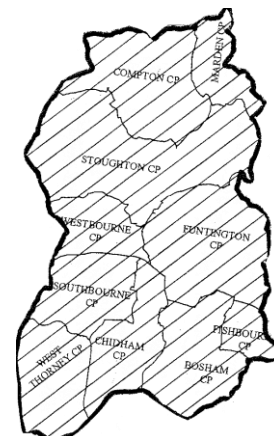


The Bournes Community Forum

Minutes of Meeting held in the Fishbourne Centre,
Thursday 24th November 2016 at 7pm



Present:

Bosham Parish Council

Cllr Myles Cullen (CDC)
Cllr Mrs Penny Plant (CDC)

Chidham and Hambrook Parish Council

Cliff Archer
Linda Wilkinson

Compton Parish Council

John Popplewell

Fishbourne Parish Council

Geoff Hand
Lynne Greenwell
Jamie Fitzroy

Funtington Parish Council

Geoff Keech

Marden Parish Meeting

Barry Clarke

Southbourne

Cllr Graham Hicks (CDC)

Westbourne Parish Council

Nigel Ricketts

Chichester District Council

Cllr Robert Hayes – Councillor Representative, Bournes Community Forum
Dave Hyland - Forum Administrator
Tania Murphy – Parking Services Manager
Emma Pagett – Home Energy Visitor

West Sussex County Council

Cllr Sandra James

Apologies:

Peter Lawrence, WSCC; Alyson Russell, Southbourne PC; Nick La Hive, Funtington PC; Tim Kenealy, Thorney Island; Andy Collins, Chidham and Hambrook PC; Richard Hitchcock, Westbourne PC.

1.0	Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising
1.1	No corrections identified, the minutes were then approved.
1.2	No matters arising not already covered by the Agenda.
2.0	Tania Murphy, Parking Services Manager CDC
2.1	Tania had been invited to give a presentation regarding the Districts Car Parks, parking enforcement across the District and the responsibilities of her department. The presentation slides are appended to these minutes.
2.2	<p>Questions from the floor</p> <p>Linda Wilkinson, Chidham and Hambrook PC, asked if there would be any further roll out of the “Pay on Exit” system now being used at the Avenue De Chartres Car Park, Chichester.</p> <p>Tania Murphy replied that Pay on foot had been implemented in 2015, and CDC had been both monitoring the success of that implementation and the continuing changes in car parking management and technology. In April 2016 CDC decided to look at other pay options for other car parks rather than rolling out more pay on foot, and look to take advantage of other payment options in the light of customer feedback – for example the introduction of pay by phone.</p> <p>Linda Wilkinson highlighted that pay by phone was unlikely to be a popular option for older customers and could be a potential barrier. Tania Murphy confirmed that this would be an additional option available to customers and existing mechanisms (ticket machines etc) would continue to be available in District car parks offering payment by coin, card and contactless.</p>
2.3	<p>Lynne Greenwell, Fishbourne PC asked what checks were made on blue badges, as she was concerned the system was being abused.</p> <p>Tania Murphy confirmed that Blue Badges are issued to disabled people and not to cars and therefore if a Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO) were to have suspicions about a driver approaching or leaving a car parked in a Disabled bay, they could ask to see the blue badge which would have both a photograph of the holder and give an indication of their age, which would help identify if they were the badge holder or not. CEOs are trained in Blue Badge fraud and action can be taken if a driver is using the badge inappropriately.</p> <p>Cllr Hayes highlighted a recent television programme that followed Portsmouth City Council CEOs which had covered this issue. He would also add that people should bear in mind that disabilities are not always obvious and just because someone appears not to be disabled, it shouldn't be assumed that they are not eligible for a blue badge.</p>
2.4	<p>Cllr Penny Plant questioned the offer of visitor passes.</p> <p>Tania Murphy clarified that in certain areas of Chichester, Resident Parking Zones are operating and being enforced, where parking is only possible for residents issued with permits. In the circumstances where they are expecting visitors to stay, they can obtain a visitor permit that would allow their visitors to park nearby. The option is not currently available for other locations (e.g. some of the rural car parks) but parking Services have recently implemented a new IT system that provides opportunity to manage a wider range of ticketing and passes, so it could be considered in the future.</p>
2.5	<p>Cllr Penny Plant also asked about the Pay by Phone mechanism, and would every single transaction appear on a bank statement, or a consolidated sum on a less frequent basis.</p> <p>Tania Murphy confirmed that as with any other contactless payment transaction we might undertake, each transaction would appear on bank statements. She went on to give more information about how the system works, and how enforcement works when the driver has not been issued with a ticket to put in their car – real time information is relayed to devices carried by CEOs which would allow them to determine if a ticket had been issued to a given car.</p>

2.6	<p>Nigel Ricketts, Westbourne PC was concerned about the cost of car parking to low paid workers commuting into Chichester each day and asked if there was to be a review of parking charges.</p> <p>Tania Murphy highlighted a current consultation on parking charges, which included a proposal to reduce the cost of season tickets in Avenue De Chartres Car Park which would be a significant benefit to such drivers. Ticket pricing is a balance between affordability, parity with car parks in similar neighbouring locations, generating income and managing car parks – for example Little London Car Park regularly causes traffic congestion and higher pricing in this location is used to discourage long stay and ensure that a steady flow on spaces is generated. Pricing is also discussed with the Car Parking Forum, which has representatives from CDC, WSCC, the community, local businesses and Chichester Access Group.</p> <p>Nigel Ricketts also asked about where enforcement income went. Tania Murphy confirmed that income would either be returned to WSCC in respect of on street parking enforcement, or used by CDC to either fund the Parking Service or for infrastructure improvements to the Council's car parks.</p>
2.7	<p>Lynne Greenwell, Fishbourne PC, asked about future provision. Given the rise in housing numbers and the increasing levels of car ownership, how would the predicted increases in car numbers be accommodated.</p> <p>Tania Murphy confirmed that they are already monitoring parking levels and work to a threshold. Monthly reporting confirms where usage is at in comparison to those thresholds and where levels significantly exceed those levels, then other measures would be looked at. This would include the temporary park and ride as currently being used for Christmas shoppers, but could in the future be used to justify other options. The permanent provision of a Park and Ride service would be expensive and in many locations costs more than the income derived.</p>
2.8	<p>John Popplewell, Compton PC raised parking issues created by parents dropping and collecting children at the village school. The absence of any yellow lines seems to give permission for them to park anywhere with no recourse. If they were to consider seeking yellow lines around the village square, what enforcement would be provided that might make them an effective traffic management tool?</p> <p>Tania Murphy outlined that each CEO has a route that they work to across areas of the District, but how they time their visits and the duration of their stay in locations is intelligence led. Where there have been specific issues they have been able to dedicate greater time to supporting initiatives that are trying to change driver behaviour. They have worked with schools in similar circumstances, but WSCC have a dedicated officer who works with schools on Travel Plans and Safe Routes to Schools that could be another avenue to explore to address the parking issues. Tania also outlined the process for securing a Traffic Regulation Order through WSCC which would be necessary to have yellow lines.</p>
2.9	<p>Cliff Archer, Chidham and Hambrook PC, highlighted that cars are getting bigger, making the existing parking spaces often too small to accommodate. Where there any proposals to increase the size?</p> <p>Tania Murphy said that there is consideration being given to revised lining or layouts of some of the Districts car parks, and where that to proceed then spaces would follow the best practice available at the time. The issue is being discussed at a national level, and there has been recent press coverage. However there is a balancing act and larger spaces would result in less spaces and possibly create a capacity issue.</p>

2.10	<p>Nigel Ricketts, Westbourne PC stated that he considered that Westbourne has the worst parking problems in West Sussex – everyone ignores the double yellow lines, creating frequent blockages in the road and there is no visible enforcement.</p> <p>Tania Murphy responded that CEOS do visit Westbourne at various times including evenings and have issued some tickets. Unfortunately there has been negative feedback to their presence from residents. However, if details of particular hotspots (location and timings) can be identified, please email the information to her and routes can be changed to try to assist with these occurrences.</p>
2.11	<p>In conclusion, Tania Murphy highlighted the current consultation on Car Parks which propose changes with effect from 1st April 2017. A proposal likely to be of interest to residents is the trail of charging later into the evening at two locations (Northgate and New Park – currently charge until 6pm proposal is to move that to 8pm) on the principle that the “user pays” – as both car parks are well used in the evening, this makes a comparable charge to people choosing to use the car park in the evening and contributes to the maintenance of those car parks, and (particularly at New Park) maximising capacity by encouraging turnover. The proposal has been advertised in the local press and details are also advertised in all affected car parks. Comments on these proposals should be emailed to kjeram@chichester.gov.uk by 12th December 2016.</p>

3.0	Emma Pagett, Home Energy Visitor, Chichester Wellbeing
3.1	<p>Emma Pagett introduced herself and the “Wellbeing Home Project” which is funded by Public Health England and hosted locally by the Wellbeing Teams at Chichester and Arun District Councils. The scheme aims to improve the health and wellbeing of households suffering from fuel poverty (defined as a household spending more than 10% income on heating the property adequately). The support looks at three areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The energy efficiency of the home (eg insulation) -The income of the household (eg ensuring receiving all benefits to which they are entitled) -The type of heating in use <p>Advice is provided wither over the phone or face to face (including home visits) and people can either contact the team direct or referrals are made by other professionals.</p>
3.2	<p>Emma Pagett then provided some examples of practical ways in which she and her colleague Jo Williamson can assist:</p> <p>Identify ways that people can save money eg tariff switching. People are typically either fed up with switching providers or otherwise reluctant, so it can also be helpful to ensure that they are on the best tariff their provider can offer, as tariffs are often negotiated for short periods of time and then not renegotiated.</p> <p>Look at behaviour, and household energy use. It may be that the way they are using their existing systems is inefficient or uneconomical, particularly with more complex set ups like night storage.</p> <p>Clients are often vulnerable, so there is also the need or opportunity to look more generally at their needs. This will include ensuring they are receiving the right financial support, but this could include other forms of support, and where appropriate referrals can be made to other forms of support. AN Energy Debt scheme is available, but is only used where the recipient has a support package in place to reduce the likelihood that debt will not continue to accrue.</p> <p>Highest fuel poverty is found in the private rented sector, as tenants can be reluctant to approach their landlord for support in improving heating if they fear their tenancy may be threatened. Emma can work with tenants as well as owner occupiers, and in such circumstances can work with Landlords to improve affected properties. There is also an issue with people on payment meters – while there are benefits to these systems (eg budgeting, accessing utilities without a good credit rating) often it precludes the best tariffs.</p>

3.3	<p>Emma Pagett highlighted some specific schemes that she was promoting, and literature was available on the evening:</p> <p>The “Warm Home Discount” is a £140 rebate on fuel costs. For households meeting key criteria, they can apply directly to their Electricity provider and have it applied to their account (or refunded). For other households that meet wider criteria, they can apply for the rebate and receive it directly in the winter. A copy of the leaflet relating to this initiative is appended to the minutes.</p> <p>Chichester District Council also has the “Warm Homes Initiative” which makes funding available to improve heating systems in poorly heated homes. The funding is means tested and results in a charge being placed on the property, with the funding repaid when the property is sold.</p> <p>The governments “Eco” scheme has expired in the current year, but a new scheme for the coming financial year (April 2017) will be focussing on “off gas” provision which may benefit some residents in the more rural parts of Chichester District.</p>
3.4	<p>If parishes would like more information, copies of leaflets can be obtained (hard copy or electronic if they are required for circulation in magazines etc) then they can contact Emma (epagett@arun.gov.uk 01903 737925. Emma and Jo are both happy to come and speak with groups (e.g. lunch clubs) subject to availability.</p>

4.0	Neighbourhood Plans
4.1	Bosham – Cllr Myles Cullen confirmed that the local referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan took place on Wednesday 16 th November. There was a 37% turnout with 90% support for the Plan. A good result for the Parish given the difficulty in preparing a plan, and ongoing issues with residents preference for development inside the AONB but inspectors recommendation it should be outside.
4.2	Chidham and Hambrook – Cliff Archer reports their plan is extant and has already proven successful in preventing unwanted development, both at application and in one instance at appeal.
4.3	Compton – not progressing
4.4	Fishbourne – Geoff Hand reports that their Plan has been made and already been useful in deterring or preventing unwanted development. However, there is an unintended consequence that they are experiencing difficulties in delivering the infrastructure their plan identifies, which changing Policy about responsibilities, what funding is available and the parameters.
4.4	Funtington – No progress, but recent meeting suggests that SDNPA position is changing their housing policy (but sworn to secrecy).
4.5	Marden – not progressing, parish too small
4.6	Westbourne – Nigel Ricketts reports that there is a meeting tonight hence Richard Hitchcock’s apologies. They are currently trying to address a key policy that is aimed to limit the level of Gypsy and Traveller sites within the Parish.

5.0	Any Other Business
5.1	<p>Suggestions for future topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning applications (issues relating to consistency of material provided to PCs and what they are consulted on) - Planning Enforcement

6.0	Date of Future Meetings		
All Parishes meeting	5 th April 2017	6.00pm buffet, 7.00pm meeting	East Pallant House, Chichester
Bournes Community Forum	22 nd June 2017	7.00pm	The Meeting Place (former Baptist Church) North Street, Westbourne