

# EAST HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF PARISH & TOWN COUNCILS

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## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017 AT STEEP VILLAGE HALL

**Present** – Jim MacDonald and Peter Cruttenden (Steep P.C.), Sue Halstead and Angela Wright, (Liss P.C.), Doug Jones (Buriton P.C.), Ingrid Thomas (East Hampshire), Simon Thomas (Four Marks P.C.), Mark Davison and Colin Leach (Whitehill T.C.), Gren Earney, Jo Clay and Minette Palmer (Selborne P.C.), Peter Fenwick (Medstead P.C.), Bill Wilson (Rowlands Castle P.C.), Lynn Evans, Dorothy Denston and David Evans (Horndean P.C.), Derrick Speed (Ropley P.C.), George Watkinson, James Deane and Lesley Farrow (Petersfield T.C.), Graeme Cottam (Colemore & Priors Deane), Jane Ives (Bramshott & Liphook P.C.), Dominic Carney (East Meon P.C.), Brian Foster (Clanfield P.C.), and Christine Philp (Headley P.C.).

**Apologies** – Apologies had been received from Binstead and Greatham Parish Councils.

- 1. Drugs Policing in East Hampshire** – The Chairman welcomed A/Inspector Philip Shore to the meeting to address the perceived increase in drug use and general anti-social behaviour in East Hampshire.

Inspector Shore said that he was not aware of any major drug issues locally although there have been increasing incidents involving nitrous oxide (laughing gas) - it is not an offense to have this drug but it is an offense to supply and this is difficult to enforce as proof of intent to supply is needed. Education around drugs is now led by Schools who work closely with the police in this and issues involving social media. Cannabis tends to be something older teenagers experiment with, and where under 18s are found with cannabis, resolution is more about education – youngsters are referred to youth offending and signposted to other agencies.

Figures for anti-social behaviour were not hugely significant over the summer – there are some problem areas and the police try hard to resolve issues where possible. Incidents decrease once the nights draw in and children go back to school.

Concerns were raised about the availability of drugs amongst school age children and it was queried whether enough is done to intercept dealers coming down from London – Inspector Shore confirmed that teams are extremely pro-active and act when they have appropriate information. Head Teachers are encouraged to link with local officers so that information is shared. For a successful prosecution information needs to be consistent and up-to-date.

Difficulties getting through on 101 was raised and Inspector Shore urged people to give details to the Crime Commissioner where problems occur.

Inspector Shore explained that community priorities change every quarter – the current priority is safeguarding and police are working closely with vulnerable people and victims of domestic abuse. Priorities are set against incidents reported and these can be directed by town and parish councils via the Community Tactical Co-ordinating Group (CTCG).

- 2. Minutes** – The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> June, circulated prior to the meeting, were approved – proposed Doug Jones and seconded Peter Fenwick
- 3. Matters Arising** –
  - S.106 Monies – EHDC are planning a workshop later in September to up-date town and parish councils on changes to the way this will be administrated.

- HCC – Communication – Cllr. Rob Humby (Executive Member for Environment and Transport) will be attending the next EHAP&TC Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> November and will address communication issues.

**4. Advice Service Update** – The Chairman welcomed Helen Drake, Chief Executive of Citizens Advice East Hampshire. The outcome of the EHDC procurement process was not yet in the public domain and contracts had yet to be signed, but Helen confirmed that “the future looked bright”.

Helen explained that she had been appointed as the Chief Executive in May, but has been with the CAB for over 20 years. She gave a presentation which outlined Citizens Advice future strategy focussing on changes to client needs and expectations and said that the improved service will reflect the needs of local communities and offer access to advice, particularly for the most vulnerable. She explained that advice would be made easily accessible with drop in sessions being held on Saturdays and evenings and that advice would also be available via e-mail, webchat, on-line digital self-help resources and an advice line. A copy of Helen’s presentation is appended and will be circulated with the Minutes.

A query arose over the funding of the service for East Hampshire – the Chairman said that it was his understanding that EHDC are funding the advice service for the district and therefore parish and town councils are not expected to contribute extra funding unless they are commissioning an extra service. Helen said that Citizens Advice value the support from town and parish councils and would not want to lose it. (This issue was clarified by the Chairman following the meeting and discussion with EHDC and a letter sent to all town and parish councils).

**5. On-Going Issues**

- TAG Farnborough – Several parishes felt that there had been a noticeable increase in jets flying overhead and queried whether flight paths have been changed? The Chairman confirmed that the CAA have not yet responded to the TAG application.
- Parish Charter – The launch event is to be held on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> September at EHDC – the Chairman and EHAP&TC representatives involved in the process will attend.
- Planning Training – The EHDC training held during August had been well attended. Simon Jenkins addressed the perception that Parish Council comments are ignored and was keen to point out that EHDC do value local knowledge - if parishes feel that their comments have not been given due consideration they should challenge the case officer concerned.

**6. SDNPA Report** – Doug Jones’ quarterly report had been circulated prior to the meeting and is appended to the Minutes. Town and Parish Councils were reminded of the up-coming consultation on the Local Plan and urged to respond. A series of Workshops will be held across the Park to discuss the Plan, the first of which is on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> September at The Festival Hall.

**7. Hampshire Road Safety Council** – Cllr. Jo Clay (Selborne P.C.) volunteered to represent EHAP&TC at the Hampshire Road Safety Council meetings. Cllr. Howard Linsley was also nominated (in his absence) as a back-up for Jo, in case she was unable to attend all the meetings.

**8. HCC Consultation for achieving cost savings** – Although the consultation is now officially closed, the Chairman said he believed that any late responses sent would be considered.

**9. Any Other Business:**

Planning - Colemore & Priors Deane hi-lighted their frustration with the arrangement between EHDC and SDNPA, saying that in their experience the two organisations bounce off each other. They queried whether the process would be easier if there was one organisation dealing with planning within the National Park? The Chairman said there may be a case for this but pointed out that in the short term current resources should be utilised - Doug Jones is the SDNPA representative for EHAP&TC and any problems should be directed via him in the first instance.

**Date of Next Meeting** – The next meeting of the Association will be held on Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> November at EHDC – Cllr. Rob Humby, Environment and Transport, HCC, and Alison Mills, EHDC Traffic Team Leader have confirmed their attendance.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.