

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Forum held on Tuesday, 21st April 2015, Cocking Village Hall, Cocking.

**Attendance and Apologies (in italics):**

<b>Bepton Parish Council</b>	
<b>Cocking Parish Council</b>	Attended: David Imlach, Peter O’Neill, Richard Marks, Gwen Miles
<b>Easebourne Parish Council</b>	Attended: Ian Heustice and Adrian Revill
<b>Elsted and Treyford Parish Council</b>	Attended: Andrew Shaxson
<b>Fernhurst Parish Council</b>	
<b>Harting Parish Council</b>	
<b>Heyshott Parish Council</b>	
<b>Linch Parish Meeting</b>	<i>Apologies sent – Steve Collins</i>
<b>Lodsworth Parish Council</b>	Attended: Elizabeth Hamilton <i>Apologies sent – Caroline Neville and Helen Cruikshank (Lodsworth’s APM.)</i>
<b>Lynchmere Parish Council</b>	
<b>Midhurst Town Council</b>	
<b>Milland Parish Council</b>	
<b>Rogate Parish Council</b>	
<b>Stedham with Iping Parish Council</b>	Attended: John Cherry and Eddie Lintott
<b>Trotton with Chithurst Parish Council</b>	Attended: Carola Brown
<b>West Lavington Parish Council</b>	Attended - Keith Elmy and Tony Jones
<b>Woolbeding with Redford Parish Council</b>	Attended: Marion Hansford and Adrian Hearle
<b>Sussex Police</b>	Attended - Craig Dunlop and Richard Boston
<b>West Sussex County Council</b>	
<b>Chichester District Council</b>	Attended: Heather Caird, Andrew Frost, Shona Turner, Piers Taylor, Any Loaring <i>Apologies – Cllr Gillian Keegan</i>

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| <b>1.</b> | <b>Introduction by the Chairman</b><br>Andrew Shaxson opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.   |
| <b>2</b>  | <b>Apologies for absence</b><br><b>Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising</b><br>Minutes of last meeting – 17th September 2014, with no matters arising. |

### 3. **An Update from Sussex Police**

PCSO R Craig Dunlop and PCSO Richard Boston

Craig gave an update and details on:

Operation Signature – this is email and telephone call scams, let the Police know if you receive a scam email or phone call.

This is the time of year for break-ins to sheds, outbuildings etc especially being a rural area. Craig reminded everyone to check their security. However, the area is still very safe with low crime rates.

*Questions?*

*In relation to the latest news about Midhurst Police Station, Craig and Richard did not know much, other than that the Police were not deserting Midhurst and a £45 million saving had to be made. With regards to Petworth Police Station being closed, there were possibilities of being moved to a room in the Library.*

Andrew Frost advised that the planning application for an extension to provide accommodation for the Police was currently under consideration by the District Council on behalf of the SDNPA. (The application was reported to the District Council's Planning Committee on 27 May and permission was granted.)

Before Craig and Richard left, Craig reminded everyone that if they have any problems or are suspicious about anything, report it or email them.

#### **Contact details**

PCSO R Craig Dunlop - [Robert.Dunlop@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Robert.Dunlop@sussex.pnn.police.uk) or <http://www.sussex.police.uk/help-centre/your-local-district/chichester/local-team/WC3NH20>

PCSO Richard Boston - [Richard.Boston@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Richard.Boston@sussex.pnn.police.uk) <http://www.sussex.police.uk/help-centre/your-local-district/chichester/local-team/WC3NH24>

### 4. **Choose Work** (Presentation attached.)

Amy Loaring, Partnerships Officer, CDC

Amy began her presentation by explaining that Chichester in Partnership (CIP) is an umbrella body, which brings together a wide range of organisations from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors within the district.

<http://www.chichesterinpartnership.org.uk/>

CIP working in partnership with WSCC, the Theatre, Chamber of Commerce etc has developed strategic polices that look at issues that cover the district. In 2012 CIP produce a strategy, Getting people into work, one of its elements being Choose Work.

Choose Work is where unemployed individuals on Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) and Employment Support Allowance (ESA) are supported and mentored into 2-8 week work experience placements. We ensure that the placements are of a high quality and that they receive a reference afterwards. They will also receive mentoring and advice before and after the placement.

Originally, the project ran with one part-time co-ordinator, Steve Hill and 220 JSA

claimants took part. From that, 94 people were given work experience, 39% have since found work and 41 local companies were engaged.

The cost of the project was £25,000 with a return on the investment at £118,388 a year.

#### What happens next

The project is being expanded with two part-time co-coordinators and has been jointly funded for the first year by Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and CDC. The project will now focus on the rural areas and will include all benefit claimants, not just JSA and ESA claimants eg. lone parents etc. In addition, targets have been reduced to reflect the difficulty of the areas and of claimants. Starting in March workshops are being held in Fernhurst, Midhurst, Tangmere and Petworth

#### *Questions?*

- *In response to a question about whether people were able to claim expenses? Yes for travel and equipment.*
- *Going out to the rural areas is good, however, there is a lack of transport. WSCC offer a free bus service on JSA and also looking into the possibility of moped loans.*
- *With regards to work placements, were they then taken on by the businesses? Yes and some had become apprentices.*
- *What type of companies/business have been used? People have worked within Chichester District in various Sectors, eg. garages, hairdressers.*
- *With the workshops, 2 run for 2 hours and the one at Petworth runs for 3 hours, why? No special reason, 1 morning a month. It is about need and demand.*
- *Do people want to engage that way? It works in Selsey*
- *With regards to apprenticeships, if local business wanted to be part of the scheme to let Amy know. In addition as Brinsbury College does not support agricultural apprentices, Amy will speak to the College about this.*

#### **Contact details**

Amy Loaring, Partnerships Officer - 01243 534726  
aloaring@chichester.gov.uk

Steve Hill, Choose Work Coordinator - 01243 534752  
shill@chichester.gov.uk

Sarah Bennetts, Choose Work Coordinator - 01243 534669  
sbennetts@chichester.gov.uk

#### **5. Update on unauthorised encampments**

Piers Taylor, Community Safety Officer, CDC

Piers began with a background history of unauthorised encampments that had occurred over the last couple of years throughout the Chichester District. With the aid of some photographs, Piers gave examples of the locations used, typical sites, the condition of the site after the travellers had been moved on and what preventative measure could be taken. In 2013 there had been 51 unauthorised encampments throughout Chichester District, dealing with which, the Police, CDC and WSCC worked together, shared information. Having such experience good procedures are in place to deal with these issues.

To date, in 2015, there had been 6 unauthorised encampments, 4 of which had been in the last week in Chichester and Hunston.

When visiting a traveller site, Piers and colleagues will look at the parking, the number of vehicles, who the travellers are and if they are they known.

There has been an incursion at Iron Hill, Liphook – two caravans with people working in the area, however, the response was quick, a notice served and they moved on. Last week at Fernhurst, there was one caravan and again in Northchapel. Chichester tends to get the larger groups – and Tangmere is a traditional stop off point, but they have now increased their security particularly, around the recreation ground with the result that there has been less incursions.

Any information that is reported is logged and shared. Information is also sent to Parishes, Town Councils and cross boarder colleagues. In addition, vehicle information and registration numbers are useful and can be passed on to Trading Standards.

The Travellers are looking for open space, they target our car parks, A27, old parts of roads which the Highways Agency are now securing.

Piers is currently checking all the hot spot sites.

#### Westhampnett, Transit site Update

Opening on Monday, it has space for 9 caravans and trailers, all very secure with CCTV, toilets, hot water, electricity, all metered with payment in advance.

Therefore, if travellers are now found on the road side etc, the Police can direct them to the Transit Site otherwise, they have to leave the area. It is possible that the recent unauthorised encampments, are probably waiting for the Transit Site to open.

Before the Transit Site was available, the Police, with Section 62 powers, could move Travellers on only under certain circumstances, (eg. if affecting an event, or a scheduled ancient monument) but their powers were restricted.

With the travellers in Market Avenue car park, we did try to move them on as the weekly market is an event, but as they were not actually denying use of the car park although the children were running around, powers were restricted. If on a busy road and they were causing an issue, Police could use their powers, eg. at the back of Waitrose car park, there were approximately 30 French trailers, in addition to the usual lorries and coaches etc.

#### *Questions?*

##### *Various questions asked:*

- *There is a limited time at the Transit Site of one month.*
- *What attracts travellers to particular sites? Public conveniences and shops*
- *If the travellers are in a car park, they are asked and reminded about pay and display, if they do not, they are then issued with a penalty notice.*
- *Height restriction barriers in car parks, these could be installed fairly quickly and cheaply, are they a good solution? Yes, this has been looked into and works in Parish car parks eg. Boxgrove. Not always appropriate though eg. Cattle Market car park impacts on market traders.*
- *If criminal damage has occurred whilst the travellers are gaining access to a site, eg a bolt has been cut on a locked gate, the police can act upon this if they have*

*evidence of the criminal damage. The Police have to be able to prove who committed the offence, they cannot arrest the whole group of travellers.*

### **Contact details**

Piers Taylor, Community Safety Officer - 01243 53 4802  
[ptaylor@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:ptaylor@chichester.gov.uk)

## **6. Future topics**

Future topics discussed and identified:

- Scottish and Southern Electric Power Distribution – Nathan Jeffery, Customer and Community Advisor
- Careline – Brenda Jackson, not just a community alarm system but can assist with community resilience plans
- Broadband, WSCC and BT – although it was identified that WSCC are the conduit with very limited powers, it would be beneficial to invite both to the meeting.
- Chris Patterson, SDNPA Local Plan and Community Plans.
- Southern Water
- Undergrounding (buried) power lines.
- Health and Wellbeing courses – recently held at Midhurst which were unsuccessful.
- Vulnerable people – help the community.

## **7. Any other Business**

Heather Caird said good bye as she would be stepping down as Leader of CDC after the elections, and that it had been a pleasure, good fun and wished everyone good luck.

Carola Brown had received a complaint regarding a noticeboard and was there any funding available? **Shona to send information to Carola.**

David Imlach asked a question in relation to the Parish elections and if they were unable to fill all vacancies for Parish Councillors within the time frame, would they still have to have an election, even if they could not co-opt anyone? Heather to get back to David to clarify the situation.

New Homes Bonus reminder, the closing date for applications is the 31st July 2015.

With there being no other business Andrew Shaxson thanked Cocking Parish Council for providing the venue and refreshments for the meeting. He also thanked Fernhurst PC and Elsted and Treyford PC who had also offered to host the meeting.

Before the meeting came to a close, the date and location for the next meeting was discussed. Marion Hansford very kindly offered Redford Village Hall.

**Date of Future Meeting - 8th July 2015 – Redford Village Hall**