



## FULKING PARISH COUNCIL

# Summary of the Public Meeting about West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service Draft proposals for 2015-2016 held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at 7.00pm in The Village Hall

It was felt that those present did not have enough background information to comment fully on the proposals. It was felt that we have to believe that the proposals are probably the best way forward based on the investigation that WSFRS has done before presenting the document for comment.

The meeting voted to "tend to agree" the following points

- Have we explained our proposals clearly enough in the documentation and supporting information?
- Prevention should be at the heart of everything we do, supported by a resilient and risk based emergency response service.
- We should broaden the role of a firefighter to integrate them further within communities and partners to achieve more collective outcomes.
- We should share premises with partners where opportunities arise and create community hubs and multiple use.
- We should help to build stronger communities, helping them to help themselves in emergencies and improving local networks to identify and assist vulnerable people.

All the draft proposals for 2015-2016 support the future vision and reflect changes in community risk and demands on the service. The combined proposals if approved, will also achieve the budget reduction target of £1.6m.

None of the eight proposals will result in the closure any fire stations or reduce the number of immediate response fire engines.

The following responses were agreed to the draft proposals

**Proposal 1 Move one of the two immediate response fire engines at Horsham to Littlehampton, making it a 24 hour immediate response station.**

Under the proposal, Horsham and Littlehampton would both have two fire engines; one crewed 24 hour immediate response and one crewed by retained firefighters.

Response -Tend to agree- but would like a more even spread of immediate response vehicles as they seem to be concentrated in the Chichester/Littlehampton/Bognor area.

**Proposal 2 Introduce group-crewing model at immediate response stations.**

The new crewing system would maintain 24-hour immediate response capability, but require three fewer firefighters at each station. This would be introduced at Bognor, Chichester, Crawley, Horsham, Littlehampton and Worthing.

Response-Tend to agree

**Proposal 3 Remove the 2<sup>nd</sup> fire engine at Midhurst, Petworth and Storrington, leaving one fire engine and a 4x4 vehicle at each station.**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> fire engines are crewed by retained firefighters in rural areas with fewer property fires and low level operational demand. The number of firefighters at the stations would not be reduced under this proposal. If an incident required additional firefighters they could proceed in the 4x4 vehicle to support the first crew.

**Proposal 4 Closure of retained unit and removal of 3<sup>rd</sup> fire engine at Crawley, leaving two fire engines, Heavy Rescue Tender and a 4x4 vehicle.**

The third fire engine does not contribute significantly to the overall performance due to a reduction in the number of emergency incidents and the lack of available retained fire fighters. The ten retained firefighter posts at Crawley would be removed from the establishment under this proposal. In an emergency a fire engine would be brought in from the surrounding area to the station ensuring an immediate response fire engine is always available.

Response- Neither agree or disagree.

**Proposal 5 Implement revised day crewing model at Variable Crewed Stations.**

This system would maintain immediate response capability during core day time hours. This would mean a combined/total reduction in 10 firefighters across Shoreham, Burgess Hill, Haywards Heath and East Grinstead stations.

Response-Tend to agree

**Proposal 6 Increase operational capacity and support for communities in flooding and severe weather.**

The proposal is to invest an initial £220,000 specialist equipment and training to improve the capability to support communities before, during and after flooding from weather related disruption.

Response-Tend to agree

**Proposal 7 Reductions in management and administrative support.**

Seek cost saving efficiencies by reviewing and rationalising of the organisational structure.

Response-Tend to agree

**Proposal 8 Utilise additional trained staff to improve operational resilience.**

Non operational, qualified staff will be called upon to boost operational resilience in the event of major incidents, in times of severe weather with multiple calls, or protracted incidents..

Response- Tend to agree

For further information please use the following link

[http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/living/emergency\\_services/fire\\_and\\_rescue\\_service/public\\_consultation\\_on\\_draft\\_p.aspx](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/living/emergency_services/fire_and_rescue_service/public_consultation_on_draft_p.aspx)

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