

**Report of Meetings Attended in February 2024**

Agenda item 17 for the meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**CDC All Parishes Meeting**

Monday 19th March 2024 commencing at 5.30 p.m. on Zoom. There were 78 participants.

These are highlights of the various presentations as the amount of information forthcoming was considerable. You may wish to treat some of the information / comments in confidence?

**Hyde Housing**

Andy Hulme CEO, Guy Slocombe Chief Investment Officer, Neil Ackcral Chief Operations Officer

Hyde Housing is a social landlord operating as a charity across the country in 51 local authority areas and predominantly in London and the South-east with 44,000 homes. In Chichester district Hyde operate 6127 homes across 21 council wards. Generally the properties are at a 50% discount of market rents. For 2025 they will follow four objectives one of which is to 'Deliver value for Money'.

Three recent developments;

1. How tenants have been able to contact Hyde. There is now one contact service centre instead of six previously.
2. Direct Labour Organisation based in Havant.
3. Being visible to customers with smaller 'patches' of about 300 homes

Disrepair, Damp and Mould. There are currently 19 disrepair cases often with difficult background and social circumstances involved. 808 properties have damp and mould issues.

**The Five Year Plan for Hyde – Rich Evans**

1. Non-development projects 950 homes retrofitted
2. Estate regeneration 296 new homes to be built
3. Small site development / sale / improvement often involving in-fill homes
4. Land-led development 339 new homes purchased off the land market

**Sussex Police** with three presentations.

**Fly Tipping – Dave Hyland West Sussex Councils**

Prevention involves several agencies working together including running road side stop and inspect sessions usually one or two each month.

Sussex Police for stopping the vehicles, Environment Agency for waste carriers, local authority for duty of care, Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency for vehicle road worthiness and HMRC for fuel checks. Initial trials were held in February, March and April 2023 followed by a rolling programme over succeeding month.

There is now a 'SCRAP' national initiative to reduce fly tipping;

Suspect all waste carriers

Check the carriers are licenced

Refuse unexpected offers of waste disposal

Ask how the waste will be disposed of

Paperwork, obtain some paperwork on the waste disposal who, where to and how.

Report any fly-tips to CDC in order to have it removed

### **Rural Crime Team – Sgt Tom Carter i/c the Team**

The team comprises; Inspector, 2 Sergeants, 12 PCs and 6 PCSOs. Their bases are in Midhurst for W. Sussex and Heathfield for E. Sussex. They have 2 drones, off-road motor bikes and 4x4 motors.

Their responsibilities include heritage crime both on land and under the sea, wild life crime, dog theft and puppy farming.

Current issues; burglary and theft of high value items, poaching and hare coursing, sheep worrying, wild life persecution, tree felling, heritage crime including metal detecting, thefts from underwear, church thefts of lead and stained-glass windows

### **Unauthorised Encampments, Travellers – Pam Busby, CDC Divisional Manager**

An encampment is defined as trespassers who occupy land belonging to private landowners or public authorities without permission.

There is a Multi-Agency Protocol for West Sussex involving various organisations. To follow the protocol then direction to leave the site has been given by the landowner, need to have damage or disruption or there are more than six vehicles on the site.

When giving the direction to leave have a witness, approach the group politely and try to establish their intentions to stay or to leave to where. Report the trespass to the Police and to CDC. Residents can report the trespass, any crime or anti-social behaviour to the Police. For improved communications a parish council should nominate a single point of contact person.

### Support available to P.C.s

1. CDC can identify vulnerable sites and preventative measures
2. The WSCC team will support parishes
3. Printed guide available on taking action regarding the eviction process
4. Communication and liaison

### **CDC Regeneration Strategy – Cllr. Adrian Moss, Leader CDC**

The strategy is being prepared for Chichester City and among several sections the potential key sites for development and improvement are identified. These are;

The North Street gyratory – by the fire station

The former House of Fraser building, West Street

Crane Street, off North Street

Bus station and bus garage

East Pallant House and car park

The meeting closed at 7.15 p.m.

### **Chichester Association of Local Councils (CDALC)**

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024 commencing at 7.00 p.m. on Zoom. There were 15 participants.

There were no formal presentations but discussions on the following headings.

#### **CDALC Bank Account**

The running costs of CDALC are currently covered by West Sussex Association of Local Councils (WSALC) and administered centrally by the Secretary. It is difficult to visit a bank to change account signatories and bank mandates. Bank staff appear not to understand what a parish council is and what it does. Agreed to centralise admin. of the different West Sussex accounts but remain identifiable with separate audit arrangements.

#### **Meeting with CDALC and CDC on 29<sup>th</sup> January.**

There was less than one hour allowed to cover a lot of questions submitted. Present for CDC were the Leader and three senior officers. No firm outcomes achieved. The next All Parishes meeting will be held in September and will be in person.

## **Update on CDALC Steering Group**

The planned meeting has not yet been held. One comment was made referred to the Hyde Housing charity who are a changing organisation, becoming better and more approachable.

## **WSALC Update – Trevor Leggo**

Malcolm East wood who was Vice-Chair died in December 2023 and replaced by Andrew Shaxson. There are continuing to be troubled parish councils with some unpleasant activities and difficult people involved. WSALC have support available to help P.C.s in such circumstances.

Safety and Security Training for P.C.s is available and needs to be encouraged and taken up by councillors. On the Register of Interests do not include home addresses. CDC will redact this information on their records and registers.

## **South Downs National Park Authority - Andrew Shaxson**

In July 2024 the Park's Local Plan will expire after the five years. The Park are not required to have a 5-year Housing Land Supply. Speculative development is far less likely but planned development such as the 600+ dwellings and buildings on the old iron works in Lewes is to progress.

Unlikely to renew the Park's Local Plan as short of planning officers to do the work. The Interim CEO is in place and an Interim Head of Planning.

Park's budgeting is a challenge with a frozen financial settlement from DEFRA which could reduce in future years. The Park need to work with farmers and landowners as it is these people who make and maintain the national landscape.

## **Chichester Harbour Conservancy – Nicolette Pike**

Conservancy work is a bit choppy at present. Recent habitat survey identifies the Harbour is still declining in quality. Income is a concern for the national landscape work with schools and parents not being able to afford to send pupils on education courses.

The two planning officers are concerned and some what dejected about recent housing developments agreed in Birdham, Bosham and Chidham. There are 50 objections listed for the new larger replacement pontoon planned by the Conservancy at Itchenor.

National Landscapes in general are not a statutory consultee for planning inquiries. As a Rule 6 objector they are liable to be awarded costs against them plus their own legal fees which makes such a position expensive and risky to be so involved.

## **Hybrid Meetings**

No change in the procedure post-COVID. Councillors on Zoom can discuss and comment on agenda items but are not able to vote.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m

-----

Timothy Firmston - 05-03-24