

## **South Mid Sussex County Local Committee**

17 January 2013 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7pm, London Meed Community Primary School, Burgess Hill.

Present: Mr Griffiths, Mrs Knight (Chairman), Mrs Ross and Dr Wilsdon.

### **Chairman's Welcome**

62. The Chairman introduced the Committee and officers and welcomed all to the meeting.

### **Declarations of Interest**

63. Mr Griffiths declared a personal interest in the Burgess Hill Green Circle public consultation on public footpaths and bridleways as he lives on one of the proposed routes (see also minute 66).

### **Minutes**

64. Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 2 October 2012 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

### **Urgent Matters**

65. The Chairman advised that there were two urgent matters for consideration by the Committee. The first was the Burgess Hill Green Circle Public Rights of Way consultation (map of proposals attached to the signed minutes). The CLC had been asked for its views on the proposed creation of public footpaths and bridleways in Burgess Hill/Hassocks and Hurstpierpoint and that it was intended to submit the proposals to the Rights of Way Committee on 26 February 2013.

66. Mr Griffiths declared a personal interest as he lives on one of the proposed routes.

67. The Committee agreed that the proposals were very worthwhile and would enhance and support recreational access around Burgess Hill for the benefit of all users. Members asked that their thanks be communicated to Rupert Browning at Mid Sussex District Council for his hard work on this project.

68. The second matter was a late re-appointment of an Authority School Governor which had been received after the agenda papers were published. The Committee agreed to consider the re-appointment under the Governor Appointments item later in the agenda.

### **Progress Statement**

69. The Committee noted the report that provided updates on issues raised at previous meetings (copy attached to the signed minutes).

70. The Principal Community Officer provided an update on the traffic issues in and around Chanctonbury Road in Burgess Hill. He advised that a Traffic Regulation Order to introduce double yellow lines on Chanctonbury Road was now in place and that generally positive reports had been received from local residents who observed that the measures had improved traffic flow in the area. Notable challenges were at the top of Chanctonbury Road especially around the grass screed area, where there were reports of serious obstructions and the same applied to a bend near the school turning. Complaints had also been received of parking in cul-de-sacs by non-residents and damage to verges in Chanctonbury Road and Holmesdale Road. Indiscriminate/double parking especially during school pick up and drop off times and reports of driveways being blocked also formed part of issues received by officers.

71. The Principal Community Officer advised that officers had assessed the challenges raised issues by the police, local councillors and the school travel team. A meeting with town, district, county councillors, police and residents' representative to identify and assess issues raised had been held and contact made with Mid Sussex District Council Enforcement Team. A job had been raised to place 11 verge markers on the grass at the junction of Holmesdale Road and Chanctonbury Road. Officers were also looking at the possibility of setting up a meeting with school head teachers and the County Council's School Travel Team to look into travel plans.

72. He advised that County Council officers, the Police and the Safer Routes to Schools Team had met on site several times and were monitoring the situation. A joint meeting had been held on site the previous day with residents to discuss what could be done. He assured residents that officers and the local County Councillor were aware of the issues and were looking at solutions with the Traffic Solutions and Asset Management Teams and would be reporting back to residents as soon as officers had formulated actions to be taken.

### **Talk with Us Open Forum**

73. A local resident thanked the Chairman for her response to a written question that he had submitted at the previous meeting on waste plastic recycling. He followed up on another question raised at the previous meeting regarding the capacity at the sewage plant in Goddards Green. He asked whether Southern Water was likely to commit funding to a new storm tank at the site, as the proposed new plant would not have sufficient capacity with the proposed new housing in Burgess Hill. He provided the Chairman with a copy of a response that he had received from Southern Water and added that there was a problem with combined sewage overflows in the wider area, not just at Goddards Green. He also suggested that mitigation lakes needed to be managed effectively. He asked the Committee to ensure that strenuous efforts were made to ensure that these issues were addressed by Southern Water. The Chairman confirmed that she had written to Southern Water to ask what its plans were to accommodate future increases in demand for water and waste water treatment and that she would pursue this vigorously. Members asked that the local parishes, particularly Twineham and Bolney, be kept informed as they were affected by the sewage overflows.

74. Another local resident raised concerns that waste water from new extensions built in The Kiln was being pumped into fresh water. The Chairman agreed to follow this up.

75. A resident asked how the County Council would provide support services for children suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome /ME. The Chairman agreed to follow this up and ask the County Council to provide a response.

### **Community Police Issues**

62. The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Rachel Mundy, Burgess Hill Neighbourhood Policing Team, to the meeting. Sergeant Mundy gave apologies on behalf of Inspector Simon Beardwell who was unable to attend the meeting. She provided an overview of local crime statistics including car crime, domestic burglaries, criminal damage, thefts and violent crimes. She advised that burglary of dwellings was a real issue and for the last three to four months the local Police had invested heavily on solving these crimes with active stop checks, police patrolling the areas, highlighting offences and house to house enquiries, including crime prevention advice. Several arrests had been made as a result of this work and she urged everyone to report any suspicious activity. Thefts were another area being tackled, comprising mainly of metal thefts, bike thefts and shoplifting. Sergeant Mundy suggested that the figures were high due to the vigilance of the Market Place security and their excellent CCTV system, they spot thefts that would otherwise go unreported and she added that the local Shopwatch and Market Place Security in Burgess Hill was superb. She advised that the Police were also raising awareness of vehicle interference and tampering with 'Operation Handle' and that there had been an increase in the theft of vehicle licence plates. The Police were providing anti tamper screws free of charge.

63. The Committee thanked Sergeant Mundy for her report and were really pleased to hear the progress being made. They raised the issue of unauthorised parking in disabled bays in Burgess Hill and cars parked too close to junctions. Sergeant Mundy advised that the Police could deal with misuse of Disabled badges, but would only attend a car parked near a junction if it was causing an obstruction or was deemed dangerous, however if it was an enforcement of yellow lines issue it was the responsibility of the District Councils traffic enforcement team.

76. Resolved – That the Committee notes the update.

### **NHS Commissioning**

77. The Chairman welcomed Dr Ian Holwell, Chair of the Mid Sussex Locality and Dr Simon Dean, Chair of the Horsham Locality Clinical Commissioning Group. Dr Holwell gave a presentation (copy attached to the signed minutes). He explained that Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) which were formed by all GPs in the local area had been established following changes to the Health and Social Care Act. There were three CCGs in West Sussex, Coastal West Sussex, Horsham and Mid Sussex and Crawley, which tended to line up with flows into hospitals. The main aim of the changes was to put commissioners closer to patients and understanding the needs of people. This would result in strong clinical leadership, improved efficiency with reduced management enabling commissioners to be more responsive and to deliver more effective commissioning. He added that the priority must be to maintain community services with the aim of relocating some hospital services into the community.

78. The Chairman thanked Dr Holwell and Dr Dean for their presentation. Members and residents asked a number of questions including the following: -

- Asked to see more emphasis on prevention and self-help.
  - Asked at what point people would begin to see changes. *Dr Dean advised that the changes were effective from 1 April 2013. He said that public engagement was key and that there was a need to be transparent with patients about which services were and were not being commissioned.*
  - Asked how patients would be involved in commissioning decisions. *Dr Dean advised that Patient Reference Groups would be set up by each GP practice and that a representative from each group would sit on an overarching group. He also advised that Board meetings would be held in public.*
  - Expressed disappointment at the lack of engagement by the West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board. *The Chairman advised that it was currently still a shadow Board until it became a statutory body in April 2013. She agreed to take the comments back to the Chairman of the Board to ask about opportunities for communicating the work of the Board in the future.*
  - Asked whether GP practices were likely to specialise in services. *Dr Holwell said it was unlikely that specialist practices only dealing with single disease areas would develop. At present we do have community based specialist clinics hosted by and involving General Practitioners with Special interest. The best current example of this relates to our community dermatology clinics. In the future similar specialist services may be hosted by GP surgeries and Health Centres throughout our area.*
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79. Resolved – That the Committee notes the presentation.

### **Traffic Regulation Order Priorities**

80. The Committee considered a report by the Director for Communities Commissioning and Head of Highways and Transport (copy appended to the signed minutes). The report included a list of all Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) in the CLC area and asked the Committee to approve the top three for the CLC area to commence delivery in 2013/14.

81. The Principal Community Officer introduced the report and advised that the demand for TROs had increased over the years as traffic volumes and the pressure for on-street parking places had grown and there were currently 80 CLC TROs in development. Additional staff were working on reducing this number and officers were developing further actions to improve delivery.

82. The Committee discussed the report. Mr Griffiths expressed disappointment that the TRO for a reduced speed limit on the A272 at Bolney had been demoted to no. 15 on the list. He suggested that a school crossing needed to be put in place under the Safer Routes to Schools scheme. A Bolney resident who lived on the A272 said that it was a matter of safety particularly for pedestrians. He reported that there had been 25 accidents in one year and 84 in the last three years with eight major road closures in 2012 all within a half mile radius of the stretch of road concerned. He was concerned that nine pupils at Bolney School lived on the south side of the A272 and another 11 pupils attended the Warden Park School and had to cross the road to catch a bus. He advised that Bolney Parish Council was in

contact with the Communities and Economic Development Team at the County Council and were looking at the possibility of installing village gates as one measure.

83. The Chairman advised that each CLC could only prioritise three TROs each year and confirmed that all schemes on the list apart from two had County Councillor support. She suggested that it may be possible to install a regular pedestrian crossing on the A272 in Bolney to be used at all times. She agreed to work with the Principal Community Officer to look at a solution that was being implemented to address a similar problem in her electoral division. She also advised that the local residents could write to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport at the County Council to express their concerns. Members suggested that the local volunteers would be able to use a Speed Indicator Device purchased by the Committee to do some deterrent work. The use of the device would need to be coordinated with the Police who would carry out an assessment of the proposed site(s). Volunteers would also need to be trained.

84. The Committee agreed to remove the following schemes from the list as the local County Councillor did not support them: -

- 3. Waiting restrictions on Weald Road and Royal George Road in Burgess Hill.
- 13. Waiting restrictions on the access road off West Street (between 137 and 139) in Burgess Hill.

85. A resident of The Kiln and Cants Lane addressed the Committee to request that consideration be given to the proposed TRO for double yellow lines and junction protection to be implemented.

86. Resolved – That the Committee approves the priority order for implementing Traffic Regulation Orders within the CLC area as set out below:

- (1) Burgess Hill - The Kiln & Cants Lane – waiting restrictions on all junctions.
- (2) Hurstpierpoint – Marchants Road / Cuckfield Road & Trinity Road and Trinity Road & Ribbetts - waiting restrictions.
- (3) \*Burgess Hill/Hassocks - Victoria Avenue - weight limit / narrowing of road to remove HGV traffic.

\*The Committee agreed that if the third priority for a weight limit on Victoria Road in Burgess Hill/Hassocks could be progressed without the need for a TRO then the following TRO should be progressed as the Committee's third priority: -

- (4) Hassocks – Keymer Road and Lodge Lane – waiting restrictions.

### **Community Initiative Funding**

(5) The Chairman introduced the report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (copy appended to the signed minutes). The Committee noted that no

applications for CIF funding had been received and therefore considered the use of the unallocated funds for 2012-13.

(6) Resolved – That the Committee awards the remaining CIF funds for 2012-13 as follows: -

- £8,850 to St John the Evangelist's Church, Burgess Hill towards the start up and running of the Burgess Hill Food Bank initiative.

### **Authority School Governors**

67. The Committee noted a report by the Director of Learning (copy appended to signed minutes) that set out proposed nominations to school governing bodies and the criteria for their appointment.

69. Resolved – That the following appointments and re-appointments of Authority School Governors be approved:

(i) Appointments:

- Mrs K.L. Luckhurst to Manor Field Primary School for a 4 year term.
- Mrs B. Temple to Woodlands Mead School for a 4 year term.

(ii) Re-appointments:

- Mrs M.J. Clark to Downlands Community College for a 4 year term.
- Mr J. Horn to Manor Field Primary School for a 4 year term.
- Ms. F. Gaudencio to Windmills Junior School for a 4 year term.
- Mr S. Humphreys to Birchwood Grove School for a 4 year term.

(iii) The Committee declined the following appointment as neither the Chair or Governors at Gattons Infant School or the local County Councillor had been able to make contact with the individual and therefore were unable to support the nomination: -

- Miss N. D'Souza to Gattons Infant School for a 4 year term.

(iv) The following re-appointment was agreed under Urgent Action and is therefore not included in the covering report: -

- Mr T. Atkin to Gattons Infant School for a four year term.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

70. It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Thursday 11 June 2013, 7pm, at a venue to be confirmed. The Committee members thanked Mrs Knight for her efforts as Chairman over the past year.

The meeting closed at 9.29 pm.

Chairman