

Community Services Committee – 2 December 2003

Minutes of the meeting of the **Community Services Committee** held on **2 December 2003** when there were present:-

Cllr K A Gibbs (Chairman)
Cllr T E Goodwin (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Mrs R Brown
Cllr Mrs S A Harper
Cllr Mrs L Hungate
Cllr C C Langlands

Cllr J R F Mason
Cllr C R Morgan
Cllr Mrs M J Webster
Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R A Amner, R G S Choppen and Mrs J R Lumley.

SUBSTITUTES

Cllr C A Hungate

OFFICERS PRESENT

S Clarkson	Head of Revenue and Housing Management
G Woolhouse	Head of Housing, Health and Community Care
M Martin	Committee Administrator

541 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2003 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

542 PROGRESS ON DECISIONS

In response to Member questions, the following was noted/agreed:-

Caravan Site Licensing

An update on the legal position concerning repairs to roads and footpaths had been reported to Members on the previous Progress on Decisions schedule. (HHHCC)

Woodlands Strategy

Officers were continuing to pursue receipt of the finalised Woodlands Grant Scheme documents. An update on the Bio Diversity Plan would be provided for Members, together with the timescale for being brought to Committee. (CD(F&ES))

Proposed Designation of Public Places in Terms of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 and Local Authorities (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations 2002

A definition of the term “designation of public places” would be supplied to Members. (CE)

Developing Healthcare Services in South East Essex

Details were still awaited from the Primary Care Trust with regard to the location of a satellite site for an additional Outpatient Centre, now that Fossets Farm had been identified as the site for the Diagnostic & Treatment Centre. (HHCC)

Woodland Strategy Resources

Members would be updated via the Members’ Bulletin once details of a grant under the countryside stewardship scheme had been received. (CD(F&ES))

Old Ship Lane Toilets – First Resolution – Approval to demolish and develop Car Park, Rochford

Members noted that the Application for Conservation Area Consent would be made next week. (CD(F&ES))

543 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT – BUSINESS PLAN AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2004/05

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management which invited Members to consider the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan and Capital Programme for 2004/05 and subsequent years.

Members were in agreement that early consultation with tenants and residents in Ormond Avenue, Rochford, should commence in respect of the request that additional car parking be provided. Members noted that a provision of £9,000 had been made in the Capital Programme which included an estimated cost for re-routing utilities.

Recommended to Council

- (1) That consultation with tenants and residents in Ormond Avenue be commenced at an early stage to gauge support for the suggestion that additional car parking should be provided in Ormond Avenue, Rochford.
- (2) That the Capital Programme, as appended to the report, be agreed. (HRHM)

544 SHELTERED HOUSING SCHEME MANAGEMENT

The Committee noted the report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management which advised Members of a survey of tenants in Sheltered

Accommodation to ascertain the tenants' views on the revised working of the Scheme Managers.

Whilst Members were pleased that the survey had been undertaken, they were disappointed at the slowness of responses.

545 JOINT PROTOCOL BETWEEN ESSEX POLICE AND ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL TO DEAL WITH UNLICENSED EVENTS

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care which assessed the implications for the Council if it agreed to a joint protocol with Essex Police for dealing with unlicensed music and dancing events and invited Members to authorise the Head of Service to sign the Protocol.

Members noted that:-

- Essex Police were happy with the suggested amendments to paragraphs 3.5 and 3.6 around officer attendance under the headings "Pre-Planned Response" and "Spontaneous Response".
- All out-of-hours procedures were periodically reviewed and internal guidelines would be produced.
- Given the nature and infrequency of this type of nuisance within the District, Members have previously rejected any decision to introduce duty officers who would be on standby out of hours.
- Whilst the public opinion survey had not strongly supported the need for out-of-hours standby arrangements, arrangements would be considered as part of the budget making process.

Resolved

That the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care be authorised to sign the Protocol after it has been amended in accordance with paragraphs 3.5 and 3.6. (HHHCC)

546 POST OFFICE CLOSURES IN THE ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive, which sought Members' view on proposals outlined by the Post Office in respect of the Post Office branch network in the District.

Members were in agreement that the closure of any Post Office branch could not be supported, but were extremely concerned at the specific proposals to close the branches at Apex Corner, Hockley and Golden Cross, Rochford.

In particular, Members were concerned for elderly people and those without available transport who would need to walk some distance, in the absence of public transport, to an alternative branch, often across undulating terrain.

Resolved

That this Council's response to the Post Office in respect of proposed closures be that any closures would be opposed, but in particular those at Apex Corner, Hockley and Golden Cross, Rochford. (CE)

The meeting closed at 8.23 pm.

Chairman

Date