

Hayling Island Infrastructure Group

Havant Public Service Plaza, Hollybank Room, 26 July 2017 13:00-15:00

Minutes of Meeting

Present:

Community representatives: Anne Skennerton (HIRA), David Parham (Save Our Island), Rosie Law (Hayling resident), Anthony Higham (HIRA), Paul Millman (NEHRA), David Pattenden (Secretary of LRA), Jim Palmer (HIRA), Robert Sebley (Cycle Hayling), Ann Griffiths (LRA)

HBC representatives: David Hayward (Planning Policy Manager), Andrew Biltcliffe (Head of Planning), Linda Jewell (Planning Consultant), Stuart Wood (Civil Engineering & Landscape Manager), Louise Berridge (Projects Engineer), Stuart Pinkney (Safety and Emergency Planning Officer)

Councillors and county councillors: Cllr Michael Wilson (Chair of meeting), Cllr Tim Pike; Cllr John Perry, Cllr Andrew Lenaghan, Cllr Lance Quantrill

Apologies

Mike Owens (Hayling Informer), Chris Lyon (Rook Farm Management Company), Cllr Joanne Thomas, Holly Drury (HCC), Graham Wright (HCC), Caroline Richardson (HCC), Cllr Clare Satchwell, Cllr Leah Turner, Elaine Kilbey (Chair of LRA), Polly Chapman (LVA)

1. Introductions

Cllr Wilson began by asking members to introduce themselves as he recognised that there were some new faces in the room.

2. Notes of the last meeting and matters arising

The notes from the last meeting were agreed.

David Parham pointed out that under item 7 – AOB, paragraph 5, he asked the question about Southern Water providing information based on a proforma given. David said that at the meeting he was told that the information had already been provided. David highlighted an issue around Southern Water refusing to act on that proforma. David asked how many service providers have been asked for capacity information, and how many have provided capacity information.

Linda Jewell confirmed that all service providers have been asked and each provider has provided some information but not all providers have completed the form to provide capacity

information. Linda said that she is still following these up, and has had meetings with service providers - so it is a working progress.

David Parham asked for a statement to be given at the next meeting.

Cllr Wilson suggested that Linda produces a statement to list which service providers have been contacted and what their responses were.

Action: Linda Jewell to prepare and circulate an update on which service providers have responded to the request for information and how they have responded.

David Parham suggested that he'd need to talk to David Hayward about what numbers would go in to the proforma, David Hayward confirmed that the proforma had already been given.

Linda confirmed that Southern Water is looking to send somebody to the next meeting, as they are willing to come and talk to the group. Southern Water has been asked to look at a list of individual sites that HBC may be considering to allocate in the Local Plan.

Action: Linda to follow up with Southern Water and arrange for a representative to attend the next meeting.

Jim Palmer asked whether the utility companies have been asked what condition their equipment is in and what the state of play is along the A3023. It seems as though Portsmouth Water have continual failures – will their equipment be renewed in the future? Linda confirmed that they are being asked to look at the amount of development that HBC are required to provide in the borough, what the existing capacity is, what plans they have for upgrading their facilities and what more needs to be done to provide for additional development. This was all set out in the proforma, but not all service providers completed the form.

3. Provision of other Council services

Cllr Pike acknowledged that the group does spend a lot of time thinking about the A3023 and what can be done to ease the traffic. This would be helped by removing the need for certain journeys at all. Cllr Pike said that he has been thinking about offering more Council services at the office at Beachlands. The office already deals with a lot of transactions, there are actually more transactions happening with local residents than there are tourists – it is being very well used. Cllr asked the group whether there are any other services that can be offered there to save residents having to travel off the island. Cllr Pike has been talking to Brian Wood (Head of Customer Services) who also covers East Hants, as there's a good example there where they have an office in Alton to save residents travelling to Petersfield. They have a Housing Officer based there once a week. Cllr Pike also pointed out that online transactions are one hundredth of the cost of a face to face visit so it is very much cost effective to carry out transactions online but recognised that it would be unrealistic to expect everybody to use online services. The average age on Hayling Island is 10% higher than the national average, older people are

less likely to carry out transactions online, they prefer to see somebody face to face so there's a continual need for a front desk. Cllr Pike suggested that the current location is not the best location and would like thoughts on other locations.

Anne Skennerton stated that it is the first she has heard of this and would like to know by email specifically what services are being provided at Beachlands. Cllr Pike confirmed that the office is able to cover all Council front desk services.

Anne also asked how this has been advertised, and pointed out that there's the Bridge Association who do a lot for people and suggested the old Natwest building as a new location as it is in a great central location. Cllr Pike confirmed that although the Natwest building is in a good central location, he had visited the building at an open day and it wasn't a great building, and that tourists do also need to be taken in to account.

David Parham stated that he was interested in the information that came out some time ago about money being available for infrastructure activities. David thought that HBC may be able to use that money to expand the fire station and put all emergency services at that one location for Hayling Island. It may improve first responder capability in terms of storing their equipment. Maybe there could be a front desk based here too. Cllr Pike agreed that it would be a good idea and confirmed that Hayling did really well last year with CIL and there were two successful bids.

Richard Coates stated that this would need to go through Hampshire Fire and Rescue and agreed moving services to the current fire station would be a good idea.

Anthony Higham also spoke about the idea and that it would be ideal to have all of the services come together at such a good location, with the library and schools nearby. Cllr Pike confirmed that he is more than happy to receive further written answers. David Hayward clarified that in terms of CIL funds recently being released – there were £16 million worth of bids submitted and £1.5 million awarded recently so it is quite a competitive process. HBC could get in touch with Hampshire Fire and Rescue and highlight to them that this has been suggested and perhaps give them David Parham's contact details.

4. Infrastructure Delivery Plan

Linda Jewell pointed the group to her Report Structure document and confirmed what the document covered. It was clarified that these are draft sections. At a previous meeting the CCG were asked for patient to doctor ratio, which has been drawn from the NHS website. Linda warned that comparing the number of patient registered against the number of GPs would give a ratio but it would not be a true ratio due to part time GPs.

Linda confirmed that at the moment she is in the process of writing reports, chasing people for further information and also sending information on to those who have asked for it.

Linda confirmed that the document covers the whole borough wide but Hayling Island can be searched for within the document.

David Parham said that there are additional questions for Southern Water if a representative is able to attend a meeting. For instance, pumping stations are electric, do they have UPS systems? Do they have backup generators? Do they have dual sources? There's power coming from Havant, and power coming from Portsmouth. There are also issues around flood defences.

David Hayward confirmed that when the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership look at measures for a stretch of coast. They are looking at how many people are living in flood zones behind defences but also what infrastructure lies in flood zones as well. Linda spoke about the North Solent Shoreline Management Plan which states that there's a strategically important sewage treatment plant at Budds Farm.

Cllr Pike said that there was a meeting at the Langstone Sailing Club about the re-alignment that's happening on the coast side of Budds Farm – moving the sea wall nearer to SEE for a much improved sea defence. A picture was passed around the room showing the layout. Cllr Pike confirmed that this work is being funded by the Environment Agency at a cost of approx. £800,000. HBC's Coastal team are looking at the area to the east and they hope that there will be options available by the end of the year.

5. Hayling Island Emergency Plan

Reading the Emergency Plan, Richard Coates pointed out that Maritime Coast Guard Agency notes that there's access to a helicopter at Lee on Solent which is now actually a 24 hour service. There's no mention of the Hampshire and IOW air ambulance which is also available - apart from 2-6am.

The document also states that there's a police station at South Road but now it is based at the library. The police also have two sizeable marine crafts and inflatables which should be referred to.

Stuart Pinkney confirmed that the document provided was very much a draft, and of course over time things have changed and that the document is aimed at responders on the ground who are not familiar with Hayling Island. There are items that need expanding on, the pumping station for example – the pumping stations are powered by electricity but it is now known whether they are dual power or not. Stuart said that he has been in contact with the police, SCAS, the army, HCC and others.

Stuart confirmed that he has also spoken to Hovertravel, who have confirmed that they are able to help in the event of a civil emergency. The military now are far more available than they used to be but would have to be brought in by HCC rather than HBC. The need

for community resilience has been highlighted within the county and is particularly pertinent on Hayling Island.

Stuart went on to talk about date and time critical issues. For example, he worries about Mondays at 2pm when kids are finishing school and parents are trying to get on and off the island to pick their kids up from school. Or on a sunny bank holiday Monday if visitors are not able to leave the island.

Stuart highlighted the fact that the document is live, and needs community resilience by expanding out and asking other groups on the island what they can do to help. Cllr Wilson spoke about a councillor meeting last year where it was discussed the need to identify vulnerable people who would need this information more centrally so that in the case of an event things would operate sufficiently.

Stuart confirmed that they work closely with HCC Adult Care who can easily identify vulnerable people which can also be accessed by the Fire Service and the Police. Stuart stated there's a national risk register, for Hampshire there are four critical risks: –

- weather
- flooding
- industrial incidents
- solar flares.

The risk register is renewed every year, and every three years the emergency plan is reviewed.

Stuart pointed out that during a recent fire service strike, there were still staff available at Hayling Island because it was identified the risks that were involved. Fire service staff are now trained to carry out first aid.

Richard Coates also pointed out that the voluntary coast guard rescue team don't just work on the beach; they also help the police with searches on the ground. As a group of trained individuals they are a key resource. As well as the RNLI team on Hayling, there's also the RNLI team at Eastney, and that's four rescue crafts between them.

Stuart confirmed that he is contactable by email if anybody has any questions and that he is interested in arranging a meeting with community groups and Hampshire Fire and Rescue to talk about community resilience. Stuart expressed concern that in the event of a major incident, emergency services would be directed to Portsmouth because of the higher density of population there. This is why it is important for Hayling to have some resilience in itself.

Anne Skennerton thanked Stuart for the informative information, and asked whether there could be more systematic meetings annually where information can be passed down. It would be reassuring for residents to know that there's a rolling programme on the issues on Hayling.

Stuart stated that every other Tuesday there's a meeting with all the emergency planning officers. Above that, there's a risk working group led by the police, who discuss emergency situations. From there, it would then go to the Tactical Coordinating Group (TCG), and then on to the Strategic Coordinating Group (SCG) chaired by the police constable, and then finally on to 'Cobra'. Stuart stressed that there are many plans in place, but they are not advertised.

Anne Skennerton stated that there are school governors on the island that say they've not been told specific information and that they need to be made more aware.

Stuart confirmed that 4 years ago an emergency evacuation plan was put together in the event of flooding - for children to be moved from the infant/junior schools to the secondary school and that was tested. Education does not come under HBC, it comes under HCC. This is led by Ian Houlton, who attended a previous meeting, and Stuart works very closely with him.

Jim Palmer also complimented Stuart's document. Jim stressed that the fact that Hayling Island is unique with only one bridge on and off is not emphasised enough. Hayling Island is vulnerable and so are the people on the island. Jim also suggested that the document needs much more information on quantity.

Jim stated that he believes there should be another document on more routine problems such as minor traffic incidents.

Stuart acknowledged the importance of having the right people to deal with these kinds of issues.

Cllr Wilson suggested a notification type system informing residents of a breakdown, for example, so that people could avoid the route. It happens on an ad-hoc basis on Facebook, but if people could sign up to some kind of central messaging service, it would be really good.

Anne Skennerton pointed out a recent incident where a large coach was negotiating West Lane. Any other transport using that road would have immense difficulty trying to back out of the way. Anne said that she was assured by the police that it was being handled but say they were entitled to direct a vehicle down the restricted width road. Hayling needs something more systematic.

Stuart Pinkney pointed out that there is a Hampshire Alert system as well as an Environmental Agency Flood Alert system.

Rosie Law spoke about issues with traffic jams on Hayling Island which can happen at many different times during the day and for different reasons. Good examples are the weekly jams caused by the rubbish and garden bin collections on Monday mornings. On one particular occasion the traffic jam stretched right down to the Pound (Mill Rythe Schools) Roundabout near the proposed Lidl site.

Stuart Wood reassured the group that that issue in particular is at the top of the list.

Rosie stated that there's lack of local knowledge and awareness from a strategic planning point of view for waste collection. Emergency Planners need to tap into the local knowledge and have the detail specifically for the unique status of Hayling Island.

Stuart Pinkney highlighted the need to call major incidents more often to draw resources from other areas for the government to provide support. Anthony Higham spoke about the importance of clearing a road traffic incident than to spend hours trying to figure out who was at fault.

David Parham highlighted that the A3023 gives residents problems primarily because of the usage of the road, not because of accidents or events. A consolidated central view as to who authorises the use of the A3023 for an event other than normal traffic flow is needed. Somebody has to give utility companies permission to carry out works.

Stuart Wood confirmed that utility companies have the right to carry out works and unfortunately utilities do have to go through the main road.

Cllr Pike pointed out that there's a website where all the roadworks are listed - roadworks.org

Anne Skennerton asked about the proposed Langstone Road repairs in August and who decided that it would be a good time to carry them out then.

Stuart Wood clarified that HCC decided that, but HBC also suggested that this was the right time. The traffic flow should not be affected – there may be traffic lights overnight. If there's any disruption HBC are local so can be there to shut down if needs be.

The works are to widen the footpath at the bus stop for disabled access on to buses, and in the long term a cycle route around Langstone Technology Park.

Richard Coates asked about Portsmouth Water repairs - are they replacing the mains or are they inserting new pipes? Are they reducing the diameter of the pipes? This could have a big impact on the water supply for fire fighting.

A question was raised whether salt water could be used to put out fires. Richard Coates confirmed that yes salt water can be used but supply would be limited from the sea and not always accessible.

6. Borough-wide Transport Assessment

Stuart Wood confirmed that there's not a lot of information to give relating to the Transport Assessment work. The model is still being tested and in addition a microsimulation model is also being commissioned for Hayling Island. The focus is on the network – journey times, queue lengths and turning counts including Langstone to get a better view of Hayling Island.

Andrew Biltcliffe recommended looking online at 'paramics' to see how it all works. The model will simulate flow impact when mitigation measures are added.

Andrew Biltcliffe promised that this will be done as quickly as possible, HCC have a model but do not have the staff to use it. Staffing is a countrywide issue, which is recognised.

Cllr Perry requested involvement in the model. Stuart Wood said that Systra and Solent Transport are due to provide a training session for members and that HBC members will have the opportunity to attend.

Louise Berridge confirmed that the model forecasts future traffic flows based on proposed housing. Louise spoke about HCC's plans to install permanent Bluetooth detectors but they have had IT issues. A private company have been commissioned to undertake some surveys and to put up some temporary detectors between 1-19 June using mac addresses. This can measure journey times, speed and destination origins but will only pick up approx. 20% of vehicles. There will be another survey in August to compare holiday times to term times. Hopefully data will be presented to the group end of September/October time.

Stuart Wood stressed that the concentration is on journey times and not the quantity of traffic. Abnormalities will also be recognised, like pedestrians walking by, and when busses pass by with 30 bluetooth devices being picked up - it can exclude them. Louise also stated that frictions can be added, like refuse lorry delays for example – but not every issue can be modelled. Cyclists could also be added in to the model – a certain amount each hour.

7. Date of next meeting and any other business

Anne Griffiths spoke about a press release on SPA mitigation and quoted part of it. Information can be found on birdaware.org. David Hayward confirmed that there is a current consultation on the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership's definitive mitigation strategy. The Local Plan newsletter will be sent out within the next week or so which will include the link to the Bird Aware website and will give more information about the upcoming public consultation in September.

David Parham expressed concerns that he has still not received/heard anything from HCC and that he is disappointed. David would like a definition of the capacity limits of the A3023, a definition of the free capacity (headroom), a forecast of traffic growth from all sources over time (up to useable capacity) and a definition and agreement to proposals to utilise the available capacity. All of the Hampshire County Council and Havant Borough Council actions (including mitigation) must be focused on this strategic goal as it is the only route to establish a sustainable economic future for the community of Hayling Island.

David Hayward gave an update regarding the Lidl planning application which set out that the applicants and the Environment Agency are currently in discussion about undertaking a revised FRA and appropriate revised mitigation measures. These discussions are, according to both parties, progressing positively. There is likely to be revised plans, which

depending on what they are, is likely to require the application to be re-advertised, though it is not possible to confirm this until the Council see any revised plans.

Cllr Wilson concluded the meeting by reading out the apologies.

8. Close