

106. Mr Harris raised the issue of cars for sale parked at Chalcroft Lane. It was commented that trading of cars parked at the side of the road occurred at all hours of the day and night and was a significant disturbance to local residents. The Committee noted that Arun District Council Community Safety Team were working with the County Council to devolve powers to remove vehicles for sale on the road. The move required changes to Arun District Council's constitution and was due to be in place early in the new year.

107. Resolved – That:

(i) The Highways Manager responds to the letter from Mr Gillespie regarding speeding in 20 mph zones at Hawthorne Road.

(ii) The Highways Manager responds to the question raised by Mrs Aubrey-Jones regarding Summerley Lane / Limmer Lane.

(iii) Double yellow lines in the roads near to the University are discussed at the next Joint Western Arun Area Committee Highways and Transport Sub Group.

Declaration of Interests

108. In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, Mr. Simon McDougall declared a personal interest as a Governor at the Michael Ayres School (Item 15).

Minutes

109. Resolved – that the minutes of the Joint Western Arun Area Committee, held on 30 July 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising / Progress Statement

110. The Committee had before it a matters arising/progress statement from the previous meeting (copy appended to the signed minutes). Comment/queries were as follows:

- The Highways Manager informed members that consultation on a 20 mph limit on Longford Road had been undertaken. Sussex Police had expressed concern about achieving those speeds, given the current average speeds recorded. Plastic bollards, used as an interim measure to protect houses off Longford Road, were to be replaced with wooden bollards as and when they were damaged. Parking arrangements were also to be rearranged to help reduce the speed of traffic. Members were pleased with the measures taken and with the use of Casper speed cameras. It was requested that local members were notified of future consultations as early as possible to ensure that they could inform residents. It was asked whether the police enforce speed limits under 30 mph. Inspector Sharon Parker agreed to find out and report back.

Unconfirmed minutes – subject to approval/amendment at the next meeting of the Joint Western Arun Area Committee

- The Highways Manager informed the Committee that signs prohibiting the sale of cars in Chalcroft Lane had been produced. It was noted that 'plain English' versions of the signs would also be produced. The process for removing cars was initiated with a letter to the registered owner given then 21 days to remove the vehicle. Members commented that the issue had been raised at the Committee a year ago and 215 cars had been sold there and residents were fed up with the situation. Members had concerns that the scheme would not be effectual and that traders would leave cars on the road for 21 days and then remove them. Members were concerned that the problem was not restricted to Chalcroft Lane and that a viable solution needed to be found for those who town. It was suggested that Sussex Police were asked whether it would be possible to ensure that the car sales were being conducted legally and Inspector Sharon Parker agreed to pass on the suggestion. Mrs Freeman accepted that it had taken a long time to get the Traffic Regulation Order and that the problem had not been solved. Mrs Freeman resolved to take the matter up with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport and keep the Committee informed of progress.
- The Chairman referred members to the tabled report on the Greening Campaign and asked that comments were made directly to Paul Unsworth, Arun District Council.
- Members commented on the response from Tesco regarding access to the store on the A29. It was commented the reply from Tesco indicated that it was the County Council that had not been in favour of the dedicated left-hand lane entry to the site. It was noted that, during the consultation on options, County Council officers and Sussex Police had both considered a dedicated left in/out lane to be unsafe. The original planning application had included permission for a signalised junction. An alternative solution to install a widened slip road into the Tesco site had been discussed but not approved by the Joint Western Arun Area Committee. As Tesco had been granted planning permission for a signalised junction they had requested that the junction was implemented and neither the County nor District Council had any legal ground to refuse and an Urgent Action decision had been taken. Tesco had been contacted since the Urgent Action about reaching a solution which would more satisfactorily reflect members' concerns but they had refused to attend any meetings to discuss the situation. Members commented that the Committee had requested details of the information that formed the basis of the County Council's approval of the highways element of the planning application. It was noted that the situation was discussed at the Highways and Transport Sub-Group with the County Council's Head of Legal Services.

111. Resolved – That:

- (i) Sussex Police investigate whether the police will enforce speeds limits under 30 mph.
- (ii) Sussex Police consider looking at the legality of car sales being conducted in Chalcroft Lane.
- (iii) Mrs Freeman discusses possible solutions to the issue of car sales in Chalcroft Lane with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport.

Urgent Matters

112. There were no urgent matters.

Community Police Issues

113. Inspector Sharon Parker updated the Committee on a number of community policing issues that had been raised since the last meeting, which included those set out below:

- A number of staffing changes had been made in the western Arun area.
- Operation Sparkler would be taking place across Hallowe'en and Guy Fawkes Night, involving extra officers on duty to help prevent and intervene in any accidents or disturbances.
- Crime statistics over the last financial year had reduced by 381 individual crimes.
- Tool theft from vans was considered to be a current issue and the police were actively advising van owners to take steps to protect themselves, including having tools marked so that they can be traced.

114. Members of the Committee were pleased to hear that Bill Prior had been appointed as PCSO to cover Pagham. The work that Bill and James Makepeace had done in Bersted was greatly appreciated by local members. It was asked that Bill introduce himself at the Pagham Parish office over the next few weeks.

115. Members took the opportunity to praise multi-agency efforts to reduce problems in the Northcliffe Road and Acton Road area. It was commented that residents were keen to see a Neighbourhood Forum established.

116. Resolved – That:

(i) The new Pagham Police Community Support Officer is asked to introduce himself at the Pagham Parish office.

(ii) Sussex Police continue to look into the establishment of a Neighbourhood Forum for the Hotham Area.

Pagham Village Design Statement

117. Mr Mike Belman presented to the Committee on the Pagham Village Design Statement. The Statement had taken the Pagham Parish Plan as it's starting point and had been to public consultation before being approved by Arun District Council in December 2007. The 46 page document had taken 18 months of work and was available on the Pagham Parish Council website:

<http://www.paghamcouncil.co.uk/vds.htm>

Highways and Transport Sub Group Meeting 15 September 2008

Unconfirmed minutes – subject to approval/amendment at the next meeting of the Joint Western Arun Area Committee

118. The Committee had before it the minutes of the Highways and Transport Sub Group Meeting of 15 September 2008 (copy appended to the signed minutes). The Chairman of the Sub Group updated members on a number of issues, which included those set out below:

- Members asked whether the membership of the Highways and Transport Sub Group could be extended to include an additional Arun District ward member. The Chairman of the Sub Group indicated that he would be happy to have additional members attend the meetings.
- Members commented on the Transport Masterplan Workshop of 15 September. Concern was expressed regarding the discussion about pedestrianising the High Street and closing the Esplanade. The Chairman of the Sub Group commented that the workshop represented a starting point for ideas to be considered as part of the development of the Masterplan and that no plans had been made at this stage.
- Members commented that they had not been consulted on the Outram Way, Felpham to Gloucester Road, Bognor Regis cycle route. The Highways Manager agreed to ensure that local consultation was undertaken.
- Members felt that the decision not to reconsider the parking scheme at Summerley Lane, Felpham left the problems unresolved. It was commented that the scheme had been proposed in partnership with the Parish Council, who had offered 50% of the costs. It was suggested that the Parish Council should have the opportunity to bring the matter to the Committee for it to be considered and a poll should be taken to see how much support there was for the scheme.
- Members asked that the One Stop shop mentioned in item 12 of the Sub Group minutes was clearly identified as the Middleton shop.
- Members commented on potholes in the area. It was suggested that Canada Grove and Highfield Road were particularly in need of work. It was also commented that the Fish Lane road surface was in a poor condition and needed to be considered.
- Members referred to the escalation of costs regarding the Summerley Lane scheme. It was asked that evidence of the increase from £25,000 to £60,000 was sent to the Parish Council.
- It was commented that Felpham Parish Council had not been consulted regarding the proposed changes at Waterloo Road in Felpham.

119. Resolved – That:

- (i) The implementation date for the Greenwood Avenue resurfacing works is investigated.
- (ii) Local consultation is undertaken for the Outram Way, Felpham to Gloucester Road, Bognor Regis Cycle Route scheme.
- (iii) The progress report is amended to specify the Middleton One Stop shop.

Unconfirmed minutes – subject to approval/amendment at the next meeting of the Joint Western Arun Area Committee

(iv) Highfield Road potholes are considered at the next Joint Western Arun Area Committee Highways and Transport Sub Group.

(v) The reason for the escalation in costs for the Summerley Lane, Felpham scheme is sent to Felpham Parish Council.

Advertising on the Highway – a new approach?

120. The Committee had before it a report by the Arun District Council Team Leader – Development Compliance (copy appended to the signed minutes). It was noted that premises using licensed A-boards will be required to display a notice in the shop window, consent will be required from Arun District Council and the A-boards will be required to be placed as close to the shop as possible, allowing a minimum remaining pavement width of 1.2 metres.

121. Resolved:

i) That ADC accept the principle of providing advertisers with a licence to display adverts on the highway, subject to the conditions laid out by WSCC, other than in Designated Conservation Areas and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty; and

ii) That ADC continue to discuss the matter with WSCC with respect to which authority issue the licence and by what process; and

iii) That before a licence is issued the advertiser must have successfully obtained any necessary Advertisement Consent from ADC; and

iv) That ADC continue to work with WSCC to secure the removal of unauthorised/unlawful advertisements; and

iv) That the matter be discussed with other JAAC'S to obtain a District wide approach before reporting the matter to the relevant Cabinet Member and;

vi) That the matter is brought back to the JEAAC in January to consider the responses of all of the JACs.

Developer Contribution and Schemes (S106 and S278 Agreements)

122. The Committee had before it a report by the West Sussex County Council Director of Operations Infrastructure (copy appended to the signed minutes). The Section 106 Projects Officer commented that the report set out the new protocol for agreeing Section 106 schemes, details regarding the Section 106 process and progress on obtaining and allocating Section 106 funding.

123. Members asked whether there were plans to consider improvements to the junction at Comet Corner, given the impact of increased levels of traffic associated with development in the area. The Project Officer agreed to investigate whether plans for Comet Corner had been considered.

124. Members noted the report.

Unconfirmed minutes – subject to approval/amendment at the next meeting of the Joint Western Arun Area Committee

125. Resolved – That the Section 106 Projects Officer reports back on any plans for Comet Corner to manage the predicted growth in population and traffic in the area.

Infrastructure Works Programme 2009/10 and Future Programme

126. The Committee had before it a report by the West Sussex County Council Director of Operations Infrastructure (copy appended to the signed minutes). Members noted that the report represented the first stage of the programme and that members should contact the Area Highways Manager if any changes were felt necessary. It was reported that, although Greenwood Avenue resurfacing works was listed for 2011/12, the works would be brought forward to next years programme and undertaken as soon as possible. Members were invited to comment on the programme and in the discussion that followed a number of points were raised, which included the following:

- Members asked what the Town and Village Enhancement Schemes that were programmed for 2011/12 were. It was noted that it was money that had been allocated towards the Masterplan outcomes, which had yet to be determined.
- Members asked whether the footway reconstruction at Whiteways was planned to be grass-crete. It was noted that a paved reconstruction was planned.
- Members commented that the Elmer Road crossing was listed as funded by the Deputy Leader's Budget. It was asked how much was remaining in that budget. Members noted that the listing was an error and that the budget for the scheme was held in Highways and Transport.
- Members asked what was planned to be installed at Hotham Way. The Highways Manager agreed to investigate and inform members what was programmed for Hotham Way.

127. Resolved – That members of the Committee notify the Director Operations Infrastructure of any proposed changes to the draft Infrastructure Works Programme .

DVLA Devolved Powers

128. The Committee had before it a report by the Arun District Council Services Director (copy appended to the signed minutes). It was noted that 65 vehicles had now been seized and the reducing frequency of cars being seized indicated that the process was achieving the desired outcome.

129. Members asked whether the company contracted to handle the seizure and, where necessary, the recycling of vehicles was licensed. The Arun District Council Head of Finance agreed to investigate and report back.

130. The Committee noted the report.

131. Resolved – That the Arun District Council Head of Finance clarifies whether the car recycling company undertaking the seizures is licensed.

Unconfirmed minutes – subject to approval/amendment at the next meeting of the Joint Western Arun Area Committee

London Road Coach Park

132. The Committee had before it a report by the Arun District Council Services Director (copy appended to the signed minutes). It was noted that three options had been consulted on and that the outcome had been in favour of installing a moveable height restricted barrier, operated remotely by a security company using CCTV to visually identify vehicles and a key-code entry system.

133. Members of the public commented that the coach park was one of the best on the south coast and that it would be a great loss if it was to close. The Chairman informed the Committee that there were no plans to close the coach park.

134. Members welcomed the use of a moveable height restricted barrier but felt that it was important that the security firm was linked to the police in the case of attempted forced entry to the park. It was suggested that the Arun District Council Head of Environmental Amenities & Community Safety was asked to contact the police to discuss making arrangements in the event of attempted forced entry.

135. Resolved – That the Arun District Council Head of Environmental Amenities and Community Safety is asked to liaise with Sussex Police regarding a response should the barrier entry system be forcibly passed.

Coastal Defence

136. The Committee had before it a report by Arun District Council Head of Infrastructure, Works and Engineering (copy appended to the signed minutes). It was noted that Appendix 1 set out the work planned for the next year. It was felt that the current condition of the defences was relatively good.

137. Members commented that, due to shingle shifting between the Pier and Gloucester Road, the beach had lost some of its width. There was concern that some of the local businesses depended upon the shingle for as a site for their concessions. It was noted that the groynes were designed to catch the shingle and it was hoped that their continued maintenance would prevent large-scale shingle shift.

Fit for the Future – Update

138. The Committee had before it letters from the Health Secretary, the Chairman of the West Sussex Health Overview Select Committee and the Chairman of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (copies appended to the signed minutes). Also tabled were the following documents (copies appended to the signed minutes):

- A letter from the Chairmen of the Royal West Sussex and the Worthing & Southlands Hospital NHS Trusts
- A booklet explaining the proposed merger of the Trusts
- A press release and list of stakeholder and public consultation dates

139. Members praised Councillor Angel of Eastbourne Borough Council for her work on the proposed merger. It was suggested that a huge amount of work still remained to be done and that the Chairman of the Joint Western Arun Area

Unconfirmed minutes – subject to approval/amendment at the next meeting of the Joint Western Arun Area Committee

Committee should write to the Chairmen of the Royal West Sussex and Worthing & Southlands Hospital NHS Trusts to express the Committee's support for the investigation into the potential merger. It was noted that the Fit for the Future proposals had been put on hold and not abandoned and as such the issue remained high on the Committee's priorities. Members were urged to attend the stakeholder meetings and members of the public were urged to attend the public meetings.

140. Resolved – That the Chairman writes to the Chairmen of the Royal West Sussex and Worthing & Southlands Hospital NHS Trusts to express the support of the Joint Western Arun Area Committee for the investigation into the proposed merger of the Trusts.

Community Initiative Funding

141. The Committee had before it a report by the West Sussex Head of Democratic Services (copy appended to the signed minutes) regarding an application for Community Initiative Funding that, due to the timescale of the project, could not wait for the next round of applications in January.

142. Members considered that the Hotham Park Carol Concert was an excellent event that was widely attended and benefited many residents across the western Arun area. It was suggested that £350 was approved from the Community Initiative Fund.

143. Member commented on the timing of the Grant Sub Group. It was felt that the meeting was too early for some members to attend due to work commitments and it was suggested that the Sub Group began at 6.30 p.m. in the future.

144. Resolved -

(i) That the Hotham Park Heritage Trust Community Initiative Funding application for £350 be approved.

(ii) That the meetings of the Joint Western Arun Area Committee Grant Sub Group be held at 6.30 p.m. in the future.

Appointment of School Governors

145. The Committee had before it a report by the West Sussex County Council Head of Governor Services (copy appended to the signed minutes). Members noted the recommendations and the vacancies in the Western Arun area.

146. Resolved -

That the following School Governor appointments be made:

(i) Mr Guy Purser as a Local Authority Governor at Edward Bryant School, Bognor Regis, for a term of four years.

(ii) Mr Ken Pritchard as a Community Governor to the Temporary Governing Body at the amalgamating Glade and Michael Ayres School for a term up to 31st October 2010.

Unconfirmed minutes – subject to approval/amendment at the next meeting of the Joint Western Arun Area Committee

(iii) Mrs Natalie Stenning as a Parent Governor to the Temporary Governing Body at the amalgamating Glade and Michael Ayres School for a term up to 31st October 2010.

Bognor Regis Regeneration Progress Statement

147. The Committee had before it a position statement of the work to date of the Bognor Regis Regeneration Task Force. Nigel Croad highlighted the statement to members, which was duly noted.

Local Strategic Partnership

148. The Committee received an update report on discussions at the last LSP meeting (copy appended to the signed minutes) and noted its contents.

Items to be raised by Town and Parish Council Representatives

149. None.

Items for Future Meetings

150. Items were confirmed as:

- Arun Local Development Framework (January 2009)
- West Sussex Waste Management Contract Update (January 2009)
- Highways Integrated Works Programme (January 2009)

151. Members commented that, where possible, items for the next meeting should be reports rather than presentations.

Date of Next Meeting

152. The Committee noted that its next scheduled meeting would be held on Wednesday 21 January 2009. Further dates were noted as follows:

- Wednesday 11 March 2009
- Wednesday 6 May 2009
- Wednesday 1 July 2009
- Wednesday 9 September 2009
- Wednesday 4 November 2009
- Wednesday 13 January 2010
- Wednesday 10 March 2010

Chairman

The meeting finished at 9.28 p.m.