

Question Answers and Actions - Worthing County Local Forum – 15 November 2021

Attendees:

County Councillors:

Noel Atkins, Caroline Baxter, Henna Chowdhury, Beccy Cooper, Sean McDonald, Dawn Smith, Elizabeth Sparkes, John Turley, Steve Waight

Residents:

John Hughes, Sheila Howell, Sue Standing, Lance Allen, Gloria Kainja

Question 1 from Peter Harrison:

On the edge of Broadwater Green there are many illegally parked caravans. There are also mobile homes and vans that have been parked for months without moving. Can anything be done to solve this problem?

Response to Question 1 from local member Elizabeth Sparkes:

It is illegal to live in a vehicle on the highway and help has been offered to the 3 occupants of such vehicles. West Sussex County Council are now in the process of having the caravans and motorhome that are being lived in moved on legally via the courts. We have visited numerous times over the last few weeks and served notices of direction to leave on those being lived in.

We can do nothing against those that are parked lawfully such as the horse box and army truck. The only way to address that is via a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to restrict parking. Cllr Sparkes has applied for a TRO and should know if that application has been successful in the next few months.

Question 2 from Hillie Standing:

Is the Council considering spending money on the potholes which are appearing in various places over Worthing. Down View Road (North) appears to have inherited various holes - some very bad ones outside where I live in Mill Field Lodge.

Response to Question 2 from officers:

Residents are encouraged to report faults directly [online](#). This is the quickest and most effective way for dealing with faults (e.g. potholes, blocked paths, damaged signs etc). If residents do not have access to the internet, they can call the Highways Customer Service Centre team between 8.00am and 6.00pm, Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays) on 01243 642105 to report faults.

The local member, Beccy Cooper, added that the County Council do have a policy that sets out intervention levels and also stressed that we need to make best use of transport systems.

Question 3 from John Hughes:

Re Traffic counts.

Earlier this month there was a pair of rubber hoses stretched across the A27 halfway between Hollyacres and Ivydore Ave Worthing connected at one end to a data logger. As I understand this device was counting the traffic, I would like to know how many vehicles were counted each day the device was on site.

Response to Question 3 from local member Noel Atkins:

The data was collected to support the development of a traffic model covering Arun District. It is one of a large number of traffic count sites across Arun and surrounding areas. The data will be published in the WSCC traffic count database (accessed via the website) in due course, but it may be some time before the data is uploaded so we can send a spreadsheet that details the numbers for this site. Although this was a 14 day count, please note that there are some gaps, presumably due to issues with the counter preventing collecting a full days data. The missing days are not necessarily the same for each direction of travel. Having taken a look at this data, there is some variation in daily totals which is likely to be due to the fuel shortages

Question 4 from Terri Binstead:

We are also interested in the latest updates for the future of Cissbury Fields if that could be discussed.

Response to Question 4 from the local member Elizabeth Sparkes:

The land referred to is coming down from Cissbury Ring into Findon Valley. Worthing Borough Council have recently taken back control of this area and are planning a rewilding programme. The person who is leading on the project is Cllr Dan Humphreys of Worthing Borough Council. I would therefore suggest you contact Cllr Humphreys directly as he will be the best person to answer any queries on this issue. Daniel.Humphreys@worthing.gov.uk.

Cllr Sparkes did understand that the project was progressing with support from the South Downs National Park and that a meeting was being organised with the participation officers from the Borough Council, the Councillors and the Chair of the Findon Valley Residents' Association to take matters forward.

Question 5 from Sheila Howell:

I have recently started using an electric wheelchair. Can you explain why most of the pavements in the Worthing area are in such bad condition and now not suitable for wheelchair users and are there any plans to repair them in the near future so everyone can use them comfortably.

Response to Question 5 from officer:

Our highways are regularly inspected, at least once per year more frequent in higher use area, in accordance with the [Highways Inspection Manual](#).

This document has been developed in accordance with national guidance.

It is not possible for us to be aware of every issue in the whole of the borough as it arises. We do rely on member of the public assisting us with this by informing us of any highway safety issues they may encounter, via the online reporting form or [Love West Sussex](#). This is the quickest and most effective way for dealing with faults (e.g. potholes, blocked paths, damaged signs etc). If

residents do not have access to the internet, they can call the Highways Customer Service Centre team between 8.00am and 6.00pm, Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays) on 01243 642105 to report faults.

Cllrs John Turley and Dawn Smith added that they have been discussing the issue of tree roots damaging pavement and they feel that the criteria for intervention needs addressing, and they are pursuing that with Highways and via a question to the Cabinet Member for Highways. Cllr Steve Waight did add that any changes in the criteria for pavements, including tree root damage would have cost and budget implications.

Question 6 from a resident:

Where is the closest drop in exercise and day centre for people with neurological disabilities? The only one we had got closed, during the first pandemic, only to reopen now as a full-time care home taking over from Pines. Where do we with Multiple Sclerosis, fibromyalgia, Parkinson's, Huntington's, and effects of stroke etc go to physically Neuro rehabilitate now? We all know we need daily rehabilitation, to move (wash, feed....) or we can hurry into palliative care needing full time care. This is a relevant question of either-or situation. Use it or lose it. How are WE supported? Early years and addicts get the largest share of our very humble financial provision. It is good to help kids-but there will not be enough kids to pay enough taxes to care for older and disabled people unless we help them to help themselves.

Also, what happened with the fully equipped gym you sold or gave away; when you decided to close this drop in provision, and especially- What happened with Power Plate passive exercise machine we lobbied for years, and got only months before you closed the service? Who took it home for free?

Response to Question 6 from officers:

The Gym based in the Rowans day service. This was not a West Sussex County Council (WSCC) funded social care service but evolved as a GP referral service which ceased as part of the [Cabinet Member decision to rationalise our day service sites in 2018](#) - i.e. moving forward space had to be prioritised at the Rowans for those people assessed as needing a social care service.

The Rowans day opportunity centre in Worthing, along with our six other day opportunity sites are for those people that have been assessed as requiring a social care service from WSCC. People who feel they may be eligible for social care can contact the Adult Contact Centre socialcare@westsussex.gov.uk or by phone on 01243 642121. Social care services can be accessed for a range of different reasons as set out in the guidance in the Care Act and Support (Eligibility Criteria) Regulations 2015. For more information, visit our [Eligibility for adult social care support](#) web page.

The Rowans Day centre does provide specialised Neuro rehabilitation programme for people with and acquired brain injury and strokes in conjunction with Occupational and Physio Therapists. These largely focus on the social care

element of a rehab plan – i.e., building back relationships, independence and confidence building, using and connecting with their local community, daily living activities etc. However, as part of the response to the Covid 19 pandemic we have been operating a reduced service for people where additional support at home could not meet their needs and are at the moment unable to develop and grow the service as per pre-covid plans. As a large number of people who would use the service have multiple health conditions, we are still maintaining Covid 19 infection control arrangements in adults social care to ensure a safe environment for users and staff. We are however continuing to consider referrals on a case-by-case basis as we have done since March 2020. This arrangement is being continually reviewed on advice from Public Health England and the local Health Protection agency and is unlikely to change until early 2022.

In relation to the equipment mentioned (Power Plate passive exercise machine) these items were purchased through any income raised through the Gym. This item along with others were 'gifted' to Active Worthing, a social enterprise group set up independently by a couple of existing WSCC staff and others. The gifting of the equipment was agreed in conjunction with WSCC legal and finance. I understand that they are only running keep fit classes at present, but they are planning to open a Gym at some point. The contact for this is Gloria Kainja at gloria.kainja@activeworthing.co.uk

[West Sussex Connect to Support](#) website also offers a range of useful information about where to seek support and the [Living Independently](#) page may help with specific enquiry about Gym's/physical activities in your local area. I would also suggest you contact the local [Well-being Hub](#) for people interested in physical activities and Groups in her local area.

Specific health funded Gym's (i.e. through NHS/CGC's) are usually only accessible as part of a specific health based rehabilitation plan. Anyone with continued health related concerns issues should go back to their GP in the first instance.

Question 7 from Bella Morgan:

I am a director and specialist instructor of a community interest company called Active Worthing Wellbeing Centre. We are the instructors who used to work at The Rowans gym, which was a referral/rehab gym operating out of The Rowans Day centre. Due to the amalgamation of day services, we lost that venue and despite paying for all the gym equipment to be in storage, have been unable to find a venue to house it. We continue to run classes that help people with long term health conditions, disabilities, and injuries to manage their conditions through physical activity. However, we could help far more people if we could restart the gym side of our services.

We are asking our councillors to please help support us in finding a venue. The services we offer take the strain off the NHS and promote public health. We want to help our community, but we need help ourselves to put this into practice. We would even appreciate a temporary solution to store our gym equipment free of charge. Will you please help us?

Response to Question 7:

Officers at both West Sussex County Council and Worthing Borough Council have been involved with this group and tried to assist with a venue but as yet with no success.

Cllr Henna Chowdhury confirmed she had been in touch with this organisation and the property department but that no suitable venue had yet been identified.

Cllrs Sean McDonald and Elizabeth Sparkes added that they have also been involved in helping as part of their Cabinet roles at Worthing Borough Council and they will continue to help to try and secure a venue.

Question 8 from Sue Standing:

Friends of Heene Cemetery are concerned about a tree on the corner of Manor Road and St Michaels Road.

Response to Question 8 from local member John Turley:

It was agreed that Cllr John Turley's details would be passed on and they would discuss this issue outside of the meeting as Ms Standing had a problem with her microphone during the meeting.