

MINUTES

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL held at Council Chamber, County Hall, Lewes on 1 DECEMBER 2015 at 10.00 am

Present Councillors John Barnes, Colin Belsey (Chairman), Nick Bennett, Bill Bentley, Mike Blanch, Carla Butler, Frank Carstairs, Peter Charlton, Tania Charman, Charles Clark, Angharad Davies, Chris Dowling, Claire Dowling, Stuart Earl, David Elkin, Michael Ensor (Vice Chairman), Kathryn Field, Kim Forward, Roy Galley, Keith Glazier, John Hodges, Philip Howson, Laurence Keeley, Carolyn Lambert, Carl Maynard, Ruth O'Keeffe, Peter Pragnell, Mike Pursglove, Pat Rodohan, Phil Scott, Jim Sheppard, Daniel Shing, Stephen Shing, Alan Shuttleworth, Rupert Simmons, Rosalyn St. Pierre, Bob Standley, Richard Stogdon, Barry Taylor, Sylvia Tidy, John Ungar, Steve Wallis, Trevor Webb, Francis Whetstone and Michael Wincott

41 Minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2015

41.1 RESOLVED – to confirm the minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 20 October 2015 as a correct record

42 Apologies for absence

42.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ian Buchanan, Godfrey Daniel, Michael Phillips and David Tutt

43 Chairman's business

CHAIRMAN'S ACTIVITIES

43 .1 The Chairman reported that he had attended a number of engagements since the last meeting of the County Council including: a Let's Do Business event in Hastings, Westerleigh Judokwai, Hastings and Rother Special Olympics Celebration, the Eastbourne Silver Band Concert of Remembrance, the Sussex Downs College Principal's Prayer breakfast, Professor Julian Crampton's retirement reception, Lewes Bonfire at the invitation of the Mayor of Lewes, the Eastbourne Business Awards, the Salvation Army annual Lifeboat Service, the Chichester Chapter Dinner, remembrance services and parades in Eastbourne, Hastings and Uckfield, the Ian Gow public speaking completion, the Matthew 25 Mission, the East Sussex Youth Awards and an event for volunteers. The Vice Chairman also attended a number of events.

PRAYERS

43.2 The Chairman thanked Reverend Judith Egar, St Anne's Church, Lewes for leading the prayers before the Council meeting

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PETITIONS

43.3 The Chairman informed the Council that immediately before the meeting he had received the following petition from members as follows:

Councillor Rodohan	- calling on the County Council to introduce residents' parking in Bedford Grove, Eastbourne
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44 Questions from members of the public

44.1 Copies of questions asked by Sue Burton from Battle and Belinda Styles from Windmill Hill and the answers by Councillor Maynard (Lead Member for Transport and Environment) and Councillor Chris Dowling (Lead Member for Community Services) are attached to these minutes. Supplementary questions were asked and responded to.

45 Declarations of Interest

45.1 The following members declared personal interests in items on the agenda as follows:

<i>Member</i>	<i>Position giving rise to interest</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Whether interest was prejudicial</i>
Councillors Charman, Forward, Hodges, O'Keeffe, Scott, Tidy, Ungar, Webb and Wincott	Member of a Trade Union	Lead Member for Resources report, paragraph 1	No

46 Reports

46.1 The Chairman of the County Council, having called over the reports set out in the agenda, reserved the following paragraphs for discussion:

Governance Committee	-	paragraph 1
Lead Member for Resources	-	paragraph 1

47 Report of the Governance Committee

47.1 Councillor Glazier moved the reserved paragraph of the Governance Committee's report

47.2 An amendment (which can be viewed on the County Council website) in relation to the county electoral boundaries in the Lewes District area was moved by Councillor O'Keeffe and seconded was CARRIED

47.3 An amendment (which can be viewed on the County Council website) in relation to the county electoral boundaries in the rural Rother area was moved by Councillor Maynard and seconded was CARRIED

47.4 An amendment (which can be viewed on the County Council website) in relation to the county electoral boundaries in the Wealden District area was moved by Councillor Standley and seconded was CARRIED

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47.5 The motion moved by Councillor Glazier, as amended, was CARRIED

48 Report of the Lead Member for Resources

48.1 Councillor Elkin moved the reserved paragraph in the report of the Lead Member for Resources.

48.2 The following amendment was moved by Councillor Simmons and seconded:

Amend paragraph 1.11 of the Report of the Lead Member for Resources as follows:

As a major employer in the area the Council welcomes the positive benefits that arise from the relationships that we have with recognised trade unions [insert] **[and indeed all of our staff]** [delete] ~~[and seeks to encourage trade union membership in its own workforce, as well as promoting the benefits of trade union membership in the county as a whole.]~~ This Council [insert] **[values the commitment of our staff, directly and through representatives, which works to the benefit of all our services and all Parties].** [delete] ~~[believes that the relationship between employers and their employees in East Sussex through their collective representatives would be damaged by the proposals and calls on the Government to scrap the Trade Union Bill and all associated secondary legislation].~~

[delete] ~~[We request that the Leader of the Council]~~ [insert] **[The Council encourages Members to]** write to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills [insert] **[should they consider parts of the Trade Union Bill currently proceeding through Parliament, will either damage or improve those relationships]** [delete] ~~[stating the Council's opposition to the Bill and requesting that Government scrap the proposed legislation]~~

48.3 A recorded vote was requested and taken. The amendment was CARRIED, the votes being cast as follows:

FOR THE AMENDMENT

Councillors Barnes, Belsey, Bennett, Bentley, Carstairs, Davies, Chris Dowling, Claire Dowling, Earl, Elkin, Ensor, Galley, Glazier, Howson, Maynard, Pragnell, Sheppard, Simmons, Standley, Stogdon, Taylor, Tidy and Whetstone

AGAINST THE MOTION

Councillors Blanch, Butler, Charlton, Charman, Clark, Field, Forward, Hodges, Keeley, Lambert, O'Keeffe, Pursglove, Rodohan, Scott, D Shing, S Shing, Shuttleworth, St Pierre, Ungar, Wallis, Webb and Wincott

ABSTENTIONS

None

48.4 The following Motion was moved and CARRIED

As a major employer in the area the Council welcomes the positive benefits that arise from the relationships that we have with recognised Trade Unions and indeed all of our staff. This Council values the commitment of our staff, directly and through representatives, which works to the benefit of all our services and all Parties.

The Council encourages Members to write to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills should they consider parts of the Trade Union Bill currently proceeding through Parliament, will either damage or improve those relationships.

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49 Questions from County Councillors

ORAL QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

49.1 The following members asked questions of the Lead Cabinet Members indicated and they responded:

Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor Blanch	Councillor Glazier	Impact of announcement that upper tier authorities would be able to raise 2% for adult social care services
Councillor St Pierre	Councillor Maynard	Possibility of any funding for improvements to A27 between Polegate and Lewes being used to improve the rail network
Councillor Ungar	Councillor Bentley	External professional advice sought regarding impact of proposed cuts to the adult social care budget
Councillor Hodges	Councillor Elkin	Announcement regarding the possibility of the Council being able to raise 2% for adult social care
Councillor Wincott	Councillor Glazier	Proposals in relation to Police and Crime Commissioners becoming responsible for Fire Authorities.
Councillor Whetstone	Councillor Simmons	Negotiations with Gatwick Airport regarding flightpaths
Councillor Charman	Councillor Maynard	Cycling strategy consultation and safety of cyclists
Councillor Forward	Chairman	Support for World Aids Day
Councillor St Pierre	Councillor Tidy	Proposed cuts to the Fostering and Adoption Services
Councillor Scott	Councillor Maynard	Opening date of the Bexhill to Hastings Link Road
Councillor D Shing	Councillor Maynard	Budget position for works in relation to the installation of dropped kerbs
Councillor Whetstone	Councillor Tidy	Request to be kept informed of proposals in relation to the Adoption Service
Councillor S Shing	Councillor Maynard	Use of developer contribution funding

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WRITTEN QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

49.2 One written question was received from Councillor Clark for the Lead Member for Adult Social Care. The question and answer are attached to these minutes.

49.3 The Lead Member responded to a supplementary question.

THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 12.17 pm

The reports referred to are included in the minute book

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

1. Question from Sue Burton, Battle, East Sussex

I am concerned about the low levels of physical activity in East Sussex, given that only 24% of adults in East Sussex get 30 mins of exercise five days a week, the minimum recommended level. Physical inactivity has a direct relationship on health and wellbeing. In particular physical activity can either prevent or improve coronary heart disease, strokes, type 2 diabetes, cancer, obesity, mental health problems and musculoskeletal conditions. For example in relation to falls, physical inactivity is increasing the demand on social care budgets by 15% due to the increase in the number of less fit elderly adults; fitter OAPs fall less and sustain fewer injuries when they do fall. Similarly we are concerned about young people's levels of inactivity in East Sussex given that 21% of reception children are already obese at the age 4 or 5 and 31% of year 6 children are obese at the age of 10 or 11. Consequently, there are current and long-term health cost implications to both the NHS and local authorities. Physical inactivity is costing the NHS £18 billion to £20 billion a year.

Dutch analysts have studied the cost benefits of cycling in reducing traffic jams, pollution, road maintenance costs and in boosting health and have found that the economy makes 35 pence profit for every mile travelled by bicycle.

The painting of white lines on the edge of a carriageway which is blocked with parked cars does not represent safe cycling nor encourage cycling. Similarly a narrow pavement shared with pedestrians is often a poor solution. Walking is often preferable for short trips but for slightly longer trips cycling is more convenient. A 30-minute journey on foot takes only 10 minutes to cycle and therefore is a very desirable form of transport for medium length local journeys.

In view of the current building developments how is ESCC going to use this opportunity to create 'door to destination active travel', making walking and cycling the preferred option of transport?

Response by Councillor Maynard, Lead Member for Transport and Environment

Before responding to the specific question, it is important to note that some of the data referred to in the question regarding physical activity is incorrect. Levels of adult physical activity are now assessed by 'adults completing at least 150 minutes of physical activity a week at a moderate intensity'. This is based on the Chief Medical Officer's guidelines, and included in the public health outcome framework (PHOF) and is the indicator for physical activity. In East Sussex that figure is 59.4%, which is higher than the national average of 57%.

In relation to the figure also quoted regarding the cost to the NHS is of physical inactivity, Public Health England currently state that the estimated cost of physical inactivity to the UK is £7.9billion a year and not £18-20 billion.

In relation to the question itself, delivering walking and cycling infrastructure will form part of the overall transport infrastructure package required to support the planned housing and employment growth across the county and deliver our key priority of delivering economic growth.

The delivery of integrated walking and cycling infrastructure will enable walking and cycling for short local journeys, or as part of longer journeys, between residential areas to existing key trip attractors – town and local centres; employment areas; rail stations; education; health; and leisure facilities – and planned development.

To enable the delivery of this, funding is being secured through various sources. Through the South East Local Enterprise Partnership Growth Deal, £21m of Local Growth Fund (LGF) monies has been secured towards delivering sustainable transport measures across the county

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to support economic growth. This includes packages of walking and cycling improvements for the Eastbourne and South Wealden as well as Hastings & Bexhill areas; the delivery of a movement and access package for Eastbourne town centre which includes the Terminus Road public realm improvements being delivered as part of the Arndale extension, and the Hailsham – Polegate – Eastbourne Movement and Access corridor. These packages of schemes are programmed to be delivered over the next six years as part of County's LGF programme and we are currently developing business cases for consideration by the Local Enterprise Partnership to unlock this funding and demonstrate that the investment represents good value for money.

This funding will be augmented by other funding sources including development contributions and we are working with the Districts and Boroughs to ensure that walking and cycling is positively included within Local Plan policies and that the need for walking and cycling infrastructure to support development is included in the Local Plan Infrastructure Development Plans. We will also continue to deliver walking and cycling infrastructure through our Local Transport Capital Programme, along with developing bids for external funding, namely through government programmes and European funding initiatives.

As an umbrella for this work, the County Council is currently developing a countywide Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy. This will include the key issues and opportunities for walking and cycling in the county and long term investment plans for walking and cycling based on the Local Transport Plan geographic areas. This will ensure that we are in a strong position to bid for the funding associated with the national Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy and other external opportunities.

2. Question from Belinda Styles, Windmill Hill, East Sussex

I am concerned by the 4% increase in road deaths in Great Britain from 2013 to 2014¹. Of the 1775 road deaths, 1 in 4 of these were pedestrians with a disproportionately high 113 cyclists killed and 3401 cyclists seriously injured; the number of killed and seriously injured (KSI) figures for cyclists have increased by 14% since 2005 as traffic increases and roads become less non vehicle friendly. East Sussex has a higher rate of KSIs on roads for the period 2011 to 2013 with a rate of 59.3 per 100,000 population compared to the average for England which is 39.7 per 100,000 population.² 11% of these in East Sussex were cyclists despite only 2% of journeys being made by bicycle. 46% of East Sussex's KSIs occurred on roads with speed limits of 30mph; with 43% of these 30mph casualties being either a pedestrian or cyclist hit by a car. There were no KSIs in the 20 mph zones. Junctions are the most common location for collisions. A well-designed junction reduces the number of decisions that need to be made by each road user.

I am not confident that the necessary infrastructure to facilitate safe cycling is currently in place in East Sussex due to the evidence demonstrated by the fact that only 3.4% of adults in East Sussex cycle once a week and only 2.3% of adults cycling at least 5 times a week. It is important to remember that the All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group targets are to increase cycling to 10% of journeys by 2025 and 25% of journeys by 2050, and the Department for Transport Cycling Delivery Plan's stated ambition is to "double the number of journey stages made by bicycle by 2025". If these are to be met, action must be taken.

Would ESCC allocate resources to provide additional safe cycling infrastructure and 20 mph zones within the existing transport provision and facilitate widespread training for their planners in the up to date design principles for cycling and walking?

¹ Department of Transport Road Casualties in GB Main Results 2014, published June 2015

² ESCC KSI Casualties on East Sussex Roads, Public Health Briefing June 2015

Response by Councillor Chris Dowling, Lead Member for Community Services

The County Council is currently developing a countywide Cycling & Walking Investment Strategy. This will provide a framework for developing a long term and ambitious plan for developing cycling and walking infrastructure, measures and initiatives to support a step change in the levels of walking and cycling. This will ensure that we are in a strong position to bid for the funding associated with the national Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy and other external opportunities.

The County Council already funds cycling infrastructure and safety related programmes of work through its Local Transport Capital Programme which is augmented by other funding sources including from external funding sources (Department for Transport, European funding) and development contributions. For example, using Local Sustainable Transport Fund monies we have delivered 20mph zones in Lewes and cycle infrastructure in Newhaven and Eastbourne; we have used Lottery funding to complete the cycle route between Bexhill and Hastings and used development contributions to construct a cycle route between Eastbourne town centre and Sovereign Harbour. However, whilst safety is an important element in prioritising transport schemes, it is also important to understand that given the limited county council budgets the value for money of a scheme is paramount, and ensures the best use of available funding.

We have also secured £21m from the South East Local Enterprise Partnership Growth Deal towards delivering sustainable transport measures across the county to support economic growth. This includes packages of walking and cycling improvements for the Eastbourne and South Wealden as well as Hastings & Bexhill areas; the delivery of a movement and access package for Eastbourne town centre which includes the Terminus Road public realm improvements being delivered as part of the Arndale extension, and the Hailsham – Polegate – Eastbourne Movement and Access corridor. These packages of schemes are programmed to be delivered over the next six years as part of County's LGF programme and we are currently developing business cases for consideration by the Local Enterprise Partnership to unlock this funding and demonstrate that the investment represents good value for money.

Whilst we can provide safer cycling infrastructure this will not always necessarily equate to a large increase in the levels of cycling, because travel behaviour is influenced by a range of social, environmental and economic factors, including the often perceived safety issues or complex household routines where cycling is seen as unachievable. Therefore changing travel behaviour towards more walking and cycling can only be achieved both internally and with external partners to drive a programme that involves both infrastructure and initiatives to support walking and cycling for everyday journeys.

In terms of designing cycle schemes, our team of experienced design engineers use the most commonly used guidance and standards for the design of walking and cycling routes, including those produced by the Department for Transport and Sustrans – the sustainable transport charity. They keep up to date with the latest developments in highway design through ongoing Professional Development Activity including attendance at workshops and seminars.

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WRITTEN QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

1. Question by Councillor Clark to the Lead Member for Adult Social Care

I was very pleased that the County Council signed up to become a White Ribbon Council, showing support for people who suffer from domestic abuse and that the Council organised sessions for councillors to better understand the issues relating to domestic abuse.

I note that it is proposed to cut £80,000 funding from accommodation based schemes for women fleeing domestic violence which will impact on refuge services across the county. I am aware that the proposals are subject to consultation but cutting funding for this service will impact on those suffering from domestic abuse.

Can the Lead Member give an indication of the impact of the proposed cut will have on supporting those suffering from domestic abuse and whether the proposed cut will impact on the Council's White Ribbon status?

Answer by the Lead Member for Adult Social Care

The funding currently allocated to refuge provision in East Sussex is £392k per year, which provides 47 units of accommodation with on-site support staff and a peripatetic worker covering all schemes. The reduction of £80k is less than that proposed for many other Supporting People funded services due to the relatively high priority given to this service. Council officers are in ongoing discussions with the service provider to see whether this saving can be achieved through changing how the service is delivered or whether it would be necessary to close one unit. The results of this work will be included in the proposals for Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources.

There are currently five refuges within East Sussex which are open for referrals across all five of the District and Boroughs. If no alternative could be found to avoid a service closure then local women would still have access to four other refuge facilities in other parts of the county or, if this does not meet their individual circumstances, access to a national service which could support them into refuge placements outside of the area. Support is also provided to women experiencing domestic violence through the Home Works floating support service as some women choose not to use a residential provision.

Our White Ribbon Status will not be affected by the County Council savings proposals. The Council remains committed to the White Ribbon campaign by involving men so that the message increases in effectiveness and reach by addressing and changing social norms that lead to violent behavior against women and girls. We can continue to increase awareness on the issue and provide services aimed at reducing the incidence of domestic abuse, as well as mobilising the entire local community under the goal of ending this violence.

This year we are focusing our raising awareness on stalking through sixteen days of raising awareness which was launched by an event called "Talking Stalking" on the 25 November. This is a book launch and raising awareness event. The book contains poems and articles written by people who have survived stalking and they will read out their work at the event. During this period we will have a social media campaign and in addition all Council employees will have a message on their payslips highlighting the risks of stalking and who to contact if they are affected.

Our White Ribbon Status lasts for two years and we will then renew our status with a refreshed action plan.