

Question Answers and Actions - Worthing County Local Forum – 4 July 2022

County Councillors in Attendance:

Noel Atkins, Caroline Baxter, Henna Chowdhury, Sean McDonald, Dawn Smith, John Turley, Steve Waight

Apologies: Elizabeth Sparkes.

Question 1 from Tina Everson:

As a resident of the area involved, I would like to draw attention to address the rubbish and decline of the underpass joining Bridge Road and Ivy Arch Road. This underpass is frequently used by local residents and others and is permanently in an unacceptable condition relating to dumping, weeds, dirt. In addition, the pathway on the southwest side of Broadwater Bridge needs addressing again with weeds and dirt and the railings which were broken well before the pandemic still need replacing. As well as the underpass there are also other areas nearby where rubbish is an issue – near the telegraph pole and ontop of a building near the underpass.



Response to Question 1 (Local Member Dawn Smith):

The issue of flytipping/dumping is the responsibility of the local Borough Council (Worthing) to clear. Cllr Dawn Smith stated she had contacted them this week and a refuse team would be going out this week to clear any rubbish. She would also report the additional areas raised at the meeting.

Weeds in the subway would be cleared / treated as part of the West Sussex County Council structures team routine subway maintenance programme, they are going to look at this subway and will arrange for any clearance works if necessary.

As for the railings on the Broadwater bridge itself, those sections where railings are missing are not to be replaced if they are damaged and are not safety critical. There are currently no proposals to remove them as a project.

Question 2 from Chris Everson:

1. How much longer is the 'no turn right' sign and road marking going to be in place where Liverpool Gardens joins Chapel Road as it is ignored by c.40% of vehicles (inc. police, taxi's, delivery vans)? It's understandable why they do this because of the one-way routing, but quite frankly as it's un-enforced, a complete waste of time.

2. Can anything be done at the junction of Chapel Road (Southbound) and Stoke Abbott Road? Vehicles are often parked in Stoke Abbott Road, forcing pedestrians to walk in the road for visibility, but at the same time avoiding vehicles approaching via North Street, that hurtle across the road, thus beating oncoming northbound traffic and thus avoiding the traffic lights at Richmond Road. It's a town centre rat run and an accident that's waiting to happen.

3. For some time there has been a large, dead Horse Chestnut tree on the verge of Broadwater Road in 'no man's land' (sorry, that's a term used by some locals for the area between Broadwater Bridge (South side) and Langton Road)! Is it going to be cut down or are we hoping it will fall down in a storm? As it's the main A24 it should receive some serious consideration.

Response to Question 2 (local member 1 & 2 John Turley, 3 Dawn Smith):

1. The restriction turning right here is a legally enforced Traffic Regulation Order, and in order to change this requires the amendment to the existing Traffic Regulation Order. If motorists are not adhering to this, it can only be enforced by Sussex Police. So requires a police officer to witness the offence to then enforce. Cllr John Turley stated he had visited the area recently and thought that the Double Yellow Lines (DYL) and other road markings are faded so this could be part of the problem. He thought the restrictions should remain.

2. The junction of Stoke Abbott Road is marked with Double Yellow Lines so if motorists are parking on the section of carriageway, then they can be issued a parking fine issued by Parking Enforcement Officers at Worthing Borough Council. If they are parking dangerously, they equally can be enforced by Sussex Police. Cllr Turley added that a parking bay could be removed or the DYL extended but this would require a [Traffic Regulation Order](#) (TRO). Cllr Caroline Baxter suggested that this area be included in the next walkaround with the Area Highways Manager, planned for September.

3. As the tree is stated to be on no man's land then WSCC would not be responsible for its maintenance. Arguably if it were to fall on the public highway then as a duty of care we would remove this, however all the time it is not causing an obstruction and on a possibility it could fall, WSCC would not be taking any action at this point. Cllr Dawn Smith agreed to contact Worthing Borough Council to check if it was on their land. If not, then it would mean applying for a search with the land registry.

Question 3 from Barry Gore (not present):

Want to discuss what council intend to resolve problem of the footpath raised above damp course in properties in Thorn road

Response to Question 3:

This is a matter that due to the nature of the claim WSCC instructed external loss adjusters to deal with the matter. In such circumstances as has been advised to Mr Gore, we cease to deal direct with any claimant, all communications are then being between the loss adjuster and claimant.

We can advise that the position currently is that we had been waiting to receive via the loss adjusters Mr Gore's bank account details, a settlement figure having been agreed between him and the loss adjusters. The bank details were received by WSCC at the beginning of this week and accordingly arrangements are now being made for payment to be made by way of BACS payment.

As to any other claims that may arise, we cannot comment specifically. That said what we can say is that any other claims received will be considered and dealt with on their own merits.

Cllr John Turley would be happy to discuss further with Mr Gore.

Question 4 from Jill Saunders:

1. I understood that it was planned to make Clifton Road one way and was told this about 5 years ago at a consultation in St Pauls. Is this still going ahead? The two-way traffic along this road is problematic.

2. Why is the parking so very expensive in Worthing. It is possible to drive to Rustington and park in the centre for three hours and not pay. Surely income to the town is affected by the parking fees. Plus, we have a sort of park and ride in some areas, as in Grand Avenue BN11 5BA , where people park and then pick up the 700 bus. Is the council aware of this?

Response to Question 4 (local member John Turley):

1. Cllr John Turley was not aware of a proposal but asked the previous County Councillor for the area, Michael Cloake, who was in attendance if he knew anything about this. Mr Cloake recalled it being drawn up as a proposal some years ago but due to the number of knock-on effects into other roads there was a lot of opposition and therefore the proposals went no further.

2. Car Parking charges are for Worthing Borough Council to determine. Cllr Turley added that a genuine park and ride may be a good option for Worthing, but this would require a lot of research to know where it would be best to put it.

There was further discussion around cars and motorhome parked on roads and in many areas this was being looked in to find solutions.

Question 5 from Frances Farr (not present):

For several years I've been aware that very many car-less Worthing residents are unable to view these magnificent gardens. I propose that there should be a small(?) bus that runs twice a day in the summer months from the Town centre and back. As you know they are very difficult to visit otherwise.

A year or so ago I asked taxi drivers their prices - and was told approx. £10.00 either way. A bus would be less expensive than going by taxi. I feel sad that no one else has considered this or has been proactive in implementing it. The Gardens would give so much pleasure, particularly to people who have mobility/visual needs.

Response to Question 5 (local member Sean McDonald):

Most local timetable bus services are arranged by the bus companies between town and cities to get to school, work, shops and other essential services.

However, there are a number of community transport options in the Worthing area that can offer affordable door to door transport for people with little or no access to public transport. This may be a better option for people with mobility issues who may also find it difficult to get into the town centre. A list of local services are available on the [County Council website](#)

CT Sussex, which operates the dial-a-ride service in Worthing, has also arranged minibus excursions prior to Covid. Although these were suspended during the pandemic, the intention is to resume them so it may be worth contacting them directly with this proposal. They can be emailed at enquiry@ctsussex.org.uk

Question 6 from Terry Woodjetts:

I live in West Durrington (Northbrook) on the the West Durrington New Build Development. I have three questions to ask.

1. On the approach road (Fulbeck Avenue) to the development I would like to know what is required to get restricted parking enforced as once the Boklok development is completed it can clearly be seen that vehicles will park here which will name it difficult as a bus route.
2. On the development residents have asked myself as the Residents Association chairman if WSCC would consider restricted parking on the adopted roads and a 20MPH speed limit and how we go about getting this implemented.
3. On the Northern Sector Development the Developers agreed to remedial highway works on the S106. How do we ensure that WSCC Highways are held accountable to ensure that the work is carried out.

Response to Question 6 (local member Sean McDonald)

1. Any waiting restrictions would require a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). There is not a requirement for the developer to install as so any request would need to follow the normal request a TRO route and be considered in the usual way against other priorities if it is deemed to be a problem. Details of how to apply for a TRO can be found on the [WSCC website](#)
2. The roads within the development are not yet adopted by WSCC so the resident's association should approach the developer who are street managers if they want them to promote TRO's for waiting restrictions and speed limits. If the roads have not been designed to support a 20-mph restriction, then additional features and redesign of the road may be required by the developer to achieve this.
3. The works listed in the S106 Agreement form part of the planning approval. The works are to be delivered by the developer through S278 Highway Agreements. Applications have been submitted by the developer's highway consultant and the schemes are going through technical approval and then legal agreements need to be drawn up. The developer will then appoint contractor to undertake the works and WSCC will inspect and sign off.

Cllr Sean McDonald added that to apply for a TRO residents must show strong community support and have the support of their local County Councillor. Cllr

Caroline Baxter added that TROs are scored and only those with a certain score can proceed. All the information was available on the website.

Mr Woodjetts expressed disappointment that West Sussex County Council could not put pressure on the developers to add these restrictions to the roads prior to them being adopted by WSCC. It was noted that unless this is included as a condition in the planning approval then there was no obligation on the developer to add restrictions.

Question 7 from Amberlouise Everitt (not present):

In light of the urgent need for action on the climate crisis can you tell me the reason for West Sussex Pensions not divesting all its funds in Fossil Fuels immediately. Why is the pensions panel not included in WSCC's commitment to reaching net zero as soon as possible, pension holders like myself do not want their money funding climate wrecking fossil fuel companies?

Follow up Question: How do you feel about Councillor Lanzers amendment which scored out every single line of Councillors Baxter's recent pensions divestment motion and what was his reasoning for doing that?

Response to Question 7:

See [briefing note from County Council in May 2022](#) on this issue. As Amberlouise was not present it was suggested she contact Councillor directly to discuss this issue.

Question 8 from Daniel Conceicao Silva (not present):

How can Worthing Council help us survive the cost of living crisis? As a resident from Central Ward for almost six years, this is causing me anxiety that we may not be able to afford to eat and heat. I feel we need some reassurance, understanding and empathy!

I can't afford to take the time off work to attend your meeting so if possible, can someone respond on my behalf.

Response to Question 8 (local member John Turley):

We are continuing to feel the impact of the changes in our social and economic landscape and West Sussex County Council remains committed to working closely with key partners including Citizens Advice, District and Borough colleagues and the voluntary, community sector to support our residents.

This countywide partnership approach has enabled the Government funding supplied through the Household Support Fund (HSF) to be utilised to support individuals presenting with poverty related hardship as a result of the pandemic and economic situation the Country is currently facing.

In each District and Borough there are proactive conversations around inequalities, wellbeing, poverty, digital inclusion, mental health and rural isolation and this is leading to targeted action. The County Council has worked alongside partners and provided seed funding to encourage local food partnerships to form and flourish, not only to look at supply and demand but also to address healthy eating and sustainable buying practices.

We have seen in the latest spring statement that further funding is committed, and we currently await clarity on the criteria under which this money can be spent, this will help inform our approach. Funding alone however is not the sustainable answer, one of the key mechanisms is collaborative working, developing the excellent partnerships that have been one of the positive aspects of the pandemic.

Collectively we are addressing the indicators that create poverty, looking for new ways to prevent people dropping below the poverty line. We cannot ignore the extreme situation we currently face with fuel and food poverty but we can work together to enable individuals to make better decisions going forward, to receive the support they need and address the underlying factors that create the situations many face.

The Chancellor recently announced that the most vulnerable households across the country will receive £1,200 of one-off support in total this year to help with the cost of living. It is understood that the Department for Work and Pensions will administer additional payments, which will be paid directly to those eligible. A one-off payment of £150 to support households with rising energy bills for most Council Tax payers in houses in Council Tax bands A to D, or a band E property if in receipt of a disabled band reduction, is being administered by district and borough councils via refunds to bank accounts for those who pay Council Tax by direct debit. Those who don't pay by direct debit will be contacted by their district/borough council to make an application for the payment.

Question 9 from Rebecca Hope (not present):

I run Our Hope Hive, a children's activity centre in West Worthing, BN13 1AA. I believe there is a Council vacancy in West Worthing.

My question is about how local businesses like mine can work with the Council to deliver its services, now that family centres are little used or closed. There is a huge shortage of After School Care available in Worthing. How can we help provide it? Can businesses like mine use unused council properties?

Response to Question 9 (Caroline Baxter covering for vacancy):

The decision around the future of the Early Help service was taken in July 2021. Amongst other matters the decision approved that 41 Children and Family Centres and Youth/Find It Out Centres were surplus to the service requirements. These centres were vacated and handed back to the Property and Assets team between September and December 2021. The Assets team have worked on the options appraisal for each of the affected assets to determine the most appropriate way forward and the Early Help Asset plan is now at the final stages of implementation.

During the consultation many groups came forward to express interest in the properties and all were advised of how to get involved where appropriate. Properties for sale or lease were marketed with agents. Due consideration was given to a range of options including social, community and environmental use. The priority was to establish if there were any alternative WSCC services which could use the property. Options were considered in the context of the objective

to rationalise the estate in line with 'Our Council Plan 2021 to 2025' to Make best use of resources and the associated Key Performance Indicator 49, to reduce the square meterage of the Council's estate. The potential alternative use of each Children and Family Centre was largely constrained by the requirement to continue to use the properties in a way that complied with the Sure Start Grant used to construct or refurbish the buildings. This means that the centres must continue to be used predominantly for the delivery of services to Early Years age children (defined as under 5 years old). This requirement ruled out a large number of proposals from interested parties.

There are no vacant CFC centres in Worthing currently on the market of available for alternative use. Outcome for each of the CFCs and Find It Out Youth Centres in Worthing Borough area is as follows:-

Outcome	Property CFC (Children and Family Centre)
Retained – and continue to operate as a Family Hub	Footprints Lyndhurst Road CFC, Worthing – now Worthing East Family Hub Durrington CFC - now Worthing West Family Hub Worthing Library Footprints CFC - now Worthing Central Hub
Disposal - producing a capital receipt to re-invest in council services	Footprints Crescent Road CFC Worthing (sold March 22)
Handback Lease to Freeholder or Superior Landlord -	Worthing Find It Out Centre (Handed back 21) Maybridge CFC Goring (Handed back -notice to expire Oct 22)
Returned to Former Use	Findon CFC at the Findon Valley Library
Identified for alternative WSCC Service Use or Education Use	Glyn Owen Centre, Worthing – Education Use
Under review	Broadwater CFC at the Wave, Worthing (subject to further due diligence and discussion with the Church who are the freeholders)

If the organisation wish to discuss further any need that they may have around space to deliver their services they can contact

community.response@westsussex.gov.uk and the Parentships & Communities Team could see if there are other opportunities within the wider community.

Question 10 from Wendy Millar:

Concerned about the amount of broken glass in and around Goring Gap and greenspace. Can some signage be put up saying glass is not allowed?

Response to Question 10 (local member Steve Waight)

Cllr Steve Waight stated that he would follow this up with Worthing Borough Council who are responsible for the area's signage and cleaning. He stated they were looking into revamping signage so, if possible, would include something about glass. Although if it was not possible to enforce then this may not be appropriate.

Question 11 from Michael Cloake:

Has there been any progress on the issue of secondary school places for Elm Grove School pupils. Some have been allocated places as far as Angmering.

Response to Question 11 (local member John Turley):

Cllrs stated that they had not received any complaints in relation to this, but they would enquire with officers and come back to Mr Cloake.

Question 12 from Chris Everson:

Many issues raised tonight and in advance have been for Worthing Borough Council rather than West Sussex County Council. Do they have a similar forum that residents can attend?

Response to Question 12:

Residents can attend Worthing Borough Council meetings and ask questions during the public question time. Dates of the meetings can be found on the [Worthing Borough Council Website](#) and questions must be submitted 5 days before the meeting to: democratic.services@adur-worthing.gov.uk

Question 13 from Jill Saunders:

Asked how these Forums have been advertised.

Response to Question 13:

It was explained that advertising for these Forums is via a West Sussex County Council press release that is published on the website and sent to local press. Facebook posts are also put out on the main WSCC Facebook page and the local Worthing TalkwithUs Facebook page. Posters are put up in local libraries and sent to Councillors to distribute locally. Email alerts are also sent to those signed up to Library newsletters and the County Local Forum pages. The Eventbrite notices are also good advertising. It was also explained in areas that have Parish and Town Councils we ask them to help us advertise via noticeboards and social media.

It was suggested that advertng on public transport or in local theatres should be considered.

Question 14 from Paul Baker:

Chippingdale Cricket Club have a desire to improve their facilities and have funds and grants available for the ECB. However, they are struggling to get the support of the Council to move things forward.

They also mentioned the lack of grass cutting and the problems associated with this including dog mess and grass seed in dogs' ears.

Response to Question 14:

Caroline Baxter confirmed this would be Worthing Borough Council who have the responsibility for recreation grounds. The local Borough Councillor for the cricket club would be Cllr Cathy Glynn-Davies and [her contact details are on the Worthing Borough Council website.](#)

Question 15 from Michael Cloake

How much is the by-election in Worthing West costing?

Response to Question 15:

Cllr John Turley undertook to find out and let Michael Cloake know.