

EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL

PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE – 7th SEPTEMBER 2023 at 7.00pm

Committee Members: Cllr Whittaker (Chairman)
Cllr Reeves (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Visser (Town Mayor)*
Cllr Ody (Deputy Town Mayor)
Cllrs: Barnett*, Dabell, Gibson, Hughes* & Scott*

Others present: Cllr Gibbs substituting for Cllr Barnett, Town Clerk, Community and Tourism Manager, Insp Dave Derrick (Via Zoom) **

*= Absent

** = attended via Zoom

115 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was commented that powered scooters, there are a large number of these in the town and they are constituting an obstruction on the pavements and driving very fast.

A second resident who lives on the Imberhorne estate said there are concerns as to the lack of a police presence in East Grinstead. Would like to see more police presence. However there is a national increase in low level ASB poor behaviour and drug taking. Specifically the East Grinstead upper level car park is a haven for youths of an evening. e-scooters and mopeds ride at speed along the Worth Way, this is a public hazard. Behaviour has been reported to police with no response.

The Chairman thanked them both and advised that the Inspector would be speaking on policing matters shortly. He has heard the comments.

116 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE /SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were noted from:

Cllr Barnett	Personal Commitment
Cllr Hughes	Personal Commitment

RESOLVED: Cllr Gibbs was Substituting for Cllr Barnett

117 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES DATED 1st June 2023

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

118 CHAIRS UPDATE

The Chairman advised of the following:

WSCC Highways have made great progress since the last meeting which is welcomed. New road surfacing in several roads has happened. Thanks were given to the County Councillors for helping to raise the needs in East Grinstead.

RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete) – Having spoken with one of the local Schools the Chair has been reassured that there are no schools in East Grinstead affected by this. There would appear to be only one in West Sussex which is in Horsham. We don't know about other buildings at this time and clearly building owners will be undertaking assessments. The Police have been asked as to the old police station however they are not undergoing an assessment as the property is on the market. The status of the Council's buildings will be reported to A&T, assessments are being carried out in any age relevant properties this week.

Cllr Gibson noted that the academy schools were responsible for their own surveys which have not as yet been advised. Cllr Dabell confirmed none in EG Parish as per the cabinet member.

Covid booster programme will be 11-13th Oct 19th -20 and 25-27th October. Bookings will be opened via the ABC website from mid September for those eligible.

Men's Prostate testing at East Court 11th November - booking only via the lions website.

119 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Dabell declared that he was an elected member of West Sussex CC

Cllr Dabell also advised he was an elected member of Mid Sussex DC

120 POLICE MATTERS

The Chair introduced Insp Dave Derrick and welcomed him to the meeting via zoom. Inspector Derrick advised that he would attend a meeting in person as soon as possible. He was aware that due to former cuts there are lesser police around. However East Grinstead has 6 PCSOs in the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT), tonight they are at the car park as mentioned by the member of the public. The car park is actually under British Transport Police (BTP) as it is owned by Network Rail, however the NPT have approached the BTP and said they will take an interest in the car park. They are also looking at the CCTV in that car park to hopefully identify any wrong doing.

The NPT work with the organisations in the town to respond to any issues that are raised with them. They have attended the war memorial at East Court amongst other places which have been raised to try to respond to the issues that cause concern.

ASB in the public toilets have been a concern, street drinkers and other raised matters have been attended to where they can. They are now concentrating on the car park with BTP.

The Chair thanked Inspector Derrick for the response to raised issues.

He asked for a DISC update, there are issues about members registering but not reporting which is needed to make best use of it.

Drug Taking / speeding / motorcycling through the woods these three issues remain at the heart of many concerns of residents. Especially Ashplats Woods all night.

The police need details as to the location and then they will happily look further into it.

121 QUEEN VICTORIA HOSPITAL UPDATE

The Chair referred to the report and that the new Chief Executive is invited to the next meeting.

The report was noted.

122 COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATE

Miss Fletcher advised as to her work on the youth provision for teenagers, following the collapse of the Sussex Clubs for Young People. The Town Council has an event on half term to help with safety awareness.

SID has now been purchased following the last meeting via S106 money, the data for the Brooklands Way SID is in the papers. We are working with WSCC to get "permission" to move the SID around. It was clarified that we advised that ANPR cameras would not be supported by the Sussex Police, if we went down this route. Cllr Gibson advised that WSCC was looking at the policy for West Sussex as a whole to look at implementing ANPR in CCTV rather than SID for use.

St Barnabas show rounds are underway, any one interested in renting please refer to Alice.

The Chairman advised that the SID data was staggering as to the volume of the vehicles that have been on the roads.

It was clarified that the SID data is there to assist with determining future issues for discussion as to traffic calming. Revising speed limits etc.

Worth PC have acquired the Purple Bus from Sussex Clubs for Younger People which may be available if other councils wanted to hire it.

With thanks to Alice the report was noted

123 PHARMACIES

The Chairman introduced the report which was noted by the committee.

124 MODALITY PARTNERSHIP

The Chairman introduced the report and advised that the council were still monitoring this and we are aware that the Crawley Down surgery still seems to report the most problems. It was suggested that Gary Money should be invited to the committee to explain how the sussex health board can respond to this situation. There remains a perception problem as to the number of staff who are attached to the practice.

The Clerk will continue to push for ICB attendance at this meeting to not just raise the issue of the GP surgeries but also the overall strategy of the ICB.

The Chair confirmed that the committee will continue to push for improvements.

The report was noted

125 WSCC HIGHWAYS UPDATES

The Chairman introduced the report, thanked the County Councillors for raising the issues as to the roads and it was noted that it is all much better. Cllr Gibson gave a further report as to the condition of the roads across the county, the repairs known today would take 14 years to correct.

He encouraged everyone to report the potholes via the WSCC website especially with pictures as it really helps with the assessments. Normally the team deal with 16,000 potholes per year, however 22,000 were reported in the first quarter of this year alone. There have been changes to the response and the claims that the county has had to deal with, have resulted in a £600,000 bill in payments.

Utility company permits have increased, Southern Water applied for 3,000 last year, which was a 50% increase from the previous year. This is being looked at to work together to improve this.

Resurfacing is very expensive, surface dressing is less so which means more of that has been carried out. Heathcote Drive is listed for a full resurfacing in next year's budget.

TRO and CHS are being requested where walking routes to the schools are missing, but this may not be what is coming in as schemes can be changed. 20 mph schemes can be considered.

Strategic highways Planning comments can be a frustration. There has been discussion as to mitigation matters for example at the developments behind CDR which are being considered.

WSCC transport plan is disappointing for the mid Sussex area. There are some enhancements for A22 A264. A steering group at county will be set up including Surrey CC representatives.

Cllr Gibson was thanked for his report.

Cllr Dabell referred to other works which had also been carried out in the town and echoed the call to report defects and pot holes.

The reports was noted

126 BANKS

The Chairman introduced the report. He asked the committee if they wished to monitor or take forward the recommendations. Committee felt both would be appropriate and

RESOLVED:

1. to approach the remaining banks and building societies as to what their plans are to remain in the town
2. To approach the supermarkets (Aldi or the proposed LIDL) to consider installing an ATM on their premises.

127 GATWICK

It was commented that it would be very helpful if the presentation that MSDC would be making as to their response to the consultation be made available to the Town Council. It was also asked that the committee be offered the behind the scenes trip to Gatwick.

It was confirmed that we are not a member of CAGNE, but we are a member of GACC.

The report was noted

128 CONSULTATIONS

The Consultation was noted.

The next regular meeting of the committee would be on **30th November**, He ended the meeting at 8.24pm

DRAFT

SIGNED:

CHAIRMAN