

**Minutes of a meeting of Scrutiny Committee for Community,  
Customer Services and Service Delivery  
held on Wednesday, 8th July, 2020  
from 4.00 - 5.35 pm**

**Present:** A Boutrup (Chair)  
Anthea Lea (Vice-Chair)

L Bennett  
P Chapman  
R Clarke  
I Gibson

J Henwood  
T Hussain  
M Pulfer  
A Sparasci

D Sweatman

**Absent:** Councillors B Dempsey, S Ellis, J Mockford and S Smith

**Also Present:** Councillors P Brown, R Bates, A. Bennett, J Dabell, A Eves, J Knight and S Hatton.

**Also Present as Cabinet Members:** Councillors J Belsey, Councillor R De Mierre and Councillor N Webster

**1 ROLL CALL AND VIRTUAL MEETING EXPLANATION.**

The Chairman carried out a roll call to establish attendance at the meeting. The Solicitor to the Council provided information on the format of the virtual meeting.

**2 TO NOTE SUBSTITUTES IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 4 -SUBSTITUTES AT MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES ETC.**

Councillor Dabell substituted for Councillor Ellis. Councillor Knight substituted for Cllr Smith, Councillor A Bennett substituted for Councillor Dempsey.

**3 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies were received from Councillors Dempsey, Ellis, Knight and Mockford.

**4 TO RECEIVE DECLARATION OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS IN RESPECT OF ANY MATTER ON THE AGENDA.**

Cllr Gibson declared a personal interest in Item 9: Mid Sussex Partnership Annual Report as had sat on the Mid Sussex Partnership Board by virtue of being Chairman of Mid Sussex Association of Local Councils at the start of 2019 until he gave the Chairmanship.

Cllr Sweatman declared a personal interest in Item 9: Mid Sussex Partnership Annual Report as had sat on the Mid Sussex Partnership Board as a representative of the Mid Sussex Association of Town Councils.

Cllr Liz Bennett declared that she is a member of West Sussex County Council whom feature briefly in all items on the agenda as well as declaring a personal interest in Item 9: Mid Sussex Partnership Annual Report as she is a member of East Grinstead Town Council.

Cllr Pulfer declared a personal interest in Item 7: Playing Pitch Study as he is the Mid Sussex District Council representative to St Francis Sports and Social Club which is mentioned several times in the study.

Cllr Dabell declared a personal interest in Item 9: Mid Sussex Partnership Annual Report as he is a member of East Grinstead Town Council.

**5 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 5 FEBRUARY 2020.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2020 were agreed as a correct record and electronically signed by the Chairman.

**6 TO CONSIDER ANY ITEMS THAT THE CHAIRMAN AGREES TO TAKE AS URGENT BUSINESS.**

The Chairman had no urgent business.

**7 PLAYING PITCH STUDY.**

Elaine Clarke, Community Facilities Project Officer, introduced the report which set out the Playing Pitch Study for the District and the associated indicative implementation plan. The study followed Sport England methodology in assessing current demand and supply of provision for football, tennis, hockey, bowls, rugby, cricket, athletics and identifying future development needs, priorities and options for each sport, to inform future development.

Councillor Webster, Cabinet Member for Community, welcomed the fact that many of these projects will be financed through Section 106 funding and noted that as new communities develop they need to be provided with outdoor recreation and sports facilities due to the positive impact on public health. He highlighted that the Government have included sports projects in their support schemes however with the focus turning to reviving the economy he expects that it may be down to local communities to support these organisations.

Councillor Belsey, Cabinet Member for Service Delivery, thanked the contributors to the report. He expressed that he was concerned most about the implementation and highlighted the work remaining to do on the study. He drew attention to Section 5.10 onwards which details information relating to funding of the projects. He valued the report but felt cautious about raising expectations of the deliverability of the projects.

A Member noted the change in behaviours that the public exhibit because of the impact of Covid-19 and questioned whether officers have anticipated the change in behaviour which would add pressure on the facilities as already seen with more people working from home and enjoying their local area.

The Community Facilities Project Officer confirmed that it was too early to say and noted the facilities have capacity for outdoor training during the week however there may not be capacity during the weekend.

A Member commented on the recreation ground at East Grinstead Recreation Ground on P.66 of the report. It notes that it is a potential hub site and is the only multi-pitch site however during the winter the pitch is unplayable due to the serious need of drainage and is consequently underused. He asked whether officers could consider prioritising that pitch for improvement in the short term, rather than the medium term as planned.

The Community Facilities Project Officer explained that the Council has asked the Football Association (FA) to review the football pitches which will help inform the Council as to which pitches to prioritise in terms of drainage. She noted that there are a number of sites within East Grinstead that require improvement and therefore all the pitches in East Grinstead will need to be looked at as a whole.

A Member enquired whether there is a specific policy keeping pricing as low as possible, particularly for students and less well-off residents. He also enquired why adult 7-a-side football wasn't mentioned in the report and enquired the implications of tennis being run by the Parish Council and the implications of that relating to the funding. He noted that a resident proposed organising crowdfunding, and this could be done to supplement the funding made available and sought the officer's guidance to advise the resident.

The Community Facilities Project Officer confirmed that the Council has a standard pricing on owned facilities and where grants are given to organisations it requires them to adhere to the Council's pricing standards. She highlighted that the Facility Grants Scheme is available to fund those types of community projects across the district however she welcomed any crowdfunding activities. She also confirmed that she is not familiar with 7-a-side football so will investigate its omission from the document and confirm with the Councillor outside of the meeting.

A Member drew attention to P.43 and the improvements in athletics. She asked why Burgess Hill Academy Sports facilities was not mentioned in the report and asked how Mid Sussex District Council will engage with these facilities.

The Community Facilities Project Officer noted that Burgess Hill Academy, as well as all the other secondary schools, were invited to comment on the Study however they did not respond. She stated that she has engaged and will continue to engage with the organisation.

A Member noted that Burgess Hill Town Football Club are looking to move or improve their current ground. He sought clarity and noticed in the report that a delivery group will be set up to deal with this and enquired who will be involved in the group and how will the funding be prioritised.

The Community Facilities Project Officer confirmed that the delivery group will be comprised of the Waste, Landscapes and Leisure Departments of the Council as well as the sports national bodies representatives and Sport England. Each project will be looked at by the group individually and be prioritised at the start but as projects come forward for delivery then it would come through the capital programme or the Cabinet Grants Panel.

A Member raised his concerns over housing developers wishing to contribute less to Section 106 funding due to the current pandemic and asked that the Council takes a hard line if asked to do so. He sought clarification on the total number of pitches referred to under P.22 and requested that the Haven Centre be prioritised as a place to develop a new 3G playing pitch.

The Community Facilities Project Officer highlighted that the implementation plan still needs to be considered and reviewed to see whether there is funding available to deliver these projects. There will then be a pragmatic decision on what is feasible.

A Member thanked the officers for the vertical drainage system noted on P.19 that was constructed at Fairfield Recreation Ground, Hurstpierpoint however she drew the officer's attention to the damaged caused by the contractors to the centre of the pitch which she hoped would be remedied.

The Community Facilities Project Officer confirmed that she will refer the issue to officers at the Council.

The Vice-Chairman referred to Point 17, P.8 which mentioned that there is a minor risk that Section 106 funding doesn't come forward and enquired whether there was anything that could be done to mitigate the risk.

The Community Facilities Project Officer noted that Section 106 funding usually has a period of 10 years in which to deliver the projects however whilst there is a minor risk to this, the officers do monitor the timescales to ensure that the funding doesn't lapse.

A Member referenced P.53 and enquired when the start of the first year will be for delivering the priority projects.

The Community Facilities Project Officer stated that the first year will start once the Playing Pitch Strategy will be approved.

A Member expressed that he was an avid sports fan and noted the need to refurbishment of the facilities particularly in Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill. He believed shared facilities between the differing sports will save costs and suggested that this be recommended going forward.

The Community Facilities Project Officer noted that there is a huge amount planned for Burgess Hill and she was sure that sharing of facilities will feature in the delivery of the Playing Pitch Study.

The Chairman then took Members to the recommendation to consider the Playing Pitch Study and the associated indicative implementation plan which was approved with 12 in favour and 2 abstentions.

## **RESOLVED**

The Committee considered the Playing Pitch Study and the associated indicative implementation plan.

## **8 MID SUSSEX WELLBEING SERVICE.**

Paul Turner, Community Services Manager, provided an update to Members on the activities and achievements of the Mid Sussex Wellbeing Service within the last financial year. The report reflects on the successes and challenges of the Wellbeing Service during 2019/20 and sets out the proposed approach for the delivery of services in Mid Sussex in 2020/21, including plans for service adaptations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Councillor Webster, Cabinet Member for Community, highlighted the work that the Wellbeing department carries out with its customers and indeed other departments within the Council. He asked Councillors look at the report with a critical eye to ensure that the Council is meeting the public health objectives and delivering a service that has value.

A Member agreed that Wellbeing is a valued service and that General Practices (GPs) appreciate the offered service. She noted that it only offers a service to adults and questioned whether the service could be offered to the younger residents of Mid Sussex.

The Community Services Manager confirmed that the service is adults only currently as it is commissioned by Public Health England to meet certain objectives however it does not include services to those under the age of 18. Where possible, however, officers do try and focus on family and the bigger picture and add those values and sign-post to other organisations.

A Member felt impressed by the number of calls officers received relating to the fall prevention service. He also noted the weight management sessions taking place at Haywards Heath Town Football club and enquired whether it was under the remit of the team to utilise the Council's leisure centres.

The Community Services Manager confirmed that the falls prevention service is commissioned by Active House Solutions in partnership with Place Leisure with a session being delivered in a leisure centre. In terms of the weight management for men, Place Leisure was involved in the session which was found to be positive and confirmed that further pilot sessions were planned.

A Member highlighted that the Burgess Hill Town Council (BHTC) HelpPoint gave a positive response to the service. She referenced P.90 of the report and queried the percentage of uptake of the service given the transition to virtual delivery of the sessions.

The Community Services Manager explained that transition to the virtual delivery of the service was initially thought to be prone to issues however those who use the service, especially the older generation seemed to be up-to-speed with the delivery. He confirmed that the team has worked with Environmental Health to develop PPE to try and get back out to the public to carry out preferred face-to-face interactions.

A Member appreciated the work that the officers had carried out. She referenced P.90 of the report and questioned how the Council anticipates demand for the service in light of the changing Covid-19 Pandemic. She felt that it would be prudent to anticipate those who have suffered from Covid-19 and the prolonged effects it has on some of those who catch the virus which may require help from public health services.

The Community Services Manager noted that staff are highly trained and can use their skills to work on behaviour change such as addressing dietary issues or anxiousness. He added that Public Health England recognise the need to work with groups who will be affected and highlighted the need to work more with care homes and schools to support them.

The Chairman then took Members to the recommendation note the performance of the Wellbeing Service in 2019/20 and consider and endorse the proposed approach

for the continued delivery of the Wellbeing Service for 2020/21 which was approved unanimously.

## **RESOLVED**

The Committee:

- i. Noted the performance of the Wellbeing Service in 2019/20.
- ii. Considered and endorsed the proposed approach for the continued delivery of the Wellbeing Service for 2020/21.

## **9 MID SUSSEX PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT.**

Neal Barton, Policy, Performance and Partnerships Manager, presented the annual report on the work of the Mid Sussex Partnership (MSP), an overarching partnership of statutory and non-statutory organisations working to improve the quality of residents' lives across the District. The report informed Members of work undertaken under the umbrella of the MSP in 2019/20, including Community Safety and Health. He noted that there had been a 6.8% increase in crime in Mid Sussex however this was in-line with statistics across the country.

Councillor Webster, Cabinet Member for Community, mentioned that the meeting of the Partnership is chaired by the Leader of the Council. He found it interesting that 31% of antisocial behaviour is reported as neighbour disputes which suggests that there is a common misconception that young people are the main cause of antisocial behaviour.

A Member commended the work of the new Inspector Darren Taylor who has had a great presence on social media and asked whether officers have noticed a difference due to the communications. She noted that the CCTV cameras will soon be installed around the District and enquired if there was a delay due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. She also drew attention to P.109 and the Safe Spaces scheme that started in East Grinstead and hoped that other Town Councils would take up the scheme.

The Policy, Performance and Partnerships Manager referred Member's attention to Paragraph 14 that the Police have provided more police and community support officers. The Councils Antisocial Behaviour Officers also work closely with the Police. The Safe Spaces scheme piloted in East Grinstead and is now being taken up by Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill Town Councils.

Emma Sheriden, Business Unit Leader for Community Services, Partnerships and Performance, confirmed that the CCTV cameras will be operation by the end of the summer.

The Vice-Chairman drew attention to Paragraph 19, P.107 of the report which detailed the Juno Project. She asked whether it will be offered to any other secondary schools in the district.

The Business Unit Leader for Community Services, Partnerships and Performance explained that the project is currently on hold due to the Pandemic however the Council does intend to offer it next year when it is safe to do so.

A Member enquired which schools are offered the Juno project.

The Business Unit Leader for Community Services, Partnerships and Performance confirmed that it is partly self-selected depending on those who are referred by Positive Placements at YMCA.

A Member enquired about the task and finish groups referenced on P.106 and whether there is any Member representation on the groups or if it just comprises of public servants. She also enquired which schools receive the School Law Days and whether there are plans to roll this out more widely in the District.

The Business Unit Leader for Community Services, Partnerships and Performance outlined that there is Member representation on the board however the groups are largely comprised of partners delivering the scheme which is directed by the Board. There is also representation from Town, Parish and County Members as well District Members.

The Policy, Performance and Partnerships Manager confirmed the schools that have taken part in the School law days are Warden Park, the Alternative Provision College, Burgess Hill; Sackville and Imberhorne, East Grinstead; Oathall and St Pauls.

A Member stated that Strategic Intelligence Assessment is an essential read for all Councillors. He asked about the future programme and the Health Task and Finish Group anticipation of the impact of Covid-19 on delays to medical treatments.

Paul Turner, Community Services Manager, the Health Task and Finish Group is very much led by data from Public Health England and explained that CCG will be the lead in providing the primary care. He noted that as partners the Council can assist with sign-posting.

The Chairman then took Members to the recommendation to note the work of the Mid Sussex Partnership in 2019/20 and to endorse the proposed emphasis in the year ahead on response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic which was approved unanimously.

## **RESOLVED**

The Committee noted the work of the Mid Sussex Partnership in 2019/20 and endorsed the proposed emphasis in the year ahead on response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **10 QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.2 DUE NOTICE OF WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN.**

No questions were received.

The meeting finished at 5.35 pm

Chairman