

## **Report on HALC meeting held on 12 September 2019: Key points of interest**

Attended by Councillors Jill Chaytor and Owen Hydes

**1. Review of HDC's Planning Framework.** Presentation by Catherine Howe, the recently appointed Head of Strategic Planning. Key points:

- PI required HDC to commence review of 2015 Planning Framework within 3 years
- Review underway – new HDPF to go to 2036
- Reg 18 consultation on issues/options early 2020
- Reg 19 proposed submission plan consultation October 2020
- PI Examination early 2021, modifications mid 2021 with plan adoption late 2021
- Key issue is housing numbers – Govt standard methodology gives 974 houses/year in HDC. But also requires 5% buffer to be added. This gives 18409 houses for the 18 years to 2036. HDC challenging this figure with DCLG. Furthermore HDC has duty to co-operate with surrounding DCs and may have to take more houses as surrounding DCs are short (eg Crawley). HDC does not have this figure yet'
- 9,479 houses identified through existing and proposed planning permissions, but still have to find 8,930 or more if required to take some from surrounding DCs.
- Call for sites made and being assessed under the SHEELA process.
- In response to questions
  - HDC admitted that lack of infrastructure (roads, schools, medical services etc) was a serious problem. Talking to providers, but no guarantee they would provide. Members said that developments should not take place until infrastructure was secured and developers should not be allowed to back out of promises
  - To make up the short fall in gypsy pitches, HDC are proposing to require "large" developments to include land for gypsies/travellers

**2. Presentation by Dr Roger Smith, CPRE**

- He said formula for calculating housing numbers really complicated and that HDC had got it wrong. He suggested the figure should be 910 houses per year and HDC should not take any houses from surrounding DCs.

**3. Presentation by Cllr Ian Hare, Chair Pulborough Parish Council.**

- Interesting presentation about the Pulbough PC Footpath Charter. Basically this is an informal contract between the Landowner and the footpath/bridleway users which sets out the obligations of each party. A copy of the charter is attached. Nuthurst PC should discuss this at a future Roads and Footpaths Committee Meeting.

**4. Presentation by Sue Furlong (Winter resilience) and Chris Stark (Area Highways), WSCC**

- They set out changes in highways service levels as a consequence of reduced funding
- The following services are unaffected:
  - Safety reactive work and inspections

- Maintenance on pedestrian crossings, signalised junctions
- Optimised gully/chamber emptying and clearance
- Tree maintenance
- Maintenance of bridges/underpasses and guard rails
- The following services are reduced
  - Grass cutting from 7 to 5 in urban areas – rural areas will have 1 visibility, 1 metre swathe and 1 full cut. This approach encourages biodiversity.
  - Targeted spraying of footpaths for weed control – two year programme for hedge cutting.
  - Winter gritting reduced from 41% to 31% of road network
- WSCC willing to work with Partners (eg PCs) to secure active voluntary support to make up for reduced services through Community Highways Partnerships. A number of successful partnerships were outlined in a booklet “Improving Local Places and Spaces.
- HALC is to circulate the WSCC presentation slides and booklet which I will pass to Sarah for circulation.

**4. Other matters – lack of monitoring of planning permission and enforcement when a breach** (I raised this at the previous meeting)

The minutes had omitted what was agreed at the meeting on 25 June that HALC would take up with HDC the failure of HDC to monitor planning permission to make sure they comply with approvals and associated conditions and the failure to take effective enforcement action when there was a breach. **The meeting agreed to amend the minutes.**

This meant that the issue had not been raised with HDC. I explained why the issue needed to be raised by reference to the lack of progress with activating the Enforcement Notice for the crossover and hard standing for Millers Mead Field. I received support from Cllr Paul Thompson, Rudgwick PC, who explained the lack of enforce for breach of planning conditions at Naddretts Lane gypsy site. **It was agreed that the issue would be raised at the HALC/HDC meeting with Glenn Chipp on Thursday 14 November.** Cllr Thompson and I were asked to prepare separate notes on our issues for HALC by 12 October.

**Owen Hydes**

16 September 2019

## **Pulborough Parish Footpath Charter**

### Purpose

Public footpaths cross public land and private land owned by farmers and householders. Landowners have an obligation to make footpaths accessible to individuals, and individuals using footpaths have obligations to the landowner. This charter details each party's obligations.

### Land owner Obligations

The landowner has a duty to ensure:

- Footpaths are accessible by maintaining gates or stiles.
- Footpaths are kept clear of vegetation, although it is acknowledged that this may be more challenging at certain times of the year
- Footpaths are kept clear of physical obstructions, although ploughing and harvesting are required at certain times of the year

### Footpath Users Obligations

The footpath user has a duty to ensure he/she:

- Keeps strictly to the footpath and does not stray onto adjacent land.
- Uses the footpath for walking or running only. Bicycles, horses and motorised vehicles are not permitted (see the Bridleways below).
- Keeps control of dogs and does not allow them to stray onto adjacent land.
- Keeps dogs on lead when in a field with livestock and, if chased by cattle, release the dog immediately.
- Clears up and removes dog mess.
- Reports any damage caused to the landowner.
- Avoids ground nesting birds.
- Leaves farm gates as you find them as you may be preventing animal access to water.

### Bridleways

In addition to Walkers and Runners, Horse Riders and Cyclists are permitted on Bridleways, but not motorised vehicles unless the Land Owner has given permission. However, cyclists must give way to equestrians and walkers.

### West Sussex County Council and Pulborough Parish Council

West Sussex County Council works with landowners to ensure their obligations are achieved. It consults on a local level with Pulborough Parish Council, which has intimate knowledge of its public footpath network. West Sussex County Council can be contacted by both footpath users and landowners at [pro@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:pro@westsussex.gov.uk) or by calling 01243 777620

Pulborough Parish Council can be contacted by both footpath users and landowners at [clerk@pulboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@pulboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk) or by calling 01798 873532