

**Draft Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2013  
at the Village Hall**

**Present:** Chairman Ms K. Watson, Vice Chairman Mr M Trist, Councillors Ms L. Dyos, Mrs P. Rowland and Clerk to the Council Mrs Andrea Dickson.

Guest Speakers and researcher Michelle Taylor, MSDC Councillor Colin Trumble and WSCC Peter Griffiths, and 21 members of the public.

Meeting opened at 7.30pm

**1. Chairman welcomed everybody.**

**2. Apologies.** None

**3. Declaration of Interest:** None

It was **agreed** to extend the meeting beyond 9pm.

Guest Speaker Nick Herbert MP for Arundel and South Downs **Appendix 1**

James Stobart Road Safety Co-ordinator (Operation Crackdown) **Appendix 2**  
MP Nick Herbert and his researcher Michelle Taylor along with James Stobart left the meeting.

Gulu Sibanda Principle Community Officer, Community & Economic Development **Appendix 3**

**4.** Report from MSDC Councillor Colin Trumble & WSCC Councillor Peter Griffiths **Appendix 4**

**All appendices available on website or from the clerk on request.**

Councillors Peter Griffiths and Colin Trumble left the meeting along with Gulu Sibanda

**5.** The minutes of the previous meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> July 2013 having been previously **circulated**, were taken as **read, approved** and **signed** by the Chairman.

**6. Matters Arising.**

<p><b>Planning</b></p>	<p><b><u>Old Pump House</u></b> Ms Holdingbarn pleaded guilty to the summons for breach of the Enforcement Notice when she attended Crawley Magistrates' Court on 19 September She was fined for the breach, ordered to pay the Council's costs and a Victim Surcharge. The latest update from the Enforcement Officer at 8<sup>th</sup> October is as follows: Ms Holdingbarn has now accepted a property in Hurstpierpoint There was no evidence of new buildings last week The two shipping containers and slabs in front of mobile home have gone. The mobile home will go in the next two weeks The dogs will go with her when she leaves the site. Ducks/geese will remain on the site. She has until the 19th to comply and the Enforcement Officer will be monitoring this. It will be up to MSDC lawyers what action will be taken after that date.</p> <p><b><u>The Conifers, Clappers Lane</u></b> (Caravan &amp; Camping ) We have been advised that the Exempted Team at the Camping and Caravanning Club has completed all investigations and has decided not to proceed with the application for a certified site at The Conifers.</p> <p><b><u>Planning General</u></b> Kate Watson &amp; Pam Rowland will be attending a training session on the planning portal and how to get the best use of it at MSDC in November. If possible breaches of planning are brought to the attention of the PC or if members of the PC notice any possible breaches, we are obliged to follow these up and they will be reported.</p>
<p><b>Ladybrook Spring Update</b></p>	<p>The project has been delayed due to a combination of illness of the tutor at Northbrook College, the grant not being approved and the design not meeting</p>

	safety standards. Gulu is arranging a meeting with the PC and Highways to discuss. (PC & Clerk)
<b>Operation Watershed/ Highways</b>	Two quotes have been received for the work in Clappers Lane opposite the Sands and North of Knole House - one from Balfour Beatty the other from Edburton Contractors. The application for the grant for the work at Clappers Lane has been submitted under Operation Watershed and we should find out if it has been successful in the next few weeks. We are having problems finding out exactly what is happening regarding Four Acres corner and The Bridleway but will keep you informed on this matter. (Clerk)
<b>Footpath 4f</b>	In June, it was decided by WSCC to submit the proposed change to the Secretary of State for determination. Legal Services have just started to prepare the documents for this. All issues/views will be considered by the planning Inspector and the PC will inform you of the outcome. (Clerk)
<b>North Town Field</b>	The Annual Inspection was conducted in July and the observation was that overall risk is low. It has been reported that garden waste is being dumped in North Town Field and that there is also a problem with dog mess. MSDC has sent some stickers which will be displayed. If anyone sees dogs in the play area please remind the owners that this area must be kept dog free. Some clearance has taken place and at present the bank adjoining the road has been left exposed, creating a potential hazard. The PC will liaise with NTF Trustees with regards to what should be done to make this safe. (PC & Clerk)
<b>Woodland Trust</b>	North Town Field Trustees were contacted regarding these free trees. As no response was received, three councillors visited North Town Field with a view to looking at where the trees could be planted. As no place could be found at that time, it was decided not to pursue the offer of free trees for the area this year.
<b>Winter Management</b>	The Winter Management Plan for 2013/14 has been agreed. The grit bins should be topped up in the coming weeks and a store of additional grit should be delivered to Perching Manor Farm. Up to date, live information on the roads in WSCC will be available on <a href="http://www.twitter.com/wscgritting">www.twitter.com/wscgritting</a> The plan will be available on the website and notice board (Clerk)
<b>Community Bus</b>	Sadly, the Hurst & Hassocks Community Bus has been withdrawn from service due to being unable to find insurance cover. It is hoped to reinstate the service at some point in the future. The PC to keep the community informed (Clerk)
<b>Community Service Award</b>	Nick Hughes was nominated for this award for his numerous voluntary roles in the community.

## 7. Travellers Needs Assessment

Mid Sussex is currently preparing a "Traveller Site Allocations Document" in order to allocate land within the District for traveller sites. This is due for adoption in Summer 2014.  
However the allocation will not include the South Downs part of Mid Sussex, this will be included in the National Park Plan.  
The aim was to identify the number of pitches required (**41**) and the time frame (**2013-2031**) and to allocate the land to meet the need.  
The closing date for submitting sites was in September.

A draft document is being prepared and this will be subject to public consultation in late 2013/early 2014. Full information on the document can be found on <http://www.midsussex.gov.uk/> quick link Gypsies and Travellers

### 8. Clappers Lane Trees/Banking

Mid Sussex has been identified as the owners of the banking outside 3-27 Clappers Lane and has therefore agreed to add this to its maintenance contracts, which is as follows:

Grass cutting	13 times a year
Vegetation control (along path edge)	twice a year
Vegetation control (along road edge)	When required
Arboriculture works	- when required plus inspection every 4 years

As parts of this area are being maintained by residents, all residents in the area have been advised of the proposed maintenance contract by leaflet and no objections have been received. There will be one grass cutting (last of the season) within the next couple of weeks and then the contract will start properly next year.

### 9. Financial Matters

The following payments were agreed and cheques signed  
100604 North Town Field Trust Playground rent £10.00  
100606 Clerk's salary & expenses £878.42  
100603 M Stepney had been signed in the period between meetings £360.00.  
Cheque stubs were cross checked with the cheque list and both signed.  
The quarterly bank reconciliation was checked and signed.  
Income & Expenditure to date was checked.

### 10. Budget & Precept

The PC has looked at the budget for this year and the proposed expenditure for next year and **agreed** a 0% **increase in precept** for the financial year 2014/2015. The budget will be available on the Fulking website.

A precept of £7303 will be applied for. (Clerk)

A reminder was given that this is only a small part of the council tax which may still increase.

### 11. Broadband

WSCC has signed a contract with BT Open Reach which will enable 98% of homes and businesses to have fibre optic broadband over the next 3 years. By Spring 2016 more than 300 green cabinets will be installed and upgrades made to 18 exchanges.

Poynings exchange is not currently on the list for an upgrade.

If anyone is interested, please register your request for faster speed.

<http://www.midsussex.gov.uk/7352.htm>

If you use BT as your internet provider, you can complain about the speed on the BT website—broadband then infinity.

### 12. Clerk's Pay rise

Following the announcement of local government national pay award in July, the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and National Association of Local Councils (NALC) recommended a pay rise of 1% for council clerks, from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 (this equates to 10p per hour for the grade of Fulking's clerk). The PC **agreed** to accept the recommendation and back date the pay rise to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013. (Clerk)

### 13. Comments from the floor.

None

### 14. Dates of the next meetings

**Planning meeting on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2013 at 6.30pm** Customary Cottage Ref. No:

SDNP/13/04474/LIS Installation of a Chimney Flue

Next PC meetings Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2014 ,Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 7.30pm

**Meeting closed at 9.59pm**  
**Minute 17**

**Signed.....**

**Date.....**

## **Appendix 1**

### **Nick Herbert MP for Arundel and South Downs**

Nick thanked the PC for inviting him to the meeting. Although he had often been to Fulking he had not been to the Village hall. He said he liked to meet the public but he always gives the caveat that he does not speak about politics (unless it was at election time), he wants to discuss the community not politics. He thanked both past and present Volunteers and the PC for their work.

He then gave a brief talk.

**Planning** is the single biggest issue that dominates most meetings. He made clear that he **could not** interfere /change decisions, get involved, hold the executive to account or change law. He **can** bring things to the attention of the planning authority.

The **Housing** target through the South East Plan is 73,000 houses over a 20 year period. That is about the size of Worthing. Mid Sussex has proposed in the District Plan to provide 10,600 new homes over the next 20 years. It does not have the infra structure/roads/water capacity to sustain large development like Mayfields If this is allowed, it will change the rural nature of West Sussex.

**Neighbourhood plans** are good as they allow local councils to assess the housing requirements and decide where in the area the houses are needed.

The population has increased and affordable housing is needed in the villages otherwise the character of the villages will change as young people are forced to move away.

**Hospitals** not currently a big issue in this area. It is important to keep local hospitals.

**Fracking** Of course there is Balcombe, but within my own constituency the proposed drilling site between Kirford & Wisborough Green maybe the biggest in the country. We should not say "NO" to shale gas outright; it is more environmentally friendly than coal. We should ensure that applications for drilling should be properly regulated and that it the drilling is not detrimental to the water supply. We need to be careful where drilling takes place and ensure that West Sussex is not turned into a wasteland.

## Questions

Councillor Linda Dyos asked

**The need for 41 additional traveller pitches has been identified by the Travellers needs assessment. What is your view on how this process is being handled and do you think it will be effective?**

MP Nick Herbert stated

Travellers are a lot easier to deal with when transit sites in the area have been identified. Enforcement is harder if there is not a transit site to move the traveller to. Police have the power to move travellers who are breaching planning on to these site rather than just moving them on. Lessons need to be learnt from Worthing/ Findon.

The number of suggested new sites will be whittled down as some will be found unsuitable.

Richard Linfoord asked

**There is currently no requirement to register to move to an official site so where do you take this?**

MP Nick Herbert stated  
The system needs to be tightened up.  
He suggested that Michelle is written to about this matter .

Mario Pytka asked

**Does the RH Mr Herbert agree that:-**

**“ It must be an automatic process when dealing with prosecutions involving failing to comply with an Enforcement Notice that the owner has to be made liable for costs associated with using the council’s resources and money . Moreover if the person refuses to pay these costs a charge must be put on to the land/house with it being sold to repay the council’s costs?**

**In these times of limited resources and difficult budgetary decisions, people who deliberately and intentionally waste council resources must be made liable for their actions. Someone has had to go without because of the money and resources wasted and this is particularly pertinent given the current concerns regarding the lack of resources for elderly care.”**

MP Nick Herbert stated  
That he knew about the local issue.  
He asked do tax payers pick up the cost? He will raise this with MSDC and ask whether the costs can be reclaimed.  
Enforcement is a long process, he is in favour of allowing officers more discretion on local matters rather than going to committee if it is obvious that there is a breach. It needs to be about striking the balance and deploying resources properly.

The legal position would need to be looked into but perhaps warnings should be given that you may be liable to lose land/property if found to be in breach of enforcement.

Richard Rawlings asked

**Could we have your view on the trench to take the electricity cable from the wind farm across the Downs to Truleigh Manor farm, then out to Bolney?**

Nick Herbert stated that  
He is in favour of diversifying energy supplies off shore rather than on shore. It is better to have the cables underground than overground. Eon has given assurances that it will be done properly and will minimise the disruption. Eon has stated they will pay community benefit.

**Could this benefit be to bury the cable and pylons in the same trench?**

That would increase the cost enormously but the question could be asked.  
County Councillor Peter Griffiths suggested that it may be useful to join with the local liaison group for Twineham/Bolney to talk directly to Eon with regards to compensation.

Tony Brooks asked

**Can the government give assurances that the drinking water will not be contaminated as a result of Fracking?**

Nick Herbert stated

It would be irresponsible to say **NO** never to Fracking. Questions need to be asked and assurances given about the amount of water used in the Fracking process, how it is re circulated and that it is disposed of properly.

The chalk in the South Downs is a fragile eco system, and the South Downs is a water scarce area so we need to be careful.

Councillor Michael Trist asked

**Whether the SDNPA has sufficient powers and if they are using them correctly?**

MP Nick Herbert stated

On balance 95% of planning is still controlled by MSDC.

The National Park (NP) is trying to tread carefully as it is such a big area. The NP and local people should try to work together.

If the PC has any specific issues it must talk to the council and let him know.

Angela Iverson asked

**What are your views on faster broadband?**

MP Nick Herbert stated that

The government is committed to faster broadband for all by 2016. Contracts were put out under Compulsory Competitive Tendering and BT won most of the contracts as other companies do not currently have the infra structure. There is a public subsidy to supplement the non commercially viable contracts. The contracts are robust and will be regulated.

Bob Rowland asked

**What is your position on badger culls?**

MP Nick Herbert stated

He is in favour of it as TB outbreaks are a terrible cost to the country, we need to try something to prevent the spread of TB in a controlled way.

Unsure who asked the following question.

**What is your position on the greenhouse effect?**

MP Nick Herbert stated

Burning fossil fuels is less friendly to the environment, we need to look at energy from other areas, but storage is a problem.

Shale gas will not bring prices down overnight, but this is more likely than if we have to import coal.

**MP Nick Herbert thanked everybody and said he would be happy to come along to another meeting if invited. He then departed with his researcher Michelle Taylor.**

## **Appendix 2**

### **James Stobart Road Safety Co-Coordinator- Operation Crackdown**

#### **What is Operation Crackdown?**

- Partnership initiative designed to tackle road safety and anti social driving in Sussex.
- Allows the general public to report instances of anti social driving via a web based portal or dedicated telephone number.
- Can be seen as an accessible mobile Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.
- Allows police and other agencies to deal with Anti Social driving in an efficient and intelligent manner.
- It operates Monday – Friday during office hours it is not for emergency calls.

#### **What should be reported?**

**Careless and inconsiderate driving**-tailgating, not leaving sufficient gap in the traffic. This sort of driving often includes using hand gestures and light flashing.

**Undertaking**- The Highway code clearly states that we overtake on the right. Only in exceptional circumstances do we undertake.( When directed by a police officer or in slow moving lanes of traffic).

**Anti Social** driving covers a range of behaviours. The fatal four are shown below ( called such as they are shown as the main contributing factors in a significant number of collisions across the country)

- Using a hand held mobile phone
- Speeding
- Drink/drug driving
- No seat belt

Most of these offences when reported will generate a letter to the registered keeper of the vehicle identifying the anti social driving (not drink/drug which should be reported by calling 999) and simply remind them not to do this again. 1<sup>st</sup> report will say on the system for 12 months, 2<sup>nd</sup> will generate a letter and/or fine, 3<sup>rd</sup> offence will go country wide. This is very rare..

To report Road Safety or Anti Social Driving log on to [www.operationcrackdown.org](http://www.operationcrackdown.org) Or Telephone 01234 64 22 22

#### **You will need the following details**

**About the incident** – we will ask you for:

- The vehicle registration number (licence plate) This must be complete
- Make, model and colour of vehicle
- Details about when and where the incident happened – our online map will help you identify the area
- Any information that may help us identify the driver

**About you** - your contact details will be treated in confidence.

We are not able to react to anonymous reports. If you would rather not give your name, you can make an anonymous report to Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111** or via their [website](#).

#### **What happens when you make a report?**

Depending on how serious the incident, whether the vehicle has been reported before, and whether the driver falls into a high risk category, we might:

- forward your report to the Sussex Police Road Policing Unit so local officers can take appropriate action.
- send a warning letter to the registered keeper of the vehicle.



- keep your report in the Crackdown database, providing a history of the vehicle and allegations.
- identify and address regular 'hotspots' of anti-social driver behaviour.

So it's **ALWAYS** worth making a report, even if no immediate action is apparent.

### **Appendix 3**

Gulu Sibanda Principle Community Officer , Community & Economic Development WSCC

I work with the Parish Council, Highways and WSCC to try and make things happen in the Fulking area. Current projects include Ladybrook Spring, Clappers Lane and Winter Maintenance.

**Ladybrook Spring** we were working with the PC to develop a project that we could be proud of, then Highways came along and built the current structure. This was a classic case of not communicating together. The project has currently stalled as Highways have stated that the design Fulking PC would like does not meet Health & Safety standards. A meeting is to be set up with the PC, Highways, Darren Rolfe (Senior Community Solutions Officer) and myself to resolve the situation. The Ladybrook Spring project has the backing WSC Councillor Peter Griffiths.

**Clappers Lane.** Two contractors (Balfour Beatty and Edburton Contractors ) have quoted for the work to resolve the flooding on Clappers Lane. Funding of £16k has been applied for under Operation Watershed. We should find out very soon if the grant is to be awarded. It will then be up to the PC to decide which contractor to use.

**Winter Maintenance** The winter maintenance plan for 2013-14 has been accepted. The grit to top up the bins and the surplus supply will be delivered in the next few weeks. The plan is available on the Fulking website and live updates on the road conditions can be found on <https://twitter.com/WSCCGritting>

There is a new Highways Manager in post and his name is Brian Lambeth.

The work identified by Tony Brooks is a highways issue and a ticket should be raised with asset management but no date could be given as to when the work would be carried out.

The sump at Four Acres has been chased up again with Tim Boxall .

#### **Appendix 4**

##### **Report Mid Sussex District Councillor Colin Trumble**

MSDC are being challenged on planning by developers and Brighton & Hove . Developers feel confident that the Planning Inspectorate will agree the need for plans like Mayfield. The decision on Mayfield will be made higher up the chain than Colin or Peter. MSDC is against the development and have not planned for the increase in the amount of housing that is proposed at Mayfield. Nick Hertbert & Nicholas Soames will argue the case against Mayfield.

The **District Plan** is still on target for final agreement in March of 2014.

**Gypsies and Travellers** Transit sites work well in East Sussex with closer co-ordination between the police and the transit camps.

There are challenges on the **budget** for 2014/15 and savings of £500k need to be made. Over the next 2 years a total of £2.8m needs to be saved with no effect on service. MSDC have implemented 42 from 50 of Eric Pickle money saving ideas.

**Polling places** are currently under review.

In accordance with The Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006, Mid Sussex District Council is conducting a review of all polling districts and polling places in the District's Parliamentary Constituencies . Representations or comments are invited during the period 1st October – 29th November 2013.

The purpose of this review is to:

- seek to ensure that all the electors in the district have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.
- seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled.

The outcome of the review together with any recommendations for change or additional polling place provision will be reported to Council for decision on Wednesday 22 January 2014

##### **Report from West Sussex County Councillor Peter Griffiths**

Since being re-elected in May my responsibility now lies with Corporate Relations , no longer schools. He advised Fulking to apply for more grants, maybe for the NTF.

Sent through the following notes to be appended to the minutes

# POLICY TEAM

### **Current Issues – September 2013**

#### **West Sussex Independent Economic Commission**

Business people across West Sussex are being invited to give their views on a range of economic issues following the establishment of the West Sussex Independent Economic Commission (WSIEC).

Chaired by Professor John Craven, former University of Portsmouth Vice Chancellor, the Commission also includes – Trevor Williams, Managing Director of Thales UK; Marion Wilcock of DMH Stallard LLP; Martin Fausset, Managing Director of Ricardo UK; and Roger Paterson, Cabinet Member for Local Economy at Horsham District Council. The Commission will issue its call for evidence during mid-September, with businesses, business organisations and partner bodies, asked to send their views on what needs to be done to boost the county's economy by November 2013. Businesses will also have an opportunity to discuss the county's economy at 6 autumn workshops. The Commission will present its report and recommendations to West Sussex County Council in January 2014.

The work of the Independent Commission is being supported by West Sussex County Council. Shared Intelligence, a national economic development consultancy, has also been appointed, to provide the Commission with technical and economic analysis support, for the duration of their work. Further information on the WSIEC can be obtained from Duncan Barratt, Community & Economic Development Manager - [duncan.barratt@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:duncan.barratt@westsussex.gov.uk) Tel: 0330 2223875 / for internal phone calls – ext. 23875.

More information about how you can support the Commission's work and encourage businesses to participate, will be available via their website from the 16<sup>th</sup> September: [www.sharedintelligence.net/projects/wsiec](http://www.sharedintelligence.net/projects/wsiec)

Portfolio Holder: Louise Goldsmith

Officer Contact: Duncan Barratt [duncan.barratt@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:duncan.barratt@westsussex.gov.uk) Tel: 0330 2223875

**Gatwick  
Update**



The authority's draft response to the Airports Commission's call for comments on the long-term proposals for increasing capacity (specifically, those which affect Gatwick) will be scrutinised by Environmental and Community Services Select Committee at its meeting on 25 Sept (starting at 10.30am).

The Chairman is keen for local members to attend for the item, and to have an opportunity to speak if they wish. Given the potential number of local members attending, the

**POLICY TEAM**

proposal is:

- Allow local (non-ECSSC) members a maximum of three minutes each to speak at the start of the item
- Allow local members a short time at the close of the item, to make any closing comments.

The Chairman has asked that the meeting be webcast.

Portfolio Holder: Peter Montyn

Officer Contact: Neil Border neil.border@westsussex.gov.uk Tel: 033022 22541

**Information  
Provided at  
Member  
Day on  
Fracking**

A helpful and informative Members' Information Seminar was held on 4 September at County Hall Chichester to ascertain what Members' knowledge and understanding of the issues around fracking are. This information session provided Members with an opportunity to learn more about the currently known facts relating to exploration and potential exploitation of unconventional oil and gas resources. Material from The Environment Agency, The Royal Society, DCLG, DECC and from WSCC Officers was provided to help inform Members' views on this important issue. The presentations for this seminar are now available on the Members' Information section of SharePoint and can be accessed via the following link:  
<http://teamspace.westsussex.gov.uk/teams/DSU/MI/Protected/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2Fteams%2FDSU%2FMI%2FProtected%2FMI%2FMember%20Development%2FMember%20Day%2013%2D14%20Papers%20and%20Presentations%2FMember%20day%2004%2E09%2E13%20Fracking>

Portfolio Holder: Pieter Montyn

Officer Contact: (planning issues) Mike Elkington michael.elkington@westsussex.gov.uk Tel: Tel: 0330 22 26463 (communications issues) Sam Mowbray samantha.mowbray@westsussex.gov.uk  
Tel: 03302223711

CONTACT: ROBERT BRADY  
POLICY OFFICER  
POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS  
033022 22529

**Forward Plan Decisions – Listed for September**

**Leader** Total Performance Monitor

**Adult Social Care** Telecare Service Procurement

**and Health** Review of Domiciliary Care for Adults and Older People

RESPIRE AND SHORT BREAK SERVICES FOR CARERS (ADULTS)

# POLICY TEAM

**Children** – Education Provision in North East Crawley - providers

**Start of Life**

**Community** Procurement of Public Health Services (excluding Enhanced **Wellbeing** (and Services with GPs and Pharmacies)

**Deputy Leader)**

PROCUREMENT OF ENHANCED SERVICES FROM GPs AND PHARMACIES

Response to consultation on the South Downs National Park Partnership Management Plan

**Finance** Review of Property Holdings

**Highways and** Billingshurst Parking Review

**Transport**

Holbrook (Horsham) – Proposed Waiting Restrictions.

AVIATION AND GATWICK AIRPORT

**Resident's** Closed Landfill Site Gas and Estate Management Services Contract

**Services** Procurement

Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF)and Compost-Like Output Procurement

REVIEW OF WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

POLICY TEAM



### **Current Issues – October 2013**

#### **New Delivery Partner for Sussex Energy Saving Partnership**

West Sussex County Council, which led the procurement for the Sussex Energy Saving Partnership (SESP), has selected multinational company Carillion as its preferred bidder for delivering energy saving initiatives across Sussex.

Working with the local authorities across East and West Sussex and Brighton & Hove City Council, the aim is to deliver energy saving measures in more than 680,000 households over the next 25 years, starting with 17,000 by 2017.

During the autumn we will be working with our new partner to mobilise a first class service to residents and businesses during 2014.

Portfolio Holder: Louise Goldsmith

Officer Contact: Susan Roberts Tel: 03302224122 e-mail:

susan.roberts@westsussex.gov.uk

#### **West Sussex gets Better Connected**



The first communities set to benefit from new 'superfast' broadband services will get access to the technology in spring, next year. The £20million West Sussex Better Connected project is being funded by the County Council, Government and BT and aims to build on the existing commercial roll out of broadband technologies to provide more than 90% of the county with coverage of speeds faster than 24Mbps.

Detailed planning, survey and design is now underway and a huge and complex programme of engineering work has begun. This will be carried out in phases and include desktop and geographical surveys as well as some preparatory work by engineers to ready the network to receive the new fibre cables.

By spring 2016 more than 35,000 miles of fibre optic cabling will be laid under and over ground - the equivalent of travelling from Sussex to Papua New Guinea and back.

More than 300 new green cabinets will be built and 18 main telephone exchanges will be upgraded to provide enough capacity to cope with the expected demand. Customers will contract to buy services in the usual way.

We expect to announce in Spring next year the first communities set to benefit from the new services.

Work will be carried out by BT's local network business, Openreach.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/broadband>

Portfolio Holder: Louise Goldsmith

Officer Contact: Jo Furber Tel: 03302 22261 E-mail: jo.furber@westsussex.gov.uk

# **POLICY TEAM**

## **Transfer of ownership of Local Authority Nurseries**

The Cabinet Members for Children and Families and Finance and Resources approved the commencement of a procurement process in April 2011 to seek alternative third party providers to deliver the five local authority day nurseries that provide integrated early learning and childcare for children aged 0-5 years within its children and family centres (CFC).

The aims are to secure non-LA high quality, viable provision with greater flexibility and wider range of related services to meet the needs of families; obviate the need for subsidies to the nurseries and create a rental income stream for the lease of space within the Children and Family Centres. TUPE requirements will apply to the staff transferring to the new organisations.

The day nurseries included in this proposal are

- BEWBUSH NURSERY, CRAWLEY
- BROADFIELD NURSERY, CRAWLEY
- JELLYFISH NURSERY, KINGSTON BUCI, SHOREHAM
- LANCING NURSERY, LANCING
- FISHERSGATE NURSERY, FISHERSGATE

Bewbush Nursery was successfully launched as a staff mutual with effect from April 2013. The Broadfield Nursery staff team have expressed interest in establishing a staff mutual and officers are working to assess and then support the proposal with a view to becoming independent in April 2014.

Regarding the three remaining nurseries, the Childcare Act of 2006 positions the Local Authority as a provider of last resort should there be insufficient childcare places to meet the needs of working parents and a lack of private, voluntary or independent childcare providers.

The latest annual sufficiency assessment confirms the need for provision in these areas. The current procurement approach aims to attract and secure high quality providers to whom ownership of the three remaining nurseries can be transferred.

Staff update briefings are scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> October 2013. Procurement advertisement is planned for the end of October 2013 and assessment of bidder proposals is expected in January/February 2014. The transfer is planned for September 2014.

Portfolio Holder: Peter Evans

Officer Contact: Chris Ellis Tel: 033022 27548 E-mail:  
chris.ellis@westsussex.gov.uk

CONTACT: ROBERT BRADY  
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033022 22529

# POLICY TEAM

**Forward Plan Decisions – Listed for October**

**Leader** Total Performance Monitor

**Adult Social** Telecare Service Procurement

**Care and Health**

REVIEW OF DOMICILIARY CARE FOR ADULTS AND OLDER PEOPLE

**Children** – Development of options for the future operation of the Learning Service

**Start of Life**

REVIEW OF YOUTH SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARE LEAVERS STRATEGY 2013 -2016

WEST SUSSEX YOUNG CARERS STRATEGY 2013-15

**Finance** Review of Property Holdings

Review of approach to Strategic Estate

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT 2014/15 AND 2015/16

(TECHNICAL CONSULTATION).

BUSINESS RATE POOLING

**Highways and** Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

**Transport**

Direction for Strategic investment in the unclassified highways asset

APPROVAL OF MODIFICATIONS TO THE SUBMITTED WEST SUSSEX WASTE LOCAL PLAN

**Resident's** Closed Landfill Site Gas and Estate Management Services Contract

**Services** Procurement

Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF)and Compost-Like Output Procurement

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