

Joint Western Arun Area Committee

28 September 2016– At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 p.m. at The Arena Sports Centre

Present:

West Sussex County Council: Mr Jones, Mrs Rapnik, Mr Patel, Mr Oppler and Mrs Phillips.

Arun District Council: Councillors Mr English, Mr Maconachie, Mr Dillon and Mr Wotherspoon

Town/Parish Council representatives: Councillors Mrs Richardson (Aldwick), Mr Knight (Bersted), Mr Cunard (Bognor Regis), Ms Piedot (Felpham), Mr Allsopp (Middleton) and Mr Radmall (Pagham)

Officers: Paul Askew, Head of Policy and Partnerships (ADC), Monique Smart, Democratic Services Officer (WSCC), Ben Whiffin, Highways Manager (WSCC) and Nick Burrell, Senior Advisor (WSCC).

Chairman's Welcome

24. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

25. Apologies had been received from Councillors Mr Sutcliffe, Mrs Pendleton, Mrs Hall and Mr Bence.

26. The Chairman drew the Committees attention to the 'safer in our hands' campaign in response to plans by the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner's office to look at taking over West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service. She advised that West Sussex County Council (WSCC) believed that West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service should remain under the control of the County Council where it sat at the heart of the authority's Communities and Public Protection Directorate, fully integrated with all services. She encouraged Members and the public to take an information card and sign the petition of the WSCC website.

Declarations of Interest

27. The following personal interests were declared:

- Cllr Mrs Piedot in relation to the funding application from Felpham Village Hall.

Minutes

28. Resolved – that the minutes of the Joint Western Arun Area Committee (JWAAC) held on 29 June 2016 are confirmed as a correct record and that they are signed by the Chairman.

Talk with us – public question time

29. The Chairman invited questions from members of the public. A number of issues were discussed including those set out below (responses in italics):

- A couple of members of the public made comments in relation to the proposed changes to County Local Committees and how this will affect JWAAC. The main point being made that the size and diversity of areas in the proposed new JWAAC would make it less effective. One commented that the alternative option of a north/south divide would be better. Another issue raised in relation to the proposals was that the consultation should have included the public. *The Chairman thanked residents for their comments and stated that the matter would be discussed in more detail at the agenda item later on the agenda.*
- Mr Coster raised concern about the number of public consultations whereby the County Council had ignored the public's views. He used the recent 3in1 card and changes to recycling centre opening times as examples.
- Mr Coster reiterated the points he made at the last meeting with regard to improvements needed on the A259. He made particular reference of the Comet Corner and Oyster Catcher junctions and the fact that more development locally will only make the situation worse. *Mr Graham Jones confirmed that the works on Comet corner would start in the New Year. Mr Jones also stated that County Councillors do raise the issue at every opportunity with the Cabinet Member. Ben Whiffin, Highways Manager, explained that the accident data is regularly reviewed for the A259 to assess if improvements are needed but no works are planned for the Oyster Catcher junction.*
- Mr Coster also asked if WSCC are engaged in the proposed Sir Richard Hotham planning application. *Ben Whiffin confirmed that his colleagues in Strategic Planning at WSCC will look at this and respond in the usual ways. It was confirmed that County Councillors are kept updated by WSCC Strategic Planning but are also able to respond individually to any applications.*
- Mr Coster referred to a County Council review that was using consultants rather than in house staff and questioned if this was cost effective. *Members and Officer were not aware of the review that Mr Coster referred to but Nick Burrell undertook to look into and get back to Mr Coster.*
- Mr Goodheart asked what the process was for accessing the state of roads. He stated that he had submitted faults to highways about 2 weeks ago and had not had a response. *Ben Whiffin apologised to Mr Goodheart and stated that a response should be provided if submitted via the website. Mr Whiffin undertook to look in to it further after the meeting and Francis Oppler offered to discuss with Mr Goodheart outside of meeting.*

Community Police Update

30. The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Christian Thomas who provided an update on Neighbourhood Policing in the JWAAC area. A number of issues were discussed including those set out below:

- The new PCSO model had been in place since July. Arun and Chichester have a good resource that is flexible to respond to needs.
- The Contact Centre now has a Resolution Centre to try and deal with enquiries and reports at the first point of contact. If there are no lines of enquiry residents will be told that no further action can be taken.
- There had been recent arrests for both vehicle crimes and burglary.
- Sergeant Thomas confirmed that Street drinking and anti-social behaviour in London Road and Sunken Gardens was a priority issue and the Police are working closely with Arun District Council Community Safety Team. He explained that an outreach officer was making a difference.
- Cars speeding and racing on the Southern Road trading estate was raised as an issue of concern. Sergeant Thomas was aware of the problem and confirmed that the Police have targeted the area. It was confirmed that after an initial warning, the Police do have the power to seize vehicles. Residents are encouraged to call the Police if they witness this. Sergeant Thomas stated he would be happy to meet Mr Oppler and concerned business owners to discuss.
- Mr Oppler asked if anything could be done about parking outside the food shops opposite the railway station as he feels the parking bays are dangerous for pedestrians. It was confirmed this would need a joined up approach by the Police, Arun District Council and West Sussex County Council.
- Some concern was raised about the crime statistics and whether the new policing plan was working.

Youth Service Update

31. The Committee welcomed Carl Burton from West Sussex County Council. Carl provided a verbal update about a new partnership project being led by Bognor Town Council with his support. He explained that they have produced a feasibility study to assess what youth provision is available in the JWAAC area, what gaps exist and what the needs of the young people across the area are. The support of JWAAC and the community was sought.

32. Jan Cosgrove from Bognor Regis Town Council was in attendance thanked Carl for the work undertaken and stated that he hoped JWAAC would help take this forward.

33. It was agreed that the feasibility study would be circulated to JWAAC Members for information and any Parishes interested in becoming involved should contact Carl or Bognor Regis Town Council.

34. The Chairman thanked Carl Burton for the update and also for arranging a tour of the Pheonix Centre prior to JWAAC tonight. Members were very impressed with the facilities.

Changes to County Local Committees

35. Mr Nick Burrell, Senior Advisor, Democratic Services, introduced the previously circulated report that detailed proposed changes to County Local Committees and provided a short powerpoint presentation explaining the changes. Mr Burrell stated that the proposals are to deliver a Democratic Services savings target of £378,000 for 2016/18 as part of West Sussex County Council's two-year savings programme. He explained that for Arun the proposal included reducing from 3 Joint Area Committees to two and reducing the number of meetings from 4 to 3 per year. The proposals also included a reduction of the Community Initiative Fund by £1,000 per Member this year and a further £1,000 per Member next year.

36. Mr Burrell stated that feedback had been sought from Members and partners and the proposals and feedback were considered by the Governance Committee, which gave its full support. The next step would be for Full Council to consider the proposals in October.

37. Mr Paul Askew, Head of Policy and Partnerships, Arun District Council, confirmed that Arun District Council supported the proposals as they too are required to make savings. The proposal from Arun included the withdrawal of their grant funding and a reduction in the administration grant paid to West Sussex County Council due to fewer meetings.

38. Members discussed the report and raised the following points:

- Cllr Mr English raised objection to the reduction in the number of meetings per year as the public would have less chance to raise issues.
- Concern was raised about the rural parishes having nothing in common with urban Bognor Regis.
- Some Members supported JWAAC remaining as it is and spoke in support of remaining a Joint Area Committee.
- It was asked if the additional parishes would have the options to join the H&T sub Group. Mr Burrell confirmed they would.

Community Initiative Funding

39. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law, Assurance & Strategy, West Sussex County Council (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.

40. RESOLVED that the County Councillors on the Committee allocate Community Initiative Funding as follows:

The following applications were approved:-

1000/JWAAC - Felpham Village Hall, £2,500.00, towards the refurbishment of the Ladies toilets.

1052/JWAAC- Felpham Village Conservation Society, £827.98, to cover costs for flooring joists and shelving for a wooden shed project.

1066/JWAAC - Felpham Allotments and Gardens Society, £1,500.00, to continue the installation and commissioning of the new unit.

The following application was deferred:

1019/JWAAC- The Base SkatePark Community Interest Group, £5,270.96, to cover cooling fan installation and air conditioning costs, as well as purchase replacement foam for the training pit. Members stated that the advisory upper limit for CIF was £2500 and suggested the applicant apply to the Members Big Society Fund. If this was not successful then JWAAC would reconsider a reduced amount at a future meeting.

Highways and Transport Sub Group

41. 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:

- Cllr Dillon asked if anything was going to be done about the High Street as mentioned in 2.1 of the H&T Minutes. Mr Ben Whiffin explained that the TROs and signage has been changed and therefore if cars are still going through then enforcement is needed. Mr Whiffin did explain that some permanent signage to promote the shared space is being considered. Mr Askew agree to report back to Arun District Council that taxis are continuing to use the space. Mr Oppler stated that rising bollards are the only option.

Prioritisation of Traffic Regulation Orders

42. The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Residents Services and Director of Highways and Transport, West Sussex County Council (copy appended to the signed minutes), which sought a decision from the County Council Members of the Committee.

43. Resolved that the County Council Members of the Committee agreed to progress the highest scoring TRO priority from the list attached at Appendix A, that being: Pagham Road – Review of Waiting Restrictions.

44. It was noted that waiting restrictions for Bookers Close, Bersted, would be delivered by the Safer Routes to School Team.

Nominations to School and Academy Governing Bodies

44. The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Care, Wellbeing and Education (copy attached to the minutes).

45. Resolved that the County Council members of the Committee approved the following nomination under the 2012 Regulations: -

- Nyewood Infant School - Mr I Usher for a 4 year term.

Items to be raised by Town and Parish Council representatives.

46. The Chairman invited questions from Town and Parish representatives on the Committee. The following issues were discussed:

- Cllr Allsopp expressed disappointment about the delays to the Comet Corner works and made a please for the County Council to keep the parishes and the public updated. *Graham Jones agreed to pass this onto the project managers.*
- Cllr English raised concern about a proposed boundary change for Felpham and Yapton. Paul Askew stated that Arun District have contacted the DSLG and asked if Arun can progress this or it needs to go via review. Mr Askew stated Arun would inform the Parishes as soon as they hear back.
- Concern was raised about the possibility of the County Council developing more homes in Middleton and asked if they would seek S106 monies. Graham Jones stated he had spoken to officers about this and was aware that the land is listed in the draft local allocation so further development was possible. As with all developments S106 monies would be sought if appropriate.

Items for Future Meetings

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

- Evaluation on Public Realm Improvement - 2017
- Devolution (invite the leader of WSCC) – November or March

48. The Cycling & Walking Strategy had now been published. The Chairman encouraged Members to look at it http://www2.westsussex.gov.uk/ds/edd/ht/ht13_16-17.pdf. The Chairman explained that Towns and Parishes have had the opportunity to input in to this and the next step is to work with the West Sussex Cycle Forum to determine schemes that create an appropriate network and how creating the network would be funded. It was therefore agreed that it did not need to come to a future JWAAC meeting. Any specific issues will be progressed via the H&T Sub Group.

Date of Next Meeting

49. The Chairman confirmed that the next scheduled meeting of the Committee was due to be on Wednesday 30 November 2016.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Chairman