

North Chichester County Local Committee

12 November 2019 – At a meeting of the Committee at 7.00 pm held at Midhurst Library (Willow Room), The Grange, Bepton Road, Midhurst, GU29 9HD.

Present:

Mrs Duncton (Chairman) (Petworth;), Mr Bradford (Rother Valley;) and Dr O'Kelly (Midhurst;)

Officers in attendance: Jenna Barnard (Democratic Services Officer), Chris Dye (Area Highways Manager) and Peter Lawrence (Partnerships Area Manager (South))

13. Welcome and introductions

13.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members and Officers introduced themselves.

13.2 The Chairman read out a statement regarding the small school's consultation. A copy of this document is appended to the printed minutes.

14. Declarations of Interest

14.1 None declared.

15. Minutes

15.1 Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16. Urgent Matters

16.1 The Chairman agreed to consider an additional Micro Fund application (ref: 450/NC) which was discussed under the relevant item (item 9).

17. Talk With Us

17.1 The Chairman introduced the item and advised that the open forum was an opportunity for comments and questions to be raised on items not already on the agenda, and over which the County Council has jurisdiction. The following issues were raised, and responses made.

- Mr Gordon McAra, Midhurst Town Council, attended the meeting to request the Committee's approval to use excess S106 monies to replace a bus shelter on New Road that had recently fallen down. *The Committee agreed that this would be a great use of the funds and asked Chris Dye, Area Highways Manager, to issue the licence.*

- Mr William Hunter attended to express the grave concern and distress the people of Stedham were experiencing over the West Sussex County Councils Small Schools Consultation. Mr Hunter made the following points:
 - In 2017 West Sussex County Council proposed the expansion of Easebourne Primary School. This campaign was damaging to Stedham Primary because expansion of the former would deplete the latter of pupils, many of whom come from Midhurst, and was wasteful of school places that already existed in Stedham.
 - It is believed that the proposal was fundamentally flawed - the major residential part of Midhurst is on the South side from which Stedham is arguably more accessible than Easebourne, the route impinges greatly on the already choked Midhurst traffic congestion and the need for additional places was not demonstrated. The new consultation is again damaging to Stedham Primary, specifically naming this school as a possible closure and presenting dubious data as if they were facts. A drop in pupil numbers is predicted without stating the assumptions which can create any prediction that we wish.
 - Further data that appear to be designed to project negative conclusions about Stedham Primary are that 77% of pupils here are from outside the published catchment (PC) and only 20% of pupils from within the published catchment attend Stedham Primary. Regarding the former, this is a positive indicator, and regarding the latter there are a host of possible reasons that have no negative implications.
 - The presenters at the Stedham Primary meeting on 24 October 2019 asked for feedback as to the causes of the apparently odd Published Catchment numbers. This data should have been available. The maps below show (not to scale) the Published Catchment of Stedham Primary, on the right, and the joint Published Catchment of Easebourne and Midhurst Primaries on the left. Can the Councillors not see that if West Sussex County Council sets a small published Catchment for Stedham Primary which does not include Midhurst and Easebourne, just two miles away, and a large joint published catchment for Easebourne and Midhurst Primaries, that does not include Stedham, you get exactly what we have, namely: odd percentage figures for where Stedham Primary pupils live and vacancies at Stedham Primary? And just one example that appears absurd – Bepton is in both the Easebourne and Midhurst published catchments but not the Stedham published catchment, yet it is closer in distance and time to Stedham Primary. *Member Dr Kate O’Kelly replied that she agreed that the data from the previous consultation was flawed and supports the school and the areas of concern that they have and has debated it heavily. Dr O’kelley also confirmed that she had submitted a Notice of Motion at the Full Council Meeting in July 2019 (reference Agenda Item 7.a detailed [here](#).) Peter Lawrence (Partnership Area Manager) encouraged Mr Hunter and all those attending to ensure they have submitted all comments through the formal channels.*
- Ms Ann Tyrell attended to ask if there is any way that West Sussex County Council could put a strategy in place to avoid the upset that schools like Stedham have experienced, happening again in the future? *Dr Kate O’Kelly confirm that this is something she will be raising with officers during future discussions.*

- Mr Steve Morley attended to ask about what is/can be done about pavement parking in the Midhurst Town Centre area which is now heavily affecting the disabled users, parents with prams and others. *Chris Dye confirmed that if there is a full obstruction of the highway then this should be reported to the police, preferably with images via 101 or the online form on the Sussex Police website (Op Crackdown). If there is an obstruction that is on double yellow lines, this should be recorded and reported to Chichester District Council Parking Services as the enforcement authority.*
- Mr Peter Wilding attended to ask about Ferndon Lane and comment that it is too narrow in many places and in bad shape, could passing places be added and what would the process be? *Chris Dye (Area Highways Manager) confirmed that any community requesting an improvement to the highway should follow the Community Highway Scheme process, please see following link for more information. The community application would need to provide a plan showing the location of the proposed passing places and provide a justification as to why they are needed to benefit the wider community. If the community want initial advice and guidance, they could submit their proposals to West Sussex County Council Highways, and we would enter dialog about suitability and practicality of what it is they require. <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/leisure-recreation-and-community/supporting-local-communities/apply-for-a-community-highways-scheme/>*
- A representative from Compton and Up Marden Primary School asked what would happen to the hall and the community if the school should close or relocate, £800,000 has just been spent on the school hall and now represents the centre of the community? *Peter Lawrence (Partnership Area Manager) confirmed that a High-Level Community Impact Assessment will be carried out and this will be taken into consideration.*

18. **Progress Statement**

18.1 The Committee considered the progress statement on matters arising from previous meetings (copy appended to the signed minutes).

18.2 As there is a new allocation of Police Community Support Officer's to the Petworth and Midhurst areas, the committee agreed to invite one or both of them to the March Committee Meeting to discuss on going concerns around speeding. *Peter Lawrence (Partnership Area Manager) agreed to ensure that the invitation is extended.*

18.3 Resolved – That the Committee notes the progress statement.

19. **Prioritisation of Traffic Regulations Orders (NC03(19/20))**

19.1 Community requests for Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) that cost under £3,000 to implement are considered annually by County Local Committees (CLCs). More complex TROs are considered for progression as a Community Highways Scheme and so fall outside the process.

19.2 The TRO requests received since July 2018 have been assessed and scored and the results are attached for the CLC to consider and prioritise

in line with the Cabinet Member Report for Traffic Regulation Orders – Assessment and Implementation Process (see link in Background Papers) for progression in the 2020/21 works programme.

19.3 At its meeting on 12 November 2019 the North Chichester County Local Committee **agreed** to progress the highest scoring TRO from the list attached at Appendix A:

- A286 North of Cocking Village – Speed Limit.

19.4 The Committee agreed to ask the Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure to consider the remaining New Road Scheme in the County Wide TRO allocation.

20. **Highways : Improving Local Places and Spaces**

20.1 Chris Dye, Area Highways Manager, introduced the report and made the following comments:

20.2 Following Scrutiny at Select Committee the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport & Planning approved the revised service levels that are contained within the new [Infrastructure Maintenance Plan](#).

20.3 Mr Dye explained that, as set out on page 20, specifically points 1.2-1.4, the main reasons for introducing the new Infrastructure Maintenance Plan and revised service levels, was as a result of the reduced revenue budgets that have been given and as well as this there has been introduction of a new Code of Practice which was released by the Department for Transport. We have been, and in some cases are still operating on the new replacement Code of Practice “well maintained highways”, we need to ensure that we align all our processes and services to becoming more intelligence led and risk based.

20.4 He then referred the committee to page 21, point 2.4, that summarised the changes in the various service levels, some of which have been in operation for a number of months.

21. **North Chichester Community Initiative Funding (NC04(19/20))**

21.1 The Community Initiative Fund is a County Local Committee (CLC) administered fund that provides assistance to local community projects. Bids should show evidence of projects that have the support of the community and make a positive impact on people’s wellbeing and support [The West Sussex Plan](#).

21.2 At its meeting on 12 November 2019 the North Chichester County Local Committee considered the Community Initiative Funding applications received via the West Sussex Crowd as set out in Appendix A.

21.3 During the Urgent Matters agenda item, the Committee agreed to also consider an application that had been received after the papers had been dispatched and was approved as follows: -

450/NC – Home-Start Chichester & District, 'Supporting families with young children', up to £2000.00 – towards covering hall hire to hold two regular 'Family Groups' in Chichester and Midhurst in addition to publicity costs.

21.4 The following pledge was also approved: -

436/NC – Royal Artillery Equestrian Centre, 'Saddle for disabled riders', up to £1500.00 – towards purchasing an adaptable saddle supportive of all riding standards to facilitate disabled people's access to horse riding.

22. **Date of Next Meeting**

22.1 The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the North Chichester County Local Committee would be held on 17 March 2020 at a venue to be confirmed.

Chairman

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm