

## Central Area Committee – 25 June 2009

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Central Area Committee** held on **25 June 2009** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn

Cllr Mrs L A Butcher  
Cllr P A Capon  
Cllr M R Carter  
Cllr K H Hudson

Cllr J R F Mason  
Cllr D G Stansby  
Cllr M G B Starke  
Cllr Mrs C A Weston

### **ALSO PRESENT**

Cllr Mrs M A Weir - Hawkwell Parish Council  
Cllr B Hazlewood - Hockley Parish Council  
Cllr Miss Marriott - Hullbridge Parish Council  
A Hilsdon - Essex County Highways

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

A J Bugeja - Head of Legal Services  
S Scrutton - Head of Planning and Transportation  
J Bostock - Committee Services Manager

## **166A AREA COMMITTEE – INITIAL BUSINESS**

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs R Brown, Mrs L M Cox, M Maddocks and J Thomass.

### **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **Appointment of Vice-Chairman**

Cllr P A Capon was appointed Vice-Chairman.

At this point the Committee adjourned the formal meeting to move into the Community Forum to hear contributions from members of the public.

## **167 COMMUNITY FORUM**

Two requests for information have been received in advance of the meeting. A document on these and further non-highway related questions is appended. Questions relating to highway issues were picked up under the item on County Highways localism.

At this point the Committee reconvened into formal session.

**168 COUNTY HIGHWAYS LOCALISM**

**(1) Highways Localism – Role of the Area Committees**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning and Transportation detailing the new role of the Area Committee in dealing with highway issues through 'Localism'.

**Resolved**

That the Committee notes the localism objectives for the Area Committee as set out in the report.

**(2) Localism Programme of Works for 2009/10**

The Committee considered the report of the Area Manager (South), Essex County Highways on the work programme under the Localism initiative for 2009/10. The report included a list of updates relating to highways issues raised at previous meetings of the Central Area Committee.

Responding to questions, Andy Hilsdon advised that:-

- Whilst funding for the schemes identified in report appendix A had already been agreed, there was scope to amend the list to a certain degree. At the current time it was intended to undertake all the schemes identified in Appendix A during 2009/10.
- The situation with regard to changes to the phasing of the traffic light facility at the junction of Greensward Lane with Plumberow Avenue was set out at Appendix C of the report.
- Works to the footways in Brays Lane, Ashingdon were included under Appendix B of the report. A complication for this particular scheme was a need for some land acquisition.
- Traffic regulation orders can be used for the purposes of addressing parking on grass verges. However, they can adversely affect local residents. Alternatives include the introduction of bollards or letters targeted at offenders. Although the Essex Act includes a provision for addressing parking on verges, there are issues around definitions in terms of enforcement. The County was currently considering the way forward and there could be an update on this aspect to the next meeting.
- Issues of parking on pavements are usually addressed by the police.
- Under Localism, the Area Committee is able to indicate the prioritisation it would like to be given to footway schemes.
- The recently completed new zebra crossing at the Ashingdon Road/Bosworth Road junction was an example of a safety scheme.

The District Council's Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation, Cllr K H Hudson, confirmed that concern raised about power poles at Rectory Road, Hawkwell, would be investigated from a health and safety perspective. Separately, advice would be sought from the Police on the precise legal position with regard to responsibilities for addressing issues of parking on footpaths.

### **169 CENTRAL AREA UPDATE**

The Committee received the Central Area update.

#### **Opening a route for horses on western side of Clements Hall to come out at Hawkwell Park Drive and join the bridleway to Park Gardens (12/07)**

Funding with this project was within the Capital Programme for the current financial year. Details would be finalised with the County Council. Whilst the principle of the proposal had been agreed, final detail would be provided to the Committee.

Thanks were extended to the Head of Legal Services for his work on this matter.

#### **Three broken bollards on the Betts Farm Estate, Hockley (15/08)**

The Committee was pleased to note that the bollards had now been replaced.

#### **Possible issues with young people obtaining alcohol in the Golden Cross area of Ashingdon (2/09)**

The Committee would appreciate conclusions being brought back to the next meeting.

The Portfolio Holder for Young Persons, Adult Services, Community Care and Well-Being, Health and Community Safety, Cllr Mrs L Butcher, confirmed that the Police were pro-active on this subject. The concern of a resident about young people carrying alcohol in the Spencers area of Hawkwell and nearby bridle paths/playing fields could be raised with the Police.

Prior to the close of the meeting, thanks were extended to the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Cllr M G B Starke, for his efforts in addressing some waste related issues at shops in Hockley. The Committee concurred with the observation of the Chairman that the three Portfolio Holders who were members of the Committee should be thanked for their contributions.

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The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

If you would like these minutes in large print, braille or another language please contact 01702 546366.

Appendix

| Question   | Response  |
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| <p><b>B Guyett, Hockley</b></p> <p>RDC are conducting 3 major, concurrent planning consultations i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Core Strategy (CS)</li> <li>- Southend Airport area (JAAP)</li> <li>- Hockley Town centre (HAAP).</li> </ul> <p>All have major implications on our already overcrowded highways i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CS: 3500 extra houses and more businesses</li> <li>- JAAP: 2m extra air passengers plus extra staff as well as extra businesses and changed travel movements to airport and businesses</li> <li>- HAAP: extra housing and changed business traffic flows.</li> </ul> <p>Yet despite all these major consultations no thought appears to have been given to the individual, yet alone combined, impact on our roads.</p> <p>ECC Highways have confirmed they have no plans for road improvements to address the increased traffic.</p> <p>Can RDC confirm:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) are they satisfied that the road network can cope with the extra traffic?</li> <li>2) if not, what plans do they have to address the issue?:</li> <li>3) what funding is available for road improvements generally (i.e. not specifically related to new housing sites)?</li> </ol> | <p>The Rochford Core Strategy is the overarching planning policy document for the district and all other development plan documents, including the JAAP and the HAAP, must conform to the policy framework set in that document. The RCS includes policies for the preparation of the JAAP and the HAAP and the plan recognises that new development must be accompanied by the requisite highway infrastructure improvements to mitigate impact on the highway network.</p> <p>Rochford Council is not the highway authority, but is working closely with Essex County Council to identify highway infrastructure requirements. Highway infrastructure improvements will be set out in the Core Strategy and other subsequent Development Plan Documents as required. These will be fed into the next version of the Essex Local Transport Plan, which is effectively a bidding document for funds to implement highway infrastructure improvements, schemes to tackle congestion, etc.</p> <p>The District Council is working closely with the Essex County Council to ensure that highway infrastructure identified in the Core Strategy can be delivered.</p> |

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| <p><b>B Guyett, Hockley</b></p> <p>Why are the Central Area Committee meetings not held in Hockley as often as they are held in the other villages?</p>   | <p>A number of parameters are used to identify appropriate venues across the Central Area (sufficient tables/chairs for anticipated minimum attendance levels, sound equipment, catering arrangements and the press. There are also car parking/accessibility considerations etc). Whilst the Hockley Community Centre and the Greensward Academy have accommodation that meet the parameters, the Community Centre was fully booked at the required times.</p> |
| <p><b>T Gleadall, Hockley Parish Plan Group</b></p> <p>Last week there was a traffic survey on the junction of Hockley Rise and Southend Road. Who instigated the survey and what was the purpose? Will the conclusions be available to the public?</p> | <p>The Planning and County Officers available at the meeting had no knowledge of this survey and enquiries would be undertaken.</p>   |
| <p><b>G Yeadell, Hockley</b></p> <p>Will the Hockley Area Action Plan be on the agenda of the next meeting of the Central Area Committee?</p>   | <p>The District Council is now at a stage when all questions received in respect of the Action Plan are being analysed. It is unlikely that there would be a need to undertake further consultation until next year.</p>  |
| <p><b>G Dryhurst, Ashingdon Parish Council</b></p> <p>Concern at parking around Tonbridge Road and Orchard Avenue endangering children attending Plumberow School.</p>  | <p>Hockley Parish Council was actively looking at this issue.</p>   |