

## EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL

### PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE – 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2023 at 7.00pm

Committee Members: Cllr Woodgate (Chairman)  
Cllr Favor (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr A Peacock (Town Mayor)  
Cllr F Visser (Deputy Town Mayor)  
Cllrs Amos\*, Belsey\*, Mrs Bennett\*, Dabell and Whittaker

Others present: Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, 2 members of the neighbourhood policing team, Abigail Jago, Director of Strategy QVH, Cllr Steve Ody and 2 members of the public in the room and 3 on the zoom link

\*= Absent

\*\* = attended via Zoom

#### 244 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions

#### 245 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED: Apologies were accepted from:

Cllr Amos	Away at University
Cllr Belsey	Personal Commitment
Cllr Mrs Bennett	At Work

#### 246 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES DATED 1<sup>ST</sup> December 2022 and 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023

RESOLVED: The sets of the minutes were approved by the committee as an accurate and true record and signed by the Chairman.

#### 247 CHAIRMANS UPDATE

The Chairman advised of the following:

**The Integrative Care Board** has now had its strategy signed off for West Sussex, it is quite high level and has a huge amount of work ahead of it. there are four priorities:

- to improve health and health outcomes for local people and communities, especially those who are most disadvantaged.
- Tackling the health inequalities we have
- Working better and smarter and getting the most value out of funding we have
- Doing more to support our communities to develop socially and economically

There are a number of points below all of these items, to outline how the ICB intends to work towards this. We have been promised a presentation from the ICB at some point, they have not as yet made contact with towns and parishes, but we were told that this would follow the engagements with the principal councils. We will continue to press to get them in to this

chamber to help to put some meat on the bones as to what the strategy really means for our health providers and patients in our community.

We have had some feedback from the warm spaces hubs to whom we gave some financial support to, they all report that there have been some very grateful, now regulars, over the winter who have used the facilities. The operators all feel that the hubs have helped with loneliness as well as the hot drinks and warm rooms.

**Lowdells Lane** - Clarion Housing advised last week that they need to mend the back fences by the end of March and they are to start this work in the next week or so. Mid Sussex DC are therefore removing the fly tipping w/c 6<sup>th</sup> march and the drop bollard is to be installed at the Buckhurst Way end of the lane. There has been a legal issue raised with the Sackville Lane end in that there is a vehicular right of way in to the first few yards of the lane behind King George's Avenue. This means that until WSCC have been able to establish how this can be overcome we cannot complete the project at this end, however due to the budget we have had to press on with the Buckhurst Way end. WSCC are awaited to confirm that all is well at that end, but it is not on the highway and is unregistered land, previous WSCC advice was that this was fine to proceed, however with Richard Spellers departure this is awaited as being confirmed by the new contacts. Thanks to the Clerk who is keeping this multi-agency project moving with help from Cllr Belsey and support from Cllrs Mrs Bennett and Mrs Mockford.

We have been advised that WSCC **Public Rights of Way** will be inspecting East Grinstead (this is an annual inspection) during March. Issues with the paths, including vegetation, and furniture (signage, stiles, bridges etc.) will be recorded and logged at this time. Following the inspection routine maintenance work for which WSCC is responsible will be prioritised for delivery by their contractor. If Councillors have specific areas they would like inspected please let the Clerk know as soon as possible for this to be passed along.

It was commented that the ICB update was welcome and we look forward to have contacts be made in the future.

#### 248 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no new declarations

#### 249 VARIATION OF THE AGENDA

The Chairman advised that Cllr Ody is here to speak on item 11 and due to another commitment had asked if this can be moved up the agenda. This was agreed by the committee.

#### 250 POLICE MATTERS

The Chairman introduced PCSO Chris Lovelock along with his Colleague and asked them to update on policing matters. It was confirmed that the hub in Chequer Mead will be reopened in mid March but the exact date is not yet known.

It was asked as to what the DISC programme is, which was explained as an app that the shopkeepers and other retailers can have and report incidents back to the police. Share information between themselves and the meeting next Tuesday is an opportunity for the retailers and the businesses to see how this works. Councillors and businesses were urged to register with the clerk to attend the meeting on Tuesday which will have the PCC and the local chief inspector present.

Other issues that have been of concern at the catalytic converter thefts and the theft of high end cars stolen to order. Cat converter ID kits are able to be fitted via the police if anyone wants them.

Beggars are in the town most days and can usually be found near the entrance to Waitrose, and on the whole they are professional beggars who come in from elsewhere, usually in a gang of 2 or 3, police intervene to establish if they need support. But on the whole they are not, residents are urged to be mindful. .

Distraction thefts are also on the rise, the public are asked to stay aware.

Some ASB from youths, has been an issue at Mount Noddy and other places in town. It looks as if some of these are truants and the schools are also aware. Police are always keen to have names if they can as it makes tackling it much easier.

It was also mentioned that the Council have been the victim of theft from one of their vehicles including wing mirrors and electrical parts. There was a lot of damage done.

There have been some issues regarding neighbourhood disputes and tensions, where the police have worked with Clarion and Mid Sussex to help resolve some issues.

It was also mentioned that the football club have had some break-ins and youngsters playing football on the pitch have caused a lot of damage to their professional standard pitch.

Anti-Social driving specifically at night with usually youngsters tearing around the town is a concern, it was asked what the police can do? There are options, but it is not an easy answer S59 notices can be issued. The public are encouraged to use the operation crackdown reporting tool or report via 101 if there is a licence plate reported. It was requested a traffic car to be in town on a Friday night as this is the most prevalent time.

It was agreed that if cars are fitted with steering or handbrake locks this will help to increase the time taken to steal a vehicle and may help to reduce thefts.

Electric scooters are not allowed on the public highways and there are a number of them in the town. They need to be MOT'd and insured which they are not. It was requested if the police could do something to challenge these and to then publicise this they would be appreciated.

The PCSOs were thanked for attending.

## 251 LCWIP (Local Cycle and Walking Infrastructure Plan)

The Chairman introduced the item and handed over to Cllr Ody who wanted to remind the committee as to what the LCWIP was, how it had come about and where we are. He thanked the Clerk for the report and also Mid Sussex District Cllr Norman Webster for the work he has done on bringing the district wide LCWIP forward.

Walking and Cycling is low cost, sustainable, healthy and to be encouraged. An LCWIP will demonstrate a commitment to build and develop the infrastructure and respond to the needs and demands from the residents. A live plan will also mean that funding can be chased for the developments needed.

The report does include the plan for East Grinstead and the 7 proposed routes from the consultants at Mid Sussex who are pulling the plan together. These routes are the connectivity areas, residential to school, town centre etc from the residential areas.

He explained about the interventions which would make walking and cycling more pleasant in the town.

Will this mean physical changes to the road surface? Red asphalt cycle lanes for example. The plan itself doesn't specify this, the design stage would come after this. It will include narrowing of some of the road layout, segregated routes in some areas. There were some concerns about cycle lanes simply not being enough room for them alongside the cars, looking at the A22 for example. Alternative routes are one of the options here, not to cohabit but to each have their own routes.

Cllr Ody was thanked for his work on the project and then left the meeting

## 252 QUEEN VICTORIA HOSPITAL

The chairman introduced Abigail Jago as the Director of Strategy for the Queen Victoria Hospital and invited her to give her presentation.

Abigail advised that she had only recently been appointed and is on day 10 in post. She wanted to advise as to the early diagnostic centre. This allows local patients to have a quick access via 8 GPs to refer people for tests as needed and quickly get some clinical opinions this is specifically on breathlessness and respiratory conditions.

Also lesions can be photographed and diagnosed very quickly through this centre.

£9m has been secured to assist the development of this. There have been national interest and recognition as to the work that is being done. The hospital is looking to see how they can be dynamic for workforce around the hospital services, apprenticeships and other opportunities are also there.

The growth of digital enhancements to diagnostics and service delivery is also an exciting development.

Wrapping the service around the patient rather than the other way around is important, providing good services to East Grinstead, West Sussex and indeed all of the areas where the hospital has patients.

The hospital is in an exciting time but it is also challenging and it is hoped that this will build and make the hospital as good as it can be.

Questions and comments followed:

Will the Hospital continue to provide services outside of the county or will the ICB put more pressure for West Sussex only. The Hospital has specialist services that go throughout the UK and there is no intention to stop this.

It was emphasised as to how proud the town is as to the hospital, as the pressures on the NHS grow how will changing delivery patterns and seeking new ways to work impact the Hospital? There is a lot of challenge but also a lot of opportunity to work with the partners and ensure that we bring the serviced back to the patient.

The chair thanked Abigail for attending and for ensuring that the patient remains at the heart of the hospital. It was asked that she please come back and keep us updated on developments.

253 COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATE

The Chairman introduced the report and noted that Miss Fletcher had been unable to attend this evening.

The Committee noted the report, thanking Alice for her report and said how happy they were that Roger is back at work.

It was clarified that the Coronation event will go through the Amenities and Tourism Committee, we don't have the timetable from the palace at this time but as soon as we know more we will confirm the timetable, we are working on a 9am start but not yet confirmed. There is no Town Council fund for other parties, but it is believed that the District Council have just announced one for community groups to hold events. The Town Council is not eligible to apply to this fund but community groups can.

254 JIGSAW (SOUTH EAST)

An update from Jigsaw (South East), based in East Grinstead, was noted by the committee, with thanks for all the work that they did supporting children in the worst circumstances.

255 QUEENS WALK PUBLIC TOILETS

The chairman advised that the toilets were not yet open as the retail management (Rosetree estates) had not approved for Evolve estates to access their electrics this week. But this should happen next week and the toilets will be reopen.

The Chairman thanked his committee and advised that this is the last meeting of the Public Services Committee this administration and he thanked them all for their work and support of this committee and also the officers for their support. Cllr Woodgate and Favor are not returning to the Council after the election so special thanks were given to them. The next meeting of the committee would be during the Annual Town Council Meeting on **15<sup>th</sup> May** and then **1<sup>st</sup> June**. He ended the meeting at 8.15pm

SIGNED:

CHAIRMAN