

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee of
Adur District and Worthing Borough Councils**

Queen Elizabeth II Room, Shoreham-by-Sea

14 July 2016

Stephen Chipp (Chairman)
Joss Loader (Vice Chairman)

Adur District Council:

Carol Albury
George Barton
Kevin Boram
Clive Burghard
James Butcher
*Robin Monk

Worthing Borough Council:

*Roy Barraclough
Keith Bickers
Nigel Morgan
Louise Murphy
*Luke Proudfoot
Bob Smytherman
Jane Sim
Steve Waight

*Absent

JOSC/16-17/8 Declarations of Interest/Substitutions

Councillor Tom Wye declared his substitution for Councillor Luke Proudfoot.

Councillors Bob Smytherman and Steven Waight declared Personal interests in any matters concerning West Sussex County Council.

Councillor Louise Murphy declared a Personal interest in any matters concerning Southdowns Leisure Trust.

JOSC/16-17/9 Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the Committee held on 16 June 2016 be approved as the correct record and be signed by the Chairman subject to it being noted that Councillor Steven Waight was absent from the meeting and had sent an apology.

JOSC/16-17/10 Public Question Time

A local resident from Shoreham asked if extra signs could be provided in the Shoreham town area advising people where to park because there were currently not enough signs. Councillor Emma Evans, Adur District Council Executive Member for the Environment, advised that she was aware of the situation and would get back to the resident to let him know what could be done.

JOSC/16-17/11 Items Raised Under Urgency Provisions

There were no urgent items.

JOSC/16-17/12 Consideration of any matter referred to the Committee in relation to a call-in of a decision

There were no items.

JOSC/16-17/13 Scrutiny Review - Delays in implementing the proposed enhancement works to the Lower Beach Road Car Park and Ferry Road in Shoreham and vandalism to the Adur Ferry Bridge

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Digital and Resources, a copy of which is attached to a signed copy of these minutes as item 6. The report provided a briefing to assist the Committee undertaking its review on the delays in implementing the proposed enhancement works to the Lower Beach Road Car Park and Ferry Road in Shoreham-by-Sea. The review also afforded the opportunity to assess the reasons for the vandalism to the Adur Ferry Bridge and what stakeholders are doing to mitigate this risk.

The following stakeholders gave evidence to the Committee relating to the Lower Beach Road Car Park/Ferry Road enhancement works:-

Tim Loughton, MP

Mike Thomas, Area Manager, Worthing & Adur Residents Services - Highways & Transport, West Sussex County Council

James Appleton, Head of Economic Growth, Adur & Worthing Councils

As part of his evidence, Mr Appleton advised the Committee that Adur District Council had recently decided to proceed with the scheme working with an approved contractor to undertake the works which would be started in parallel with the commencement of the Environment Agency's Tidal walls scheme which was due to commence in August 2016. It was anticipated that the work would take place between November 2016 and the end of March 2017.

Councillor Brian Boggis, Adur District Council, Executive Member for Regeneration

Councillor Mick Clark, West Sussex County Council, local ward Councillor

Councillor Janet Mockridge, Chairman, Adur County Local Committee

Keely Mowatt, Client Manager, Environment Agency

Liza McKinney, Shoreham Beach Residents Association

As part of the consideration of the item, Members of the Committee and members of the public had been asked to submit questions in advance. A number of questions were received and appropriate responses provided as follows:-

A member of the Committee asked about the arrangements for public consultation relating to the Ferry Road and Lower Beach Road car park landscaping scheme, prior to the application for a TRO. The Committee was advised that there had been

delays via the County Local Committee because what was being proposed was illegal and that there had not been proper consultation.

A member of the Committee asked, on behalf of a member of the public, if there was any intention by the Council to sell off a smaller section of the car park on the western side of the dividing road. The Committee was advised that the Council had no intention of selling off that part of the car park at the moment.

A number of local residents then asked questions which they had submitted in advance:-

One resident asked for the costs of hiring concrete blocks which had been used to limit access to parts of the Ferry Bridge parking/compound.

The Committee was advised of the total costs for providing the blocks which were £395 per month since April 2014 and £8,965 in total.

One resident asked about the cleaning arrangements for the Adur Ferry Bridge. The Committee was advised that regular litter picking was undertaken and deep cleaning as required when appropriate using a mechanical cleaner but that could not clear the deep marks created by tyre tracks. It was agreed that the Council would write to the member of the public to explain what arrangements would be put in place to ensure that the deep marks were removed.

One resident asked if the £550,000 original scheme costs for the enhancement works would be the same or would less be done. The Committee was advised that there had been reductions in some costs but there were also additional costs but the budget was still within the original costs for the scheme.

One resident asked if the information on the Council's website about the scheme would be kept updated. The Committee was advised that appropriate updates would be provided.

One resident suggested that provision should be made for information boards at the Beach end of the Ferry Bridge to replace the temporary palings currently used for information. This was noted.

One resident asked various questions regarding the layout of the enhancement works scheme and the safety issues. The Committee was advised that the proposed layout of the scheme had been endorsed by relevant stakeholders/consultees.

One resident circulated some photographs of the condition of the southern end of the site of the Ferry Road scheme site. He asked why the enhancement works had not started yet. The Committee was advised that it was a partnership scheme and there had been a number of issues which were outside of the controls of the partners which had caused the delays.

One resident asked when the Ferry Road enhancement works were going to commence and had concerns about the use of the car park for the Environment Agency scheme site compound at the same time as the Ferry Road scheme works were going to commence. The Committee was advised that the Environment Agency were planning on using part of the car park for their compound but that negotiations were taking place to ensure that both of the site compounds could be housed simultaneously on the car park to ensure that there were no delays to either scheme.

One resident asked questions relating to the provision of a Slipway on the site for the Ferry Road enhancement scheme and if the Council could still consider the plan for a public slipway at the site. The Committee was advised that further consideration would cause more delays to the implementation of the enhancement works at Ferry Road/Lower Beach Road car park.

One resident asked if there would be any further delays to implementing the enhancement works and if a specific date for commencing the enhancement works could be identified. The Committee was advised that the Council would do everything within its powers to ensure that works would commence before 11 September 2016.

One local resident also asked a question relating to the competitive tendering process. The Committee was advised that the allocation of tenders was subject to an open competitive tendering process.

The following stakeholders gave evidence to the Committee relating to the Adur Ferry Bridge vandalism issues:-

Tim Loughton, MP

PCSO Amy Hollin, Sussex Police

Rhian Francis, Safer Communities Partnership Co-Ordinator, Adur and Worthing Councils

Representatives from West Sussex County Council (WSCC) were unable to attend but provided responses to questions submitted in advance.

As part of the consideration of this part of the item, Members of the Committee and members of the public had been asked to submit questions in advance. A number of questions were received and appropriate responses provided as follows:-

One resident asked for information in days and hours for the amount of CCTV digital recordings of Ferry Bridge since the introduction of improved cameras and also how it was monitored and the quality of the pictures provided. The Committee was advised that recordings were undertaken 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. West Sussex County Council were investigating the possibility of improving the CCTV coverage. The CCTV was monitored retrospectively by WSCC and real time by Sussex Police but the picture quality was sufficient to identify facial features.

One resident asked for further information on the CCTV cameras on the Adur Ferry Bridge. The Committee was advised that there were three cameras that focussed on the Bridge which covered the southern entrance to the Bridge, the western side of the Bridge and Coronation Green where the camera was owned by Adur District Council and controlled solely by Sussex Police and two of its pre-set positions focussed on the Bridge. Following incidents the WSCC Structures Team checked the footage retrospectively and Sussex Police had access to one of the cameras which they monitored live.

One resident asked questions relating to the design/structure of the Bridge and the quality of the replacement panels being provided. The Committee was advised that the design of the bridge allowed for movement and expansion and the new panels had been tested to ensure that they were fit for purpose. There was no reason to believe that the panels would shatter in severe weather and 19 of the 23 shattered panels had been due to vandalism. The replacement panels were being made on a like for like basis, it was not possible to provide a date for replacement. Alternative panels of a different design had been considered but in consultation with stakeholders there was overwhelming support for the glass to remain.

One resident asked a further question relating to the design of glass panels and the susceptibility to vandalism. A statement from WSCC confirmed that the glass was fit for purpose but that glass was open to vandalism so the focus was to try and find the culprits.

The Committee discussed the issues relating to the delays in implementing the enhancement works to the Ferry Road scheme and also the vandalism issues on the Ferry Road Bridge. The Committee was pleased that a solution to move the issues forward had been identified and that work on the Ferry Road scheme would start in the Autumn 2016. The Committee was, however, disappointed that the delays had occurred in the first place but looking forward the Committee suggested that it could review (By way of a small Working Group), the policies and procedures relating to major projects and how both Adur and Worthing Councils and West Sussex County Council worked together to ensure that major projects were delivered effectively. It was suggested that Councillor Kevin Boram should be Chairman of the Working Group.

With regard to the vandalism issues on the Adur Ferry Bridge, the Committee was concerned at a lack of communication between the various stakeholders and was very disappointed that no representative from West Sussex County Council had attended the Committee to address on the vandalism and structural issues relating to the Adur Ferry Bridge. The Committee considered that in future Officers should be present and that the Committee should review the glass issues relating to the bridge when Officers from West Sussex County Council could be present.

Resolved:

- (i) That as part of its Work Programme for 2016/17, the Committee set up a small Working Group to be chaired by Councillor Kevin Boram and

made up of two Council Members from Adur and Worthing Councils and West Sussex County Council to review the procedures for joint project working and improved communication between West Sussex County Council and Adur and Worthing Councils.

(ii) That Officers from West Sussex County Council be requested to revisit the breaking glass issue relating to the Adur Ferry Bridge and attend a future meeting of the Committee to respond to questions from the Committee.

JOSC/16-17/14 Joint Revenue Outturn Report 2015-2016

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Digital and resources, a copy of which is attached to a signed copy of these minutes as item 7.

The report outlined the revenue financial monitoring position for the end of the 2015/16 financial year for Joint Strategic Committee. At the time of publication of this report, the Statement of Accounts were still to be audited. Any changes that emerged as the audit proceeded would be reported to the Committee later in the year. Information was also provided in respect of earmarked reserves for the 2 constituent authorities.

Councillor Waight raised a number of issues relating to the Worthing budgets which he considered that the Joint Strategic Committee (JSC) had not addressed when it considered the matter at its meeting on 13 July 2016. These related to changes to the minimum revenue provision policy, the windfall of £511,000 from the off-shore windfarm and the effect it would have had on the outturn report and, in particular, the view taken by JSC that the budgetary forecasting system was appropriate. The Committee also raised issues relating to the Worthing Theatres budget and the impact of a multiplex cinema on the Worthing Theatres.

In respect of Councillor Waight's comments, it was suggested that he should raise these on behalf of the Committee with the JSC at the next available meeting.

Resolved:

(i) That the Joint Revenue Outturn report for 2015/16 be noted; and

(ii) That Councillor Waight, on behalf of the Committee, be authorised to present the comments as referred to above, to the next Joint Strategic Committee.

JOSC/16-17/15 Adur and Worthing Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme – 2016/17

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Digital and Resources, a copy of which was sent to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 8. The report outlined progress on the work contained in the 2016/17 Work Programme.

In accordance with the new ways of working for the Committee and for the new ways of assessing Scrutiny requests, a Scrutiny Bid request was set out for the review of engagement with young people and was proposed for an issue as part of the future Work Programme. Also, two members of the public had requested Scrutiny reviews relating to building on the Goring Gap and on street parking arrangements in East Worthing. Those two bids were not recommended for further consideration on the basis that the building on the Goring Gap issue was part of consideration of the Worthing Local Plan and that the on street parking issue was a West Sussex County Council matter.

It was further suggested that the Committee should scrutinise the Worthing Local Plan progress and the outcomes of the local Devolution Bids as part of its Work Programme.

Resolved:

- (1) That the progress in implementing the Work Programme be noted;
- (2) That the scope proposal for the review of better engagement with young people as set out in the report be approved for consideration as part of the October 2016 Committee.
- (3) That a review of the Worthing Local Plan and a review of the outcome of the local Devolution Bids be added to the Work Programme at appropriate times during 2016/17.

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 10.17pm it having commenced at 6.30pm.

Chairman