

EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL

PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE – 12th SEPTEMBER 2024 7.00pm

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

Others present: Cllr Gibbs, Town Clerk, Community and Tourism Manager, Insp Derrick, Leo Beirne and Frank Berry (LAT) Sam Ford (First responders) plus one member of the public on zoom.

** present via zoom (this does not count as present under the Local Government Finance Act 1972 for voting purposes)

*= Absent

125. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There was 1 member of the public in attendance, but no questions therefore the committee moved to the substantive agenda.

126. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED: Cllr Barnett's Apologies were accepted and Cllr Gibbs was approved as substitute

127. MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 5th June 2024

128. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair advise that the Queen Victoria Hospital CEO James Lawson is not on the agenda today, however they are adopting their strategy In November and will attend the December Committee.

The Chair advised that Sam Ford from the First Responders has attended the meeting and while not on the agenda the Chair would like her to address the committee to give a brief update on the work of the group. Sam explained that she was here to raise awareness of the group and the work they do. They are part of the 999 system, they are the first response for all ages. While they started as community first responders for cardiac arrest, however they now do so much more than this. The team are falls trained so that they can help people up from the floor if they have had a fall. Stopping the "long lie" syndrome.

There are to be some events later this autumn for start the heart awareness and advice to help residents to feel able to help in an emergency.

Questions followed: comments in support of the work that the first responders do and raising awareness as to how to use defibrillators is a great service.

How to volunteer and help out, this is via a website and of course training is necessary.

It was asked whether the defibrillators are for adults or children? They are designed for adults but if a child needed the apparatus the ambulance service could talk the user through with how to use this on children.

Public defibrillators are usually in locked cabinets, this is for the security of the defib and ensures that 999 are called as part of the process.

The Council has supported the screening for various cancers and diabetes etc, is there a screening programme for Atrial fibrillation? This could be something that the Council could become involved with. There is nothing in place but there could be.

129. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There are none

130. POLICE MATTERS

Inspector Derrick started by saying that that he wanted to thank Julie for her support and creating great liaison between the Police and the Council. He would continue working with her in her new role but just wanted to place on record his thanks for her support while at East Grinstead Town Council.

He went on to say that the police do visit the town daily and nightly. There are CID and other offices in the town all the week, every day due to the level of police concerns and other matters around victim support.

The street drinkers do seem to have reduced in activity. An arrest was made and convicted for an anti-social driver.

The Inspector gave a little more information as to the youth who had been relocated away from the town due to criminal offences. He had been instrumental in many criminal matters and this is a positive result for East Grinstead.

The inspector stressed that the major events have been resolved for policing matters, this is often due to the residents being willing to identify and provide information to the police.

ASB in town centre venues has reduced and there are no more car meets at East Court following the cameras being put in from MSDC.

Scooters have yet to be stopped creating ASB, but the Police are running an operation in the south of the district which they are happy to replicate here.

There were comments as to the length of time for 101 to be answered. Emails can be sent into the 101 system also.

The Police presence in the town is still not felt to be good enough, numbers are determined via reports and crimes. The number of call ins at the police stations was instrumental in reducing the hours. There are a lot of police in the town for various reasons, even if they are not seen. The brazen approach by some is also a concern. Mid Sussex has a reduction in

violent crime in the past year. While there are concerns on the whole it remains a very safe place to live.

There was some activity on social media as to naming and shaming, should people do this? The police would rather the photos were passed straight to the police, if it is showing a crime it can be acted on. If not the police, the clerk can be a conduit.

Was there any update on the recent ram raid of the bicycle shop in Felbridge? The Inspector was not aware of this robbery which means it is over the border and would be Surrey.

ASB in the home, where unpleasant things are pushed through letter boxes, or loud music being left on being played when the person goes out. The law is a little different, the loud music is noise nuisance and the District Council would deal with that not the police. ASB can be cumulative and have disastrous effects on people, the police do use safeguarding processes. Residents are encouraged to report to the police.

E-Scooters are non-legislated, there are restrictions, that can be taken forward by the police on report, a picture and report to the police would be welcome, especially if riding at speed on the pavement.

The Vice Chair gave a vote of thanks, Insp Derrick then left the meeting

131. LOCAL ACTION TEAM

The Chair introduced Mr Beirne and Mr Berry. They spoke of the work of the LAT and Speedwatch. Being part of the Sussex safer road partnership which is a collaboration between National Highways, Police, West Sussex Fire and Rescue, East Sussex CC, East Sussex F&R and Brighton and Hove CC.

The work is complex in that there are several things that are wanted to help capture the evidence and information that help to correctly identify not just the vehicle but also the driver.

They explained some of the extreme speeds identified and the results of this for the drivers in educational letters or special reports. Escalation can happen depending on repeat offending.

The public are generally supportive and do give thanks to the Speedwatch team. More volunteers are needed and always looking to help take more on.

There was some discussion as to working with the schools and the areas where Speedwatch was allowed to operate in the town. Resourcing of the scheme centrally was also an area of concern.

The team were thanked for the vital role they play in the road safety in the town.

The Vice Chair gave a vote of thanks for the work that the two do and their role in the town.

132. COMMUNITY TEAM REPORT

The Community and Tourism Manager was asked for her update, she apologised for being slightly late for the meeting, she had been for the registering of the youth club 8-13 year olds and 19 youngsters attended this evening which is a great start.

The two paid youth workers were in place and there were three parent helpers also. Our youth co-ordinator has achieved a grant for some storage from Mid Susse DC.

SID update, we are still wating for an installation date with the SIDs, which hopefully will not be too much longer.

Sunnyside Barn continues to grow with usage, but we are not yet reaching targets on income and need to keep advertising.

The Thursday Farmers market continues to be well supported and hopes to grow.

It was asked what the limit of children was, the law requires 1:10 so with the parent helpers we are ok, but need to watch this in case it grows.

The youngsters look like they are coming from all over the town, but some more analysis of this is needed.

Alice was congratulated on the work of the team across the board as the larger team is really starting to make differences.

133. MESSAGES OF HOPE

The Chair introduced the report and advised that the Town Council had not had any direct contact with the deceased's Family regarding this proposal, although we have sent information to those in contact with the family. Once we have some mock-ups we intend to put something on social media and the website to explain what we are looking to do.

The Chair thanked the Clerk and the officers for their work on this very sensitive subject.

The Councillors felt it was a very sensitive area and hoped that the family would also become involved, to create a lasting positive legacy.

It was commented that there are several support group in the town and needs to be inclusive as there have been other tragedies.

The Clerk explained the background to the idea and how it has been growing. With the hope to involve other areas of the town, to project positive messages throughout.

It was asked if a direct telephone to the Samaritans could be considered and the clerk advised this has also been passed through to WSCC, being their bridge they would need to agree to this.

RESOLVED: Committee approved to proceed with the signs and getting the appropriate permissions.

134. DEFIBRILLATORS

The Chair advised that since the report, officers have today had an email exchange with the group who have requested that the fund when it has sufficient reserve, be used to replace or provide whole units. Committee are to be asked in December if they would approve this. It was too late for inclusion in the agenda to be included for decision today. Just for information today.

The Committee noted the report

135. CONSULTATIONS

The Chair thanked the Councillors who made comments, the off street parking was approved by Council, Gatwick 2nd Runway and the three small MSDC consultations all by the consultation group and have all been submitted. It was also noted, that the only outstanding consultation is going to planning on Monday as it is the response to the National Planning Policy Framework.

The Committee noted the report

The Chair noted this was the very last meeting of the Town Clerk, she was thanked for all her work ethic and hard work over the years and wished well for the future.

The Chair advised that next full meeting of the Committee will be held on **Thursday 5th December 2024** at 7:00pm and ended the meeting at 20.30pm

SIGNED:

CHAIRMAN