

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
Policy and Strategy Committee
22 May 2007**

Councillor Neil Parkin (Chairperson)
Councillor Julie Searle (Vice-Chairperson)

Councillor Gavin Ayling
Councillor Keith Dollemore
*Councillor Robert Dunn

Councillor Liza McKinney
Councillor Angie Mills

Absent*

PSC/19/07-08 Declarations of Interest / Substitute Members

Councillor Julie Searle declared a personal interest in agenda item 10: Playing Pitch Strategy for Adur.

PSC/20/07-08 Questions and Statements by the Public

Members of the public were invited to ask questions or make statements about any matter for which the Council had a responsibility or which affected the district. There were no questions or statements from the public.

PSC/21/07-08 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the Committee held on 20 March 2007 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

PSC/22/07-08 Items Raised under Urgency Provisions

None.

PSC/23/07-08 Change to Order of Agenda Items

The Chairman announced that agenda item 10: Playing Pitch Strategy for Adur and agenda item 11: Fishersgate Healthy Living Centre would be considered as the first two reports for the benefit of those interested parties in attendance.

PSC/24/07-08 Playing Pitch Strategy for Adur

Before the Committee was a report by the Head of Planning and Community, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes as Item 10.

The Leisure Development Manager introduced Mr Michael Courtier of PMP Consultants who gave a short presentation on the Playing Pitch Strategy and invited questions from the Committee.

The Leisure Development Manager outlined the report before the Committee and asked Members to agree the Strategy and an accompanying set of Policy Statements, circulated to those present. Members noted that an additional Policy Statement should be added as number 10, as per recommendation 10 of the Strategy, as set out on page 169 of the agenda.

The Committee were pleased with the Strategy and the Policy Statements and were happy to see plans for protecting existing provision and for creating further sites for playing pitches. Members agreed the Playing Pitch Strategy for Adur, as set out in the report, and the accompanying ten Policy Statements, as amended.

Resolved that the Playing Pitch Strategy for Adur, including the following 10 amended policy statements, be agreed and adopted:

1. The Council should seek to safeguard all pitches in the District in line with policies in the Adur Development Plan. There should be a presumption against any pitch loss, and pitch disposals should only be considered if superior pitch provision or alternative provision is proposed elsewhere;
2. The Council, with partners, should seek to secure formal community use agreements where possible with local schools and other organisations where the community already has access to facilities in order to secure their usage for the medium and long term. In addition the Council should seek to identify further opportunities for the community to use school facilities;
3. The Council should explore opportunities with local clubs and the college for bringing back into use the Kings Manor Community College detached sports field, taking account of policies in the Adur Development Plan;
4. Long term aim for the Council for all sites in the District to meet Football Foundation guidelines for the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities;
5. The Council should use the draft findings of this strategy at a consultation event to help inform the layout of the new Mash Barn site;
6. The Council should review the configuration of pitches at Council owned existing sites once the new facilities at Adur Recreation Ground and Mash Barn are available;
7. The Council should review the needs and aspirations of Shoreham RFC during the reconfiguration of pitches at Council owned sites once the new facilities at Adur Recreation Ground and Mash Barn are available;
8. The Council should work with the Local Education Authority to ensure the Synthetic Turf Pitch at Kings Manor Community College remains in a usable state until it is rebuilt, unless a suitable replacement facility is built;
9. The Council should seek to ensure that through the application of planning policies, the recreational needs of future residents within residential proposals are appropriately met. In this respect Section 106 planning obligations could potentially be used. Further details will be provided in an Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document;
10. The Council should adopt a local standard of 0.68 pitches per 1,000 population for the District.

PSC/25/07-08 Fishersgate Healthy Living Centre Project

Before the Committee was a report by the Head of Planning and Community, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes as Item 11.

The Community Development Officer outlined the circumstances regarding Fishersgate Community Centre and asked Members to agree a business plan and funding arrangements for Fishersgate Healthy Living Centre. The proposal involved the conversion of St Peters Church, in partnership with West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) and the Diocese of Chichester, to create a mixed use venue for the community of Fishersgate.

Members asked for further clarification regarding Fishersgate Community Association (FCA) and the future of Fishersgate Community Centre, also known as The Dome. The Head of Corporate and Legal Services outlined the position, explaining that arbitration between FCA and the building firm CME was ongoing.

The Committee were pleased with the proposal and happy to see progress towards a much needed facility for the area. Members asked for confirmation that there would be no further revenue costs for the Council following the initial funding outlined in the report. The Community Development Officer confirmed that any ongoing costs would be met by WSSCC. She also noted that monies had been reserved from the insurance payment following extensive fire damage to The Dome for any demolition costs.

Members agreed the recommendations, as set out in the report.

Resolved

- (i) that the Fishersgate Healthy Living Centre Amended Business Plan for 2007-2009 be agreed and adopted;
- (ii) that £99,000 as a contribution to Fishersgate Healthy Living Centre as match funding to the Big Lottery Funding be agreed.

PSC/26/07-08 Working Groups Reporting to Committees

Before the Committee was a report by the Head of Corporate and Legal Services, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes as Item 5.

The Head of Corporate and Legal Services outlined the report which asked the Committee to agree the arrangements and membership for each of its Working Groups for the current year. He advised that the Ropetackle Arts and Education Facility Working Group had now fulfilled its objectives and recommended that it be discontinued. This was agreed by members.

The Committee agreed the Terms of Reference and duration for the Community Strategy and Development Plan Working, as set out in the report, and appointed Councillors Gavin Ayling, Liza McKinney, and Angie Mills.

The Committee agreed the Terms of Reference for the Land Disposal Working Group, with a duration to Annual Council 2008 and membership dependent on the matter under consideration.

Resolved

- (i) that the Community Strategy and Development Plan Working Group be continued and that the terms of reference and duration as set out in the report be agreed;
- (ii) that the Land Disposal Working Group be continued with a duration to Annual Council 2008 and that the terms of reference as set out in the report be agreed;
- (iii) that Councillors Gavin Ayling, Liza McKinney, and Angie Mills be appointed to the Community Strategy and Development Plan Working Group;
- (iv) that the Ropetackle Arts and Educational Facility Working Group be discontinued.

PSC/27/07-08 Work Programme 2007/08

Before the Committee was a report by the Head of Corporate and Legal Services, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes as Item 6.

An amended copy of the draft work programme was distributed to those present. This was agreed by the Committee.

Resolved

- (i) that the work programme for 2007/08, as set out in amended Annex A distributed at the meeting, be agreed;
- (ii) that it be noted that the work programme for the forthcoming year will be supplemented by other matters of policy and strategy in response to emerging issues as well as any matters referred to the Committee by Development and Scrutiny.

PSC/28/07-08 Best Value Performance Plan 2007

Before the Committee was a report by the Chief Executive, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes as Item 7.

The Executive Office Manager introduced the report which asked for members approval to publish the Council's Best Value Performance Plan in line with statutory requirements.

Members referred to page 3 of the Plan and proposed that the wording in the final paragraph be amended to read "...better health, better jobs, more *and better* homes..." to emphasise the need for good quality housing in the District. Members also referred to page 18 of the Plan and suggested that the reference to EWAR (East Worthing Access Road) be amended to clarify that a new proposal was under discussion. These amendments were agreed.

The Committee discussed the Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI) relating to waste and recycling collection on page 41 of the Plan. Members queried whether BV82a(ii) should be coded as green rather than red as performance had improved and the Council had exceeded its own target for the tonnage of recycled waste. The Executive Office Manager explained that although performance had improved in this area the Council remained in the bottom quartile nationally, partly because Adur is a relatively small Local Authority. She

noted that BV82a(i) may be a better indicator of performance relating to recycling rates as this measure takes account of the size of the District.

The Chief Executive thanked the Executive Office Manager for her work on this item to bring together the information for the report.

The Committee agreed the recommendations in the report and the Best Value Performance Plan 2007, as amended.

Resolved

- (i) that it be recommended to Council that the Best Value Performance Plan 2007 be approved for publication by the statutory deadline of 30 June 2007.
- (ii) that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman of Policy and Strategy Committee, to make any final amendments and insert any outstanding performance indicators.

PSC/29/07-08 Annual Audit and Inspection Letter 2005/06

Before the Committee was a report by the Director of Resources, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes as Item 8.

The Committee noted some areas of performance highlighted in the report which they felt could be improved. The Head of Corporate and Legal Services clarified that the Letter referred to performance in 2005/06 and that in some cases improvements had already taken place, particularly in the Revenues and Benefits department.

The Committee approved the Annual Audit and Inspection Letter for 2005/06.

Resolved that the Annual Audit and Inspection Letter for 2005/06 be approved and officers be authorised to publish the letter in accordance with the regulations.

PSC/30/07-08 Adur Development Plan Core Strategy Submission Document

Before the Committee was a report by the Head of Planning and Community, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes as Item 9.

The Planning Policy Manager introduced the report which summarised the representations received on the policies in the Core Strategy Submission document. She noted that the majority of comments received had been from developers and local land owners.

The Committee discussed the implications of the Core Strategy for planning decisions and the relevance of the representations. The Head of Planning and Community clarified that details of any relevant comments and the level of representation received during submission would be included in the Planning Services Manager's report for each planning application. The Committee agreed that the wording of recommendation 2.3 be amended to incorporate this.

Resolved

- (i) that the representations which have been submitted on the Core Strategy Submission (set out in Appendix 2 as a separate document) be noted;
- (ii) that the type of amendments (as outlined in paragraphs 4.5 and 4.6 of this report) to be made to the policies as requested by statutory agencies be noted and that these be agreed as the subject of further discussions with such bodies;
- (iii) that the following be agreed for use for development control purposes:
 - Core Strategy policies set out in Tables 1 and 2 in paragraph 4.1 of this report, taking account of the level of representation received during submission;
 - Saved policies in the adopted Local Plan together with relevant supplementary planning guidance notes;
 - Government Planning Policy Statements.

PSC/31/07-08 CenSus Joint Committee Minutes

The Committee noted the minutes of the CenSus Joint Committee held on 9 March 2007, a copy of which has been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as Item 12.

Resolved that the Minutes of the CenSus Joint Committee held on 9 March 2007 be noted.

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 8:35pm, it having commenced at 7:00pm.

Chairman