

31 July 2013

If you would like to know more about any items in this newsletter please contact the officer shown (✉ address is the name shown with a stop between followed by @westsussex.gov.uk) or access the links via the [County Council's website](#). Significant decisions to be taken in the next four months are included in a [Forward Plan](#) of key decisions. If you would like to receive free [e-mail alerts](#) for the Forward Plan, please register via [County Council's website](#).

Decisions Published in the Past Week

The following proposed decisions have been published during the past week and will come into effect at the end of the call-in period unless the call-in procedure is activated

Call-in Deadline	Decision-Maker	No.	Proposal	Officer Contact
07/08/13	Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport, Cabinet Member for Residents' Services	HT05 (13/14)	Operation Watershed Active Communities Fund Applications July 2013	Monique Smart 0330 2222 540
08/08/13	Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport	HT06 (13/14)	Approval of the Assurance Framework for the Coast to Capital Transport Body	Monique Smart 0330 2222 540
08/08/13	Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport	HT07 (13/14)	Strategic Transport Investment Programme – Approval of Prioritised Schemes	Monique Smart 0330 2222 540
08/08/13	Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport	HT08 (13/14)	Response to Consultation on a Development Consent Order for the Rampion Offshore Wind Farm	Monique Smart 0330 2222 540

Urgent Action

Members are asked to note the following urgent action taken by the Head of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Chairman of the County Council, the relevant Cabinet Member and Select Committee Chairman or the Chairman of a non-Executive or County Local Committee

Electoral Division	No.	Decision	Officer Contact
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Planning Committee

All	1	<u>Review of the Local List for the validation of planning applications</u>	
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Contact: Matthew Evans (033022 22538) ☒

In January 2013, the Government introduced legislation requiring local lists to be reviewed every two years. If a list is not reviewed, it cannot be used for the validation of planning applications received on or after 31 July 2013. Accordingly, the current Local List has been reviewed and updated (as contained in Appendix A to the report). No substantive changes have been made and there are no changes to the principles underpinning the Local List adopted in 2009. A full review, including public consultation, will be undertaken in 2014/15

The Head of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Chairman of the Planning Committee has used his delegated powers under Standing Order 61(2) to approve the reviewed Local Validation List for use by the County Council for the validation of planning applications.

The urgency of the matter is due to the requirement for a review to be undertaken by 31st July 2013 and the next meeting of the Planning Committee is not scheduled until 3rd September 2013

Decisions Confirmed

The following decisions have been confirmed in the last week

Decision-Maker	No.	Decision	Officer Contact
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health	ASCH1(13/14)	<u>Appointments to Outside Bodies</u>	Suzanne T Thompson 033022 22551
Cabinet Member for Finance	FIN3(13/14)	<u>Members' Big Society Fund - Funding Allocations</u>	Katherine De La Mora 033022 22535
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	HT4(13/14)	<u>Appointments to Outside Bodies</u>	Monique Smart 033022 22540

Decision-Maker	No.	Decision	Officer Contact
Leader	LDR6(13/14)	Appointments to Outside Bodies	Robin Davison 033022 22547

Answers to Written Questions

Officer replies to questions submitted under Standing Order 15(3) as part of the preparation for the County Council meeting on 19 July 2013.

1. Written question from **Mrs Mullins** for reply by the **Director of Communities Commissioning**

Question

The Discovery New School in Crawley has recently received an inadequate rating from OFSTED. The report found deficiencies in the teaching of basic skills, inadequate governance arrangements and the incorrect assessment of children as possessing special educational needs. Such findings are extremely worrying and the attitude of the school to challenge the assessment rather than committing their full efforts to a resolution of the problems identified is also very concerning. It is recognised that the role of the Cabinet Member in relation to this school is limited but the impact of these identified failings could have a serious impact upon the County Council's local maintained schools in Crawley and the admissions process.

(a) Can the Cabinet Member confirm if he is in contact with the Discovery New School and whether he has offered any advice or support? What reassurance has he provided to head teachers at other establishments in the Crawley area that the situation at the school will not have an impact upon arrangements ahead of the start of the new school year in September?

The County Council retains responsibility for school admissions including applications for places at the Discovery New School. The deadline for admission applications ahead of the start of the new school year in September 2013 closed on 15 January 2013; a long time ahead of the publication of the results of the Ofsted results.

(b) Can the Cabinet Member confirm that following the admissions deadline the Discovery New School had a full intake of pupils for the school year starting September 2012?

(c) Following the publication of the Ofsted results has he received applications from parents seeking to transfer children away from the school to other establishments in Crawley? What contingencies can he put in place to deal with a large influx of applications to transfer pupils to alternative establishments?

(d) The Department of Education are said to be monitoring the situation closely and without rapid improvement will consider terminating the Funding Agreement they hold with the school. What contingencies can the Cabinet Member put in place to ensure there are sufficient school places at alternative establishments in the Crawley area to cope with the displacement of pupils from a failed school?

Answer

- (a) The Cabinet Member has been in touch with the Secretary of State with regard to the situation at the Discovery New School as the Department for Education (DfE) is responsible for supporting the school in its current circumstances. The Cabinet Member raised his concerns about the fact that DfE officers visited the school 7 months prior to the inspection and did not alert WSCC to any concerns. A meeting has taken place with the performance division of the DfE, which clarified their respective roles and responsibilities. The Department confirmed that they were in contact with OFSTED with regard to the school's improvement plan, and monitoring of the school's progress. They agreed to more open communication in future circumstances.
- (b) The Discovery New School was oversubscribed for September 2013. All 16 places for September 2013 were allocated on 19 April 2013.
- (c) Up to 18 July there had been seven applications for children to move to other schools from the Discovery New School. These applications were for children in existing year groups. All seven were offered places in other schools, although one parent declined the offer made as they wished to wait for a place in a specific school. The Pupil Admissions Team consistently handles large numbers of applications for changes of school places. No special contingencies are needed to handle any applications that may result from the Ofsted report of this small school.
- (d) For the majority of year groups, there are more than sufficient places in other schools in Crawley for the small number of children in this school. For the one year group where the supply of places is insufficient, the Local Authority would fulfil its legal duty to offer a school place by approaching other schools about providing additional places, if necessary. This could be in one school or, as the Discovery New School draws children from across the Crawley area, a number of different schools.

Communications

County Council Press Releases up to 26 July

22/07/13 - [Operation Watershed – another seven communities in West Sussex given help by County Council](#) (PR5587)

Another seven communities in West Sussex have been given grants by the County Council to improve their resilience to extreme weather

22/07/13 - [Up-up and away thanks to West Sussex County Council](#) (PR5588)

Trading Standards officers from the County Council have been working with London Gatwick to improve people's experience as they jet off on holiday

22/07/13 - [Full list of planned maintenance works for this week announced by County Council](#) (PR5589)

Thirteen roads in West Sussex are scheduled to be resurfaced this week

22/07/13 - [Permanent Traffic Regulation Order for East Street in Horsham is recommended by Inspector](#) (PR5590)

A Public Inquiry Inspector has recommended that a permanent Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) be introduced for East Street in Horsham

22/07/13 - [Sweet success for West Sussex catering team](#) (PR5591)

Students from two West Sussex schools had cause to celebrate after triumphing at a national catering competition for local authorities

23/07/13 - [Don't risk your alcohol licence by selling to minors, says West Sussex Trading Standards](#) (PR5592)

Businesses in West Sussex are being warned that their alcohol licences could be at risk if they are caught selling any age restricted products to children under 18

23/07/13 - [Tribute paid after the death of County Councillor Frank Wilkinson](#) (PR5593)

The County Council is mourning the death of long-serving county councillor Frank Wilkinson, who represented the Storrington division

24/07/13 - [Significant funding boost for West Sussex schools](#) (PR5594)

The County Council has been successful in securing a multi-million-pound funding deal from the Government

Television interviews

BBC TV interviewed Louise Goldsmith on County Hall steps re Gatwick decision – for use on South Today, South-East Today and London Today

Radio interviews

Kerry Brookes, Children's Librarian based in Chichester Library, on Spirit FM to promote the summer reading challenge

Louise Goldsmith, live on BBC Sussex and Surrey drivetime re the Council's decision to support expansion of Gatwick (Friday 26 July)

Radio 4 Today programme (Tuesday 23 July) referenced County Council support for Gatwick in an interview with its MD

Louise Goldsmith and Morwen Millson in separate live interviews on BBC Radio Sussex re carer issues

For further information on or copies of the press releases listed please contact James Haigh in the Communications Unit on (033022 22410) or ✉ james.haigh

Planning Applications registered in the week ending 26/07/13

COUNTY MATTER MINERALS AND WASTE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Applications submitted under the Town & Country Planning
(Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010

Application No Applicant Grid Ref	Proposal/Location	Date Registered	Provisional Decision Method	Local Member
WSCC/063/13/BA Cuadrilla Resources Limited GR: 531022 129238	Amendment of condition 3 of WSCC/027/10/BA to vary the type of flare used during the testing process. At Lower Stumble Hydrocarbon Exploration Site, London Road, Balcombe, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH17 6JH	22/07/13	Committee	Mr Bill Acraman

Comments on any of the above planning applications should be made by 21.07.13 to planning.applications@westsussex.gov.uk or if you require further information, please contact County Planning on (01243) 777623.

STRATEGIC PLANNING BUSINESS UNIT - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The attached [report](#) (pdf file) contains all the planning applications received by the County Highways Team from the seven borough and district councils over the past week where comments on highways, ecology, landscaping and archaeology have been requested. An Excel spreadsheet of this report is also available on request via the following email address: SU.Local.Development@westsussex.gov.uk. If you have any further questions or would like to enquire about an application that does not appear on the list or one on which you would like to be updated, please contact Alex Jack on (01243) 382164.

For further information about the Members' Information Service please contact Clare Jones on 033022 22526 or ✉ clare.jones