

Chichester District Council

Full Council

20 July 2021

Questions to the Executive

Question from Cllr Sharp:

Does the Cabinet Member for Planning agree that providing local facilities in local areas is key for building strong, thriving communities and reducing the need to travel?

Will the Cabinet Member please consider what she can do to support the siting of schools and medical facilities in local communities?

In Graylingwell no school was delivered and in White House Farm it appears that the doctor's surgery also might not be forthcoming.

On 27th July the Cabinet at WSCC will be considering the removal of 31 Children's Centres. This will damage our communities in Selsey, Southbourne and Pulborough. This will have a negative effect on children and leave families cut off from support. It will also put more strain on our roads and leave facilities out of reach of those people who don't have access to a car and can't afford the bus fares.

Can she write to WSCC and CCG and lobby both bodies so that we keep local services local?

I would like to draw the Cabinet Member's attention to the document below in which WSCC is championing sustainable and healthy place-making in its Public Health role
https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/15845/creating_healthy_and_sustainable_places_ws.pdf

The fundamental characteristics of healthy and sustainable places include:

" the colocation of local services and facilities with walking and cycling routes"

"connected neighbourhood and community spaces, education, childcare, public health, health and social care, recreation facilities, daily goods and services; affordable access to healthy food through community shops and allotment schemes" Page 7 of their Vision.

When we plan and shape communities we need to ensure our residents have places where they can connect locally – especially as we attempt to learn the lessons from the pandemic. Not providing services or cutting local services will have harmful effects on our residents' mental and physical health as well as slowing down our journey to net zero.

Response from Cllr Taylor:

Access to local facilities is key to place making. However, this only goes so far. The need for new schools/medical facilities etc is determined by the infrastructure providers and not the Council. In addition, people often exercise choice in which services they use, the most obvious example of which is schools. Nonetheless, we do work with public and private service providers to secure facilities in appropriate locations, though this is not always an easy or straightforward process.

WSCC's proposal to reduce the number of children and family centres across the county was recently consulted on as part of the redesign of Early Help Services and the results published, both the public and partners were invited to respond to this consultation and over 1800 responses were received around 15 % came from Chichester District. There was some movement on the part of WSCC following the consultation and they have removed one

centre from the list in Adur and Worthing. The plan is to have more outreach services in each area as their evidence suggested many of the hard to reach families were not accessing the centres and therefore those in most need were not receiving the support they required. All children and family centres were shut (apart from medical services) until recently due to the pandemic and there is still only a limited offer locally. The pandemic has shown us how local communities can work together to support their most vulnerable and Selsey is an excellent example with Selsey care shop. Selsey also has a thriving volunteer base and there is on-going support for young people and their families. The more rural north of the district also saw communities rise to the challenge and again a number of support networks have been set up which will to some extent mitigate the closure of the children and families centre. The family outreach will also cover the more rural areas and offer more bespoke support to the families that need it.

Creating healthy spaces is very important to developing successful communities and forms part of the internal Public Health Working Group's action plan. Planning are an integral member of the group and will advise how best to include the health agenda in planning matters. Both wellbeing and Planning have been involved in WSCC workshops related to their sustainable and healthy place making agenda.

Questions from Cllr Oakley:

1. Noting the public questions, could Cllr Taylor undertake to obtain from the EA any timetable it has for reviewing Southern Water's Discharge Permits from its Treatment Works within the District and the degree to which CDC maybe involved in such reviews; and;
2. Noting that the provision of infrastructure to support active and shared transport is something that CDC is keen to support and enable, could Cllrs Taylor and Dignum provide updates on CDC's work to enable the provision of a bus shelter at the Swanfield Park Community Centre and the paving of the Public Footpath between the SW corner of the Lidl site and Storey Road in Chichester City and its upgrade to enable cycle movements?

Responses from Cllr Taylor and Cllr Dignum:

1. At a meeting with the Environment Agency in June, it was understood that the EA had appointed staff to undertake the permit review but a specific timetable had not yet been set. PfSH have since written to the EA to ask that this be given priority. Officers will follow this up to secure an update on the timetable and the scope of any role CDC may have in this process.
2. Development Management has been asked to ascertain whether any restrictions apply to the use of land Swanfield Park Community Centre for a further bus shelter. Officers have now had an opportunity to investigate and review the relevant previous planning consent at Swanfield Park and have ascertained that there is no s106 impediment to the use of an area of the land in question for provision of a further bus stop. Whilst there is a condition attached to the previous permission for this area, relating more generally to the retention of open space, this would not prevent the installation of a bus shelter on the land identified. A response to those parties which instigated the initial enquiry will be sent under separate cover.

Officers have been discussing the matter of the 'unmade link' with the developer of the Barnfield land who is amenable to finding a solution, although it is expected that cost will be a further point of discussion. The area in question is unregistered land, which is

causing extra issues to consider; in addition the developer has concerns about undertaking works on land outside of their own leasehold land and without any registered owner to consult. A further meeting with the developer is scheduled for later in September at which this issue will again be raised. As the pathway is recorded as a public right of way, officers have also made contact with the Highways team at WSCC to establish their position on this section of pathway.