

## **Questions, Answers and Actions – Mid Sussex County Local Forum – 1 December 2021**

### **In Attendance:**

#### **County Councillors**

Liz Bennett (Chairman), Bruce Forbes, Garry Wall, Ian Gibson, Joy Dennis, Richard Cherry, Stephen Hillier, Stuart Condie and Sujan Wickremaratchi.

#### **Residents:**

Carole Steggles, David Ewing, Malcolm Llewellyn CBE, Richard Bates and Sarah Groom.

#### **Apologies**

Jacque Russell, Kirsty Lord and Pete Bradbury

#### **Question 1 from Carole Steggles:**

Concerning Climate Change, what provisions are West Sussex County Council proposing regarding flooding to roads in this area (Turners Hill and surrounding villages)?

#### **Response to Question 1, provided by the local member Cllr Bruce Forbes:**

West Sussex County Council has a corporate Climate Change policy which is available on our web site – a link for this is below.

For new designs, roads and any housing development is required to design for 1 in 100 year storm event plus 40% for Climate Change.

Currently there is no Climate Change policy to deal with exist drainage assets other than when they are upgraded.

The public were recommended to always contact the Highways Department for advice for flooding issues.

A comment was made that when gullies were cleaned that the waste was left on the side which ultimately fell back into the gully. The County Councillors agreed to take this issue away for investigation.

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/policies-and-reports/environment-planning-and-waste-policy-and-reports/climate-change-in-west-sussex/>.

#### **Question 2 from David Ewing:**

I would like an update on the resurfacing of Blenheim Close.

#### **Response to Question 2 provided by the local member Cllr Liz Bennett:**

This plan is to resurface Blenheim Close this financial year. We appreciate the inconvenience and confusion caused in September when signs were put out indicating that work was to start and then did not.

Where utility works are scheduled, efforts are made to schedule resurfacing works to follow so that the carriageway surface has more longevity.

County Councillors noted that the David Ewing would prefer a precise resurfacing date, even if this was in the Spring.

**Question 3 from Richard Bates:**

Raised concerns that footpaths in Cuckfield are flooding which caused issues for schoolchildren. The Muster Green to Haywards Heath footpath was also in need of repair.

**Response to Question 3 provided by the Liz Bennett:**

The issues were noted and Liz Bennett agreed to raise the concerns.

**Question 4 from Dan Osborn who was not in attendance:**

I would like to ask about Burgess Hill Town Centre development (lack of) and Highways issues related to development in general in Burgess Hill (condition of highways; tree felling).

**Officer response to Question 4:**

The Burgess Hill Strategic Growth Programme includes the proposed regeneration of the Martlets Shopping Centre, a private development led by New River Retail who were granted a renewed consent for the town centre regeneration in September 2020, to provide a modern and vibrant retail and leisure offer, and much-needed new homes. Notwithstanding recent challenges to the national and local economy and retail, the developers and Mid Sussex District Council, as the Local Planning Authority are working closely together to bring the redevelopment forward. Further detailed questions should be raised with Mid Sussex District Council.

To support the overall strategy for the Town Centre Regeneration, the County Council worked with New River Retail on the successful relocation of BH Library to the current modern, purpose built site December 2019, allowing for MSDC to progress the demolition of the Martlets Hall in preparation for the regeneration.

Also, in recognising the level and timeframe of development planned for Burgess Hill within the Strategic Growth Programme, the County Council is working closely with Mid Sussex District Council Planners to ensure highway issues, as well as other infrastructure and service requirements, are thoroughly assessed and where developers are required to improve the highway, that these works are via agreed legal and technical approvals and all works are programmed with WSCC Network Management to ensure integrity and resilience of the highway network in addition to the County Council's planned programme of highway maintenance and improvements.

We would add that the Burgess Hill Growth Programme is supported by the £21.9m investment in the Burgess Hill Place and Connectivity Programme which is delivering a new and improved pedestrian and cycle network through the town and progressing proposals for public realm improvements together with the

£23m A2300 Improvements which are delivering major highway capacity and safety improvements between Burgess Hill and the A23 Trunk Road.

Stuart Condie agreed to contact the resident to discuss the development.

**Question 5 from Ian Howell who was not in attendance:**

I would like to know when WSCC will establish a system of connecting Green Lanes where cyclists and walkers have priority?

This would promote a greener way of living and well-being and reduce the carbon footprint of the County.

**Officer response to Question 5:**

In October 2016 West Sussex County Council published the West Sussex Walking and Cycling Strategy 2016-2026, which contains over 300 potential new walking and cycling improvements suggested by a range of stakeholders and prioritised for investigation using Sustrans' RATE tool. Whilst the strategy does not propose the creation of quiet lane networks, the signing of quiet lanes is something that parish councils (perhaps working together in partnership) may wish to explore and consider [applying for a community highways scheme](#). This is consistent with the approach outlined in the Draft West Sussex Transport Plan 2022-36 which states that part of the County Council's proposed approach to the road network will be to use lane rental, on-street parking controls and other network management techniques to prioritise and encourage use of shared transport and active travel modes and discourage rat-running via less suitable routes away from the County Strategic Road Network. Furthermore, the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport intends to constitute a County Council Member Task and Finish Group to look at how we implement Road Safety in West Sussex. Quiet lanes will form part of this group's considerations over the next six months.

As you may also be aware, the County Council is currently working in partnership with Mid Sussex District Council and the Local Enterprise Partnership to deliver a network of new and improved walking and cycling routes through the Burgess Hill Growth Programme. This work includes the delivery of approximately 11km of new and improved shared use routes during 2020/21 - with further on and off-road routes programmed between 2021/22 and 2024/25 - to deliver connectivity between the town centre and key destinations as part of the £21.8m investment in the [Burgess Hill Place and Connectivity Programme](#).

Stephen Hillier agreed to contact the resident to discuss the issue.