

JOINT MEETING OF THE NORTH WEST AND NORTH EAST COMMUNITY FORUMS



Minutes of a meeting of the Community Forum held on
Wednesday, 6 September 2017 at 7pm in the Old Library, Midhurst

Attendance and Apologies (in italics):

Bepton Parish Council	
Bignor Parish Meeting	<i>Apologies sent – Arthur Thomson</i>
Bury Parish Council	
Cocking Parish Council	David Imlach
Duncton Parish Council	
Easebourne Parish Council	
East Lavington Parish Council	<i>Apologies sent – Vivien Gosden</i>
Ebernoe Parish Council	Ann Tirrell
Elsted and Treyford Parish Council	Andrew Shaxson <i>Apologies sent - Andrew Leno</i>
Fernhurst Parish Council	<i>Apologies sent - Heather Bicknell</i>
Fittleworth Parish Council	Chris Welfare
Graffham Parish Council	Tracy Rowe <i>Apologies sent – Lawrence Paine</i>
Harting Parish Council	Andrew Shaxson
Heyshott Parish Council	Simon Larking
Kirdford Parish Council	
Linch Parish Meeting	
Lodsworth Parish Council	<i>Apologies sent – Caroline Neville</i>
Loxwood Parish Council	
Lurgashall Parish Council	<i>Apologies sent - Joe Harden</i>
Lynchmere Parish Council	Sandy Moore
Midhurst Town Council	Stephen Morley and Gordon McAra
Milland Parish Council	
Northchapel Parish Council	
Petworth Town Council	Chris Kemp
Plaistow & Ifold Parish Council	
Rogate Parish Council	Elizabeth Brown
Stedham with Iping Parish Council	Jane Crawford <i>Apologies sent - Lucy Petrie</i>
Stopham Parish Meeting	
The Common Parish of Sutton & Barlavington	
Tillington Parish Council	
Trotton with Chithurst Parish Council	Carola Brown
West Lavington Parish Council	

Wisborough Green Parish Council	
Woolbeding with Redford Parish Council	<i>Apologies sent - Adrian Hearle</i>
Chichester District Council	Eileen Lintill, Andrew Frost, Shona Turner <i>Apologies sent – John Ward, John Elliott</i>
South Downs National Park Authority	Chris Paterson <i>Apologies sent – Nat Belderson</i>
West Sussex County Council	Janet Duncton

<p>1. Introduction by the Chairman Andrew Shaxson opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and thanked Midhurst Town Council for hosting the meeting.</p>
<p>2. Apologies – as above Minutes of the last meeting, 28th March 2017 Matters arising - none</p>
<p>3. South Downs National Park Authority Chris Paterson, Communities Lead</p> <p>South Downs National Park Authority - workshop update The pre Submission consultation will run from 26 September – 21 November 23.59. (8 weeks).</p> <p>SDNPA are holding workshops to present the Pre Submission Local Plan which will briefly explain the content, the process for commenting and what the next steps involve. The workshops will also include a presentation on a review of the Partnership Management Plan and a workshop on Community Infrastructure Levy. The workshops are for Parish, Town, District and County Councillors only.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hampshire NPA workshop 27 September - 6.30pm at Festival Hall - West Sussex NPA workshop 4 October - 6.30pm at SDC - East Sussex NPA workshop 10 October - 6.30pm at Lewes Town Hall <p>The focus of the consultation is whether the tests of soundness are met by the Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development; • The plan should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence; • The plan should be deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities; and • The plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development and be consistent with national policy. <p>Providing no issues are raised relating to soundness and major changes are not required, the SDNPA expect to submit the Plan for examination towards the end of March 2018</p> <p>In response to Questions raised: A paper copy of the Plan (approx 500 pages) can be purchased from Arun District Council (printed on behalf of SDNPA) who will print copies to order. A printed copy of the plan will cost £33.27. It is possible to look at the Plan on line https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/final-chance-to-have-say-on-south-downs-local-plan/ and submit comments that way.</p> <p>It was discussed whether groups of Parishes should get together to discuss and debate the Plan and submit their findings as comments. Parish Councils are able to respond to the consultation as they wish. In the past, Parishes Councils have joined together to review consultation documents and provided joint responses. However, Parish Councils are statutory bodies within the consultation process, so each Parish can submit individual comments.</p>

It would not be possible to look at new sites at this late stage however; there is nothing to stop anyone from making a comment, including Neighbourhood Plan groups. All Comments will be made available to the Inspector to consider.

4. Sussex Police

Chief Inspector Justin Burtenshaw, Arun & Chichester District Commander

Email: Justin.burtenshaw@sussex.pnn.police.uk

An update since last April

Justin introduced himself, has been in post for 4 years and spoke to the Forums last year at Lodsworth Village Hall.

The Local Policing Programme was developed to modernise policing in the face of some significant cuts in funding. They are at the point now of just having made £50m in savings and then asked to take a further £40m out of their budget so they embarked on the following Programme.

- 27 PCSO's for Chichester & Arun. So now more than one PCSO is able to attend an incident and so the approach is therefore more effective.
- Have 10 dedicated police officers for Neighbourhood policing
- A Prevention Enforcement team will go live in November for when drugs warrants etc. are required.
- Schools Officers with additional duties after 3pm, will have youth intervention officers with them – 3 Officers for Chichester and Arun
- Response Team - 101 system – with approx. 100 PC's covering Chichester and Arun.
- Street Triage team, a mental health nurse and officer turn up in a car and assess.
- Our response times to 999 calls are 80% within 15 minutes. Response Grade 1 calls = Blue lights, Grade 2 calls = Burglaries, Grade 3 = response 24hrs or more. All based on threat, harm and risk.
- PCSO Richard Morey was asked to do a talk on Operation Signature – about scams and crimes against vulnerable people etc. He has now done 50 of these talks. The numbers have been reduced.
- Human trafficking – Issues with car wash companies. Action taken and Companies are now out of operation.
- Based on intelligence about a cannabis den in Chichester. About 2 months ago, they uncovered millions of pounds worth of illegal steroids. They have blocked their banks accounts and that money will go into the PCC to use on community initiatives.
- Armed Police – Justin reminded the group that he is the fire arms commander as well and there will be more presence of police officers with semi-automatic machine guns and hand guns at all main events where there are a lot of people (eg. Goodwood) including Christmas in the city.

In response to questions raised:

Justin apologised for what looked like the lack of response to a particular issue a Parish Council had been experiencing. However, the Police have to prioritise incidents based on threat, harm and risk. Balancing incidents with other crimes was difficult but Justin would look into the issue and recommended that Operation Crackdown was a good system for reporting vehicle incidents.

Banks do not report trends in crime to the Police. In fact, it is difficult to get information from the Banks. However, there is the Cyber Crime unit, the National Crime Agency and Regional Crime Unit where the Police obtain their information.

Since last April, they have been under pressure in many areas but have coped well but the difficulties come with large scale incidents eg. Shoreham air crash. This is still being investigated 2 years on and draws on many reserves.

Where we can, we will catch the offender, prevention is the key.

Justin is always happy to come back to speak to the Forums and if anyone has a problem, please email him. Justin.burtenshaw@sussex.pnn.police.uk

**5. Chichester District Association of Local Councils –
Mike Beal, Chair of (CDALC)**

Email: mike.beal@selseytowncouncil.gov.uk

The role Parish Councils can play in the Health and Well Being of their Parishioners

Mike gave a presentation on a report entitled 'The Opportunities for Parish and Town Council Involvement in the Health and Wellbeing in West Sussex'. This report, from SSALC, was sent to Parish Councils earlier in the year, points covered:

- An aging population especially in West Sussex with 12% of GP posts being unfilled.
- In England, potentially 543 GP practices may have to close
- West Sussex will need 10-30% increase in GPs by 2020
- Reduction in pharmacy funding threatens their existence especially in rural areas
- Statistics reveal lonely people visit their GPs more often.
- Growing concern over missed GP and hospital appointments
- NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) say Local Authorities/Councils have a responsibility to promote and protect health

So although the Parish Councils are not responsible they can help, they have resources to launch ideas. Mike highlighted the initiative in Selsey called 'Good Morning Selsey' which involves making telephone calls to vulnerable people. To chat and to make sure they are alright.

He suggested other initiatives in which Parish Councils could become involved or even just start the initiative and then let volunteers take over and manage it.

- Raising awareness of the amount of missed GP appointments in their Parish
- Volunteer transport to drive people to/from GP/hospital appointments
- Lunch clubs
- Parish Councils working together to share facilities

In response to questions raised, people discussed what their Parishes already provide and the smaller the village or Parish is, the more aware they are of their community and its needs.

The document '**Opportunities for Parish and Town council involvement in Health and Wellbeing in West Sussex**' is situated on SSALC website for members with login details.

6. Midhurst Area Cycling (MAC) - Jane Crawford, Secretary of MAC

Email: MAC@minsted.myzen.co.uk

Promoting cycleways and dual use paths for walkers, mobility scooters and cycling

Jane explained how MAC was formed by local parish councils and interested individuals with the support of the South Downs Conservation Board (SDCB), WSCC and CDC.

The group's original intentions were to work alongside 'Pedalling Ahead 2000', WSCC's cycling strategy, as they felt their area had been largely ignored and that Midhurst and its neighbouring parishes would benefit from a more cycle friendly environment. They would be a lobby group pressing for improved conditions for cycling and create a cycling hub in Midhurst.

MAC's objectives include better health (physically and mentally), a cleaner, quieter environment and to encourage safe cycling particularly for young people.

MAC has achieved:

- In persuading SDCB, WSCC, CDC and PCs to fund the Sustrans report: Midhurst Area Cycling Strategy, published in 2005. Sustrans is the sustainable transport charity and the report is based on their wide experience and input from workshops which were attended by many local people. The routes recommended are almost all those on the map (attached to email). The report includes proposals for making Midhurst a more user-friendly town for pedestrians.
- Midhurst's '20 is plenty' campaign was based on the report
- Safe cycling through Bepton and are now working with the National Park to extend it through the Downs to West Dean to eventually link with Centurion Way into Chichester.

- Midhurst – Stedham dual walking/cycling route was completed in 2015. This also has the benefit of enabling mobility scooter users to safely get to/from Midhurst.

MAC's current projects consist of:

- Upgrading Stedham/Midhurst dual-use crossing near the Half Moon - the crossing is unsafe and are suggesting to extend the 30 mph limit to beyond the Woolbeding turning.
- Encouraging Cocking Parish Council to press for the A286 path - beside the main road and to be dual purpose.
- Renovation of Jubilee path (south to Holmbush industrial estate) – although the path exists (starts next to the fire station), it is in poor repair and if renovated, it could link to the Cocking path.
- Lobbying for years for a new crossing between the fire station and Jubilee path north (leading to the pond).
- Have expressed the desire to WSCC for dual-use on the path from South Pond via the Wharf to Cowdray Ruins. Would also like to see the Causeway made dual use and likewise the path to Easebourne.
- MTC has begun to install some cycle stands around the town, but more are needed.
- Re-opening the old railway line route between Petersfield and Pulborough – the Rother Valley Greenway: Have encouraged the SDNPA since its inception to make this their flagship project and the Group have joined with Rogate's Shortcut group. (This was Route 18 on WSCC's Pedalling Ahead report in 2000.)

MAC's progress:

- Unfortunately, SDNPA has no funding identified for the Rother Valley Greenway project but preparation work for it is continuing behind the scenes.
- MAC is now a member of West Sussex Cycling Forum which holds regular meetings
- WSCC has adopted a Walking and Cycling Strategy for the next 10 years and SDNPA have an emerging Walking and Cycling Strategy (due out this autumn). These two local strategies include identified access schemes that MAC and other community bodies, PCs etc have championed, which, subject to resources and funding, will be taken forward.

How can you help?

Would every Parish please consider sending a representative to our meetings so we can plan and co-ordinate joint lobbying of both WSCC and SDNPA. Please contact Jane for further information.

Alister Linton-Crook, the National Park's Cycling Project Officer, has been very helpful to MAC and is happy for any parish council to contact him for advice about community-led desires and endeavours for cycling facilities. These should definitely be included in parish neighbourhood plans.

7. Any other Business

Farnborough – as people had noticed more aircraft noise and that there had been some changes, Farnborough should be asked for an update.

Future topics discussed included housing, both affordable and commercial. Would like feedback on the community housing land trusts.

Suggested topic for future meeting: housing and community land trusts.

Next meeting:

Date 7th December

Time: 6.30pm arrival and refreshments, with the meeting starting at 7pm.

Venue: Lodsworth Village Hall, GU28 9BY

Subject: Planning Delivery and Planning Enforcement.