



MEMBER INFORMATION SERVICE

No 34

Date: 23rd September 2009.

<http://www.midsussex.gov.uk/page.cfm?pageID=8246>

CABINET – 5TH OCTOBER 2009

The following items are listed on the draft agenda for Cabinet on 5th October 2009:-

Quarter 1 Performance.

Budget Management.

Quarterly Update on ICT and Revenues and Benefits.

South Downs National Park – Consultation on Membership.

CENSUS (TUPE).

COMMITTEE NEWS – COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Please note that all meetings commence at 7.00 p.m. unless stated otherwise

2009

Council - 23rd September.

Affordable Housing – Financial Viability Workshop – 24th September @ 4.00 p.m.

Better Lives Advisory Group – 29th September.

Cabinet – 5th October @ 4.00 p.m.

Cabinet Grants Panel – 6th October @ 4:00 pm.

Better Environment Advisory Group – 6th October.

Member Property Working Group – 8th October @ 4.30 p.m.

Licensing Sub-Committee A – 13th October.

Council – 21st October.

PLANNING COMMITTEES

Central Area Planning Committee – 1st October.

South Area Planning Committee – 8th October.

North Area Planning Committee – 15th October.

District Planning Committee – 22nd October @ 2:00pm

PLEASE NOTE THAT a meeting of the Charity Trustees will be held after Council on Wednesday, 21st October 2009.

INFORMATION AND NEWS

Future training events

Date	Training
Wednesday 7 th October 2009 @ <u>6:00</u>	Climate Change Training, Town and Parish Councils are also invited.
Tuesday 3 rd November 2009 @ 6:30	Planning Enforcement Training
Tuesday 26 th January 2010 @ 6:30	Scrutiny Training
Tuesday 16 th February 2010 @ 6:30	Economic Development Training
Wednesday 31 st March 2010 @ 6:30	Anti Social Behaviour and Community Engagement Training, Town and Parish Councils are also invited.

All training will take place in the Council Chamber on the Oaklands Campus unless an alternative venue is stated.

To book a place on a training course please call Member Support on 01444 477111 or email Judith.m@midsussex.gov.uk

Mid Sussex Pub Guide

Pubs are an integral part of community life, and their role has never been more important than it is today, however a record number have ceased trading in recent years. Pubs are an important element of the local economy, not just for residents but visitors too. To support this, a new Pub Guide has been created with the help of the pubs and Town and Parish Councils across Mid Sussex. www.midsussex.gov.uk/pubguide

Contact: Jane Penswick, Communications Officer (Marketing & Tourism)
janep@midsussex.gov.uk

Joint Commissioning of Social Welfare Law and Advice/ Mid Sussex Citizens Advice Bureau

As Members are aware, West Sussex County Council and the seven Boroughs and Districts together with the Legal Services Commission (LSC) have launched a tender to run a publicly-funded Community Legal Advice service for the county.

By working together, the eight Councils and the LSC have combined their funding and knowledge to purchase jointly a service that better meets the needs of people with legal problems.

The tender process will close on 13th November and the new service is planned to be in operation by 1st April 2010.

The requirements of the tender can be found on West Sussex County Council's website (search: Legal Services Commission).

The nine West Sussex Citizens Advice Bureaux have formed a consortium in order to work more closely together and intend to bid for the new service. As part of their preparations, the CABx are going through mergers, so that the nine CABx will become three CABx on 1st October 2009. Horsham, Crawley and Mid Sussex CAB will merge into one bureau to be called Central Sussex CAB. The combined resources of the five outlets (three in Mid Sussex) will mean a more streamlined approach and a more modern service delivery.

The Council has been informed by Susie McGowan, CAB District Manager, that the current bureaux, located in Crawley, Horsham, East Grinstead, Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill will remain open, and clients should not notice any difference when accessing advice. In fact, due to innovative ways of delivering the service, clients should be able to access advice more easily than they used to.

For further information please contact Lin Parkinson telephone 01444 477495 email LinP@midsussex.gov.uk.

Mid Sussex District Council Response to the Partial Review of the South East RSS

Dear Panel Secretary,

I would like to make the final response on the Partial Review of the South East RSS: Somewhere to Live: Planning for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People in the South East.

1 The Partial Review presents a reasonable and balanced approach to the allocation of permanent pitches across the region. It reflects the evidence available through the West Sussex Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. The Partial Review adequately reflects Mid Sussex's local circumstances and constraints.

2 The sustained omission of guidance on transit provision should be addressed to replace the less than satisfactory current guidance. Policy H7 requires Local Planning Authorities to make appropriate provision to meet requirements for transit and temporary stopping purposes.

3 While we appreciate the difficulty of quantifying demand, the recommendation for Councils to work together on a county-group basis to assess all available local indicators of transit need is unlikely to be strong enough to result in any sites being progressed. It is essential that all Local Authorities in the South East move forward on this together. Setting regional standards remains the best means to achieve this.

4 The final adopted policy and supporting text should give clearer guidance on assessing local transit need and include recommendations on provision. The provision of transit sites will only work if a network of such sites is set up across the whole region, and realistically this will only happen if the South East Plan requires specific local authorities to provide such sites.

Requesting Members

Due to concerns expressed by some Members, Cllr Ash-Edwards, as the relevant portfolio holder, has requested that the current pilot initiative on 'requesting Members' is stopped. This means Members Services officers will revert back to using the previous list of Requesting Members for each Committee from this week (except of course where any Members have voluntarily removed their standing request).

Members should be reassured that at no time were they prevented from having copies of any committee reports. Copies were always available on the Council's website and in the Members Room. They were also made available to any Councillor who made a specific request for them. However, some Members were upset at the withdrawal of the 'standing request' facility.

Additional Information:

1. The budget allocated for the printing and distribution of committee papers has been over committed in recent years as the table below illustrates. This is for a number of reasons including the increased size of reports (with large appendices) and the need for additional meetings:

Year	Budget		Overspend
	Printing	Distribution	
2006/07	£23k	£10k	£6k
2007/08	£23k	£10k	£12k
2008/09	£25k	£10k	£8k
2009/10	£26k	£10k	£10k (<i>projected</i>)

2. Given the difficult financial situation facing the Council, it is not possible to keep meeting the budget overspends from other Member services budgets. Therefore, if no changes are made, a budget pressure of £10,000 is forecast for 2010/11.
3. Before the pilot was introduced, there were 124 'standing requests' by Members for additional papers (i.e. in addition to those produced for actual members of the committee) in each cycle. This represents a cost of approximately £4,000 per year. During the pilot, there was a reduction in the number of requesting Members. For example, the number requesting Performance and Scrutiny Committee papers went from 15 Members to 3, while the number of Members requesting Better Services Advisory Group papers went from 11 to 5.
4. **To avoid any confusion, the current list of Requesting Members for each committee is set out below. Members are asked to consider their current requests and ensure the list is accurate. If you no longer wish to be a Requesting Member for a particular committee, please inform a Member Services officer.**

For further details, please contact:

Richard Hodson Tel: 01444 47 7015 Email: richardh@midsussex.gov.uk

Jo Harper Tel: 01444 47 7421 Email: joeh@midsussex.gov.uk

Requesting Members as at September 2009			Total
<u>Audit Committee</u> Mr. J. Ash-Edwards, Mr A.Brock, Mr. B Gillbard,	Mrs. S. Hatton, Mr. G. Marples, Mr. E. Matthews,	Mrs. S. Seward, Mr. G.C.E. Snowling, Mr. J. Temple-Smithson Mr. G. Wall.	10
<u>Better Environment AG</u> Mr. J. Ash-Edwards, Mrs. E. Balsdon, Mr A. Barrett-Miles, Mr. R. Bates,	Mrs. K. Dumbovic, Mr. B. Gillbard, Mr. P. Henry, Mr. C. Jerrey, Mrs. A. Jones,	Mr. G. Knight, Mrs H. Ross, Mr. G.C.E. Snowling, Mr J. Temple-Smithson Mr. M. Watts	14
<u>Better Lives AG</u> Mr. J. Ash-Edwards, Mr A. Brock, Mr. P. Cutler, Mr B Gillbard, Mrs S. Hatton,	Mr P. Henry, Mrs. J. Henwood, Mr. C. Hersey, Mrs. J. Keel, Mrs S. Kemp,	Mr G. Knight, Mr E. Matthews, Mrs. H. Ross, Mr. Snowling Mr. M. Watts.	15
<u>Better Services AG</u> Mr. J. Ash-Edwards, Mrs E. Balsdon, Mr A. Brock,	Mrs. K.M. Dumbovic Mr. G. Knight, Mr B Gillbard, Mrs. S. Hatton,	Mr. P. Henry, Mrs. A. Jones, Mr. E. Matthews Mr. G.C.E. Snowling.	11
<u>Cabinet Grants Panel</u> Mr. B. Gillbard, Mr. C. Hersey,	Mr. G. Knight, Mr. G. Marsh, Mr. E. Matthews,	Mrs. H. Ross Mrs S. Seward	7
<u>Central Area Planning Mr. B. Gillbard,</u> Mrs. A. Jones,	Mrs. S. Kemp, Mr. G. Knight, Mr. G. Marsh,	Mr. G.C. E. Snowling Mrs. M. Thomas-Atkin	7
<u>District Planning</u> Mr. J. Ash-Edwards,	Mrs. H. Brunsdon, Mr. P. Henry,	Mrs. J. Landriani.	4
<u>Licensing Committee</u> Mr. J. Ash-Edwards,	Mrs S. Hatton Mrs. H. Ross.		3
<u>North Area Planning</u> Mr. J. Ash-Edwards, Mr. A . Brock,	Mr. I.C.H. Dixon, Mr. C.A.C. Hersey,	Mrs. S. Kemp Mr. G. Knight.	6
<u>P& S Committee</u> Mrs M. Baker, Mr A. Brock, Mr. B. Gillbard, Mrs S. Hatton,	Mr. P. Henry, Mrs. J. Henwood, Mr. G. Marples, Mr. E. Matthews,	Mrs. S. Seward, Mr. G.C.E. Snowling, Mr J. Temple-Smithson Mr. G. Wall.	12
<u>South Area Planning</u> Mr. P. Cutler, Mr. B Gillbard,	Mr. C. Hersey, Mrs. J. Landriani,	Mrs H. Ross Mrs. M. Thomas-Atkin	6
<u>Standards Committee</u> Mr. J. Ash-Edwards, Mrs. K. Dumbovic,	Mr. B. Gillbard, Mrs S. Hatton, Mr. C. Hersey	Mrs. A. Jones Mr. G. Knight	7
FINAL TOTAL			102

Notes of the Better Mid Sussex Steering Group held on 19th August 2009

Present: Ed Sheath, Nathan Spilsted, Steve Tilbury [all for item 1 only],
Tim Barkley, David Waite, Mark Imms, Silvia Lazzerini, and Matthew Secker.

Apologies: Tom Clark and Peter Stuart.

1. Planning Policy Update

Ed Sheath explained the timetable for the Council to consider the Core Strategy. The Better Environment Advisory Group will meet on 9th September 2009 to consider retail and town centre policies. They will meet again on 6th October 2009 to consider housing and employment policies. The Core Strategy will be presented to Council on 18th November 2009.

The examination will take place in Autumn 2010 and the Council will receive the Inspector's report around March 2011.

Steve Tilbury explained the retail policies for the core strategy. They would now reflect recent Planning Inspectorate Advice plus floor space targets.

Nathan Spilsted advised that the SHLAA was published on 3rd August 2009 and a further update would be published next year. He confirmed the Council did not have a 5-year housing land supply at present.

2. Note of last meeting and matters arising

These were agreed.

3. Update on East Grinstead Town Centre scheme review

Mark Imms explained that the scheme needed to change and then listed the key elements of the emerging scheme. These were: a store 30,000 sq ft on four floors, a multi-storey car park on four floors, a public square located opposite the library, recladding existing property on south side of Queens Walk, residential units, around 15-20 retail units and public toilets.

Mark Imms gave assurances the scheme would still be a step change for the town. It was deliverable and the financial offer to the Council would be as now.

Mark Imms considered that there were other opportunities in the town centre for residential development and indicated Thornfield were prepared to start looking at such opportunities.

Mark confirmed he would like close engagement with the Council as the scheme took shape and agreed it would be sensible to involve BNP Paribas before the revised scheme was submitted.

Mark confirmed he was on schedule to submit by 8th December 2009.

<p>4. Update on Haywards Heath Town Centre concept scheme</p> <p>Matthew Secker and Mark Imms recently met Carole Preston and took her through the scheme presented to the Member Property Working Group on 14th July 2009. She was going to invite them to meet a small group of town councillors.</p>
<p>5. Burgess Hill Development Agreement progress</p> <p>Mark Imms requested a timetable for the production and Council agreement to the Martlets Hall specification.</p>
<p>6. Programme of Events to March 2010</p> <p>Tim Barkley advised that he was revising the programme through to April 2010. This was under discussion internally but the essential elements for each submission were receipt of scheme, assessment by BNP Paribas, Management Team consideration, Member Property Working Group consideration and then to Cabinet for determination.</p>
<p>7. Any Other Business</p> <p>The next Mid Sussex Matters would go out in November (covering mid-November – end of February 2010). The copy deadline for that issue was Thursday, 10th September 2009.</p>

NEWS RELEASES

For further information on or copies of the press releases listed below, please contact the Press Office on 01444 477387 or use the following link:

<http://www.midsussex.gov.uk/page.cfm?pageID=8581>

PR1109 – Get the Most out of Life with The Life Show.

PR 1110 - Council expands expert advice sessions.

PR 1111 - Crawley down shopworker is convicted of benefit fraud

PR 1112 - Council helps tackle anti-social behaviour

PR 1113 - Return your voter details to make sure you have your say on General Election Day