

CHICHESTER CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

HELD ON MONDAY 31 OCTOBER 2016 AT 5.30PM

- PRESENT : Councillors Apel, Galloway (Chairman), Macey, Sharp and Tupper
- EX-OFFICIO : The Mayor (Councillor P Budge)
Councillor Dignum
- ALSO PRESENT : Councillors Bell, M Evans and Scicluna
Ray Brown - Friends of Chartres
Brenda Gay - Friends of Ravenna
Chief Inspector Justin Burtenshaw - Sussex Police
Sue Long - Community Warden (West Ward)
Edward Cooke - Solicitor
- APOLOGIES : Deputy Mayor (Councillor P Evans)
Councillors P M Budge, J French and Holman
Graham Pound - Friends of Valletta
- ABSENT : Councillor Keyworth
- IN ATTENDANCE : Town Clerk and Administration Manager

27 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 September 2016, having been printed and circulated, were submitted and the Chairman was authorised to sign the same as a correct record.

28 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING

No declarations were made.

29 CLOSURE OF CHICHESTER COURTS - UPDATE

The Chairman welcomed Edward Cooke to the meeting.

Mr Cooke addressed the meeting by saying that the Public Meeting held on 27 September 2016 in the Assembly Room had been successful with many people in attendance. Members of the public were being encouraged to write to the Secretary of State against the closure of the Chichester Courts.

The alternative local justice provision being proposed was the promotion of a video-link at Chichester Police Station for dealing with criminal justice and with civil and family justice being dealt with in Havant.

Legal advice was being sought and a Judicial Review was still a possibility but information was still awaited on this course of action.

The Committee were advised that both the Combined Court and Magistrates' Court buildings had been put up for sale on the Government's website, although the Combined Court was not closing until 2017.

It was RESOLVED that Chichester City Council re-iterates their support for the provision of criminal justice and family case courts in Chichester.

30 POLICING AND SECURITY IN THE CITY

(a) General Update for Sussex Police

The Chairman welcomed Chief Inspector Justin Burtenshaw, District Commander for Chichester and Arun to the meeting.

Chief Inspector Burtenshaw explained that by merging individual policing areas into one effective policing district, a more cohesive and reactive type of policing could be achieved and the aim was that by 2017 policing in the district would be 'borderless'.

The Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) would no longer be based in a specific area and combined with the police officers would be available to provide policing for the district-wide area. The PCSO's were also being given more training; contact for the PCSO's would now be via a generic email address.

The introduction of a 'Street Triage' consisting of a police officer and a mental health nurse had helped towards incidents being dealt with more effectively if mental health issues were involved. There would also be more multi-agency working and investment in areas such as fire arms, child sex exploitation, etc.

It appeared that the crime rates for the area had increased however the number of calls reporting crime had not; the increase was due to the requirement of recording of all crimes

Chief Inspector Burtenshaw was asked about policing the City Centre on Friday and Saturday nights and advised that rather than a 'high-viz' presence on the streets a more 'intelligence-led' approach was being taken.

Councillor Apel asked if the City Angels had helped with crime in the City over weekends and Inspector Burtenshaw said it was a good voluntary organisation which was essential to the City. Councillor M Evans commented that the 'Street Triage' was a commendable service.

The Town Clerk asked if a response had been received regarding the policing of the possible Tim Peake Freedom Parade and was advised that a response was still awaited.

Chief Inspector Burtenshaw confirmed that police officers would no longer be involved with Road Closures.

The Chairman thanked Chief Inspector Burtenshaw for attending the meeting.

(b) Community Wardens

Reports had been received from the Community Wardens representing the East, South and West Wards of the City and had been circulated to all members.

Councillor Apel thanked Sue Long, Community Warden, for her work in the West ward.

31 CYCLING IN THE PRECINCT

Councillor Macey raised the issue of cycling in the precinct and that the highway signs that appeared in the City Centre were confusing. Currently cycling was prohibited between 9.30am and 5.30pm Monday to Saturday and no prohibition of cycling on Sunday. However, with the introduction of Sunday trading and seasonal street markets in both East and North Streets, it was considered that this should be changed.

Councillor Macey had already raised this issue at a recently held West Sussex County Council County South Local Committee meeting and had been informed that the Head of Highways Operation would be looking into this.

32 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF FRIENDS OF CHARTRES AND RAVENNA

(a) Friends of Chartres

The Friends of Chartres report had been circulated to all members and noted.

(b) Friends of Ravenna

The Friends of Ravenna report had been circulated to all members and noted.

An exchange visit to Ravenna to celebrate the 20th anniversary of twinning between Chichester and Ravenna had just taken place. The Mayor had attended and had been presented with a mosaic with the intention that it be displayed on the outside of the Council House. This would be a matter for the Property Sub-Committee to determine.

(c) Friends of Valletta

No report had been received from the Friends of Valletta, however Councillor Scicluna reported on recent and forthcoming events.

33 REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF BREWERY FIELD

There was no representative from the Friends of Brewery Field.

34 FLORENCE ROAD PEDESTRIAN CROSSING APPLICATION

The Committee were asked to consider the request from West Sussex County Councillor Simon Oakley that the City Council initiate an application for two pedestrian crossings (one towards the North and one towards the South of Florence Road) using West Sussex County Council's Community Highways Scheme and that City Council Officers be authorised to take the necessary action and submit an application.

It was RESOLVED that City Council Officers take this matter forward.

35 HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY - 27 JANUARY 2017

A report prepared by Councillors Apel and Bell had been circulated with the Agenda to all members outlining a project proposal for Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January 2017. The City Council were not being asked to fund or underwrite the project but to support it and permit the use of the Coat of Arms on publicity.

It was RESOLVED that the City Council support the proposed project for Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January 2017 but the use of the Coat of Arms would have to be discussed and determined by the Finance Committee.

36 REVIEW OF DISCRETIONARY GRANT GUIDELINES

A report had been circulated to all members with the Agenda on reviewing the Discretionary Grant Guidelines which had been raised by the Community Affairs Committee following a Discretionary Grant being awarded for an organisations' event that did not take place.

It was RESOLVED that if a Discretionary Grant Application submitted for a particular event which was being held within the next 12 months, a copy of Event Insurance will be required from the organisation.

The Committee were also asked to determine whether a Condition attached to a particular organisation's Discretionary Grant should be implemented within 6 months or 12 months of the Grant being presented.

It was further RESOLVED that any Condition attached to a Discretionary Grant should be implemented within 6 months of receiving the Grant unless there was extenuating circumstances for this timescale to be extended to 12 months. After 12 months, if the Grant has not been expended, the City Council will request the grant money be returned.

37 CHICHESTER IN BLOOM

(i) City Centre Floral Displays

The Administration Manager advised that the flower tower bases had been planted up with the Autumn/Winter display and that the Cathedral Beds display would be changed shortly, however the beds were still looking presentable with the Summer display. The cost of the floral displays was within budget.

(ii) Improvements to other landscaped areas in the City

The Committee noted that, as previously reported at the recent Finance Committee, City Council officers and met with West Sussex County Council Highway Officers who were offering the maintenance of four roundabouts to the City Council. The Finance Committee resolved that discussions between the two councils continue.

38 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

- Update on the Closure of Chichester Courts

The meeting ended at 7.05pm