

RAYLEIGH TOWN CENTRE - OUTSTANDING ISSUES

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report updates Members on a series of outstanding issues arising from meetings of the Rayleigh Town Centre Forum.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The last meeting of the Forum was in September 2001 and this report provides an update on the outstanding issues of concern for Rayleigh Town Centre.
- 2.2 A list of the issues and actions taken to date is listed in Appendix One attached to this report.

3 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That, subject to comments from Members, the Rayleigh Town Centre actions update be noted and that twice yearly updates be provided to the Environment Committee. (HPS)

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APPENDIX ONE

RAYLEIGH TOWN CENTRE UPDATE

OUTSTANDING ISSUES	ACTION
<p>1. Reinstatement quality control process Paving standards throughout the town are poor; frequently due to lack of grouting. Highways are aware of the areas outside the Mobile Phone shop and the Library. The Highways officer reported that a percentage of repairs are checked, the rest depends on trust.</p> <p>The Chamber of Trade advised the following areas where paving was in a poor condition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grouting problems – outside Richard Paul Hairdressing, the Library, Superdrug, Stephens Florist, Corals. • Loose paving slab outside Sports World. • Kerb breakaway outside Linen Shop. • Tactile paving damage outside the bus stop outside Mackays. <p>It was noted that contractors would rectify the paving outside the mobile phone shop, which had been installed in the wrong shade.</p>	<p>County Highways monitoring</p> <p>Work outside Library ordered from Adshel.</p>
<p>2. General condition of Town Centre is looking poor - particularly street furniture Highways agreed that the Town Council should undertake the painting of seats, bins, bollards, railings and lamp posts up to the lights. Highways would supply the Town Council with a list of work which is currently outstanding and also a list of how frequently the County Council would be able to carry out this work.</p>	<p>Town Council/County Highways</p>
<p>3. Bollard opposite the Superdrug store at the junction of the High Street and Eastwood Road This had been hit again following repair, demonstrating the difficulty caused by that kerblines. Members were informed that the 'spot' at that roundabout would be moved 300</p>	<p>Roundabout relocated and being monitored by County Highways</p>

<p>mm in the direction of Eastwood Road and also towards the Church end of the High Street. The Chamber of Trade reported that it is currently not safe to follow the Highway Code and go around the existing 'spot' and that moving the kerbline would be one solution. They are disappointed that local transport operators are often not consulted on important Highway issues.</p>	
<p>4. Junction of Church Street and Websters Way. Area Manager to report back to Members on this before the next meeting, together with the outcome of a traffic light study at the junction of Websters Way/Hockley Road/High Street.</p> <p>During further debate on items related to this issue, Members raised a concern relating to traffic flow round and through Rayleigh Town Centre and requested that the Lollypop Ladies be re-educated to allow traffic to flow, whilst balancing the need for pedestrians to cross the road safely.</p> <p>The issue of improved crossing facilities at the top of Crown Hill were mooted. However, the Area Highways Manager was of the opinion that the current zebra crossing was the best solution that could be achieved in this area.</p>	<p>Report awaited from County Highways</p>
<p>5. Taxi Shelter – Boots Lagoon The Rayleigh Times had incorrectly reported that the Town Council had been asked to provide a taxi shelter in the Boots Lagoon. Await outcome of Traffic Regulation Order before matter is progressed. Town Council will have the opportunity to formally register objections.</p>	<p>The provision of shelters to be considered after a decision on revisions to the Traffic Regulation Order</p>
<p>6. CCTV Rayleigh Town Council reported that CCTV is only of real benefit if regularly monitored. 14 or 15 cameras would be the ideal number. Currently seven cameras exist and the Town Council have ordered a further five. The Chamber of Trade advised that funding had</p>	<p>Rayleigh Town Council</p>

<p>been secured and a position identified for two cameras they were supplying.</p> <p>The Police have identified the known trouble spots. Currently the High Street is covered by wide angled lenses. In order to use as evidence in support of crimes, the Police have advised that the lenses need to be more focused.</p> <p>The Town Council confirmed that the correct procedure would be followed regarding trees which are currently obscuring views and the issue of siting cameras on listed buildings. They hoped soon to finalise their plans with the Police for the positioning of cameras.</p>	
<p>7. Love Lane Car Park – Exit Survey County Highways to report on progress.</p>	<p>To be carried out when resources allow.</p>
<p>8. Flowers The Town Council reported that the contractors have been advised of the poor condition of flowers this year, particularly in flower baskets. Watering has recommenced on a daily basis, although insufficient funds may mean this regularity cannot continue.</p>	<p>Rayleigh Town Council</p>
<p>9. Update on Traffic Regulation Order It was noted that the advertisement relating to the Traffic Regulation Order would be published on or before 5 October, with a three week public consultation period. Whilst the matter was in the public domain, Essex County Council's Legal Department would be preparing the documents for formal consultation which would occur immediately afterwards. Any objections to the Traffic Regulation Order could be reported back to the District Council's Transportation & Environmental Services Committee on 28 November 2001.</p>	<p>TRO being processed</p>

<p>10. Paving at Millennium Clock The Town Council reported that they were continuing to chase the Eastern Electricity Board for resolution of this matter.</p>	<p>Rayleigh Town Council</p>
<p>11. Laybys The tegula blocks in the bus laybys are cracked</p>	<p>County Highways</p>
<p>12. White Lines White lines on the way into town from Rayleigh Weir are faded and require repainting – what is the likely timetable for this?</p>	<p>County Highways Following maintenance work in March.</p>
<p>13. Fly-posting Fly-posting still not being removed promptly – monitoring officers are still not dealing with this as quickly as Members would like – there is also a need to remove the attachments (cable ties, sticky tape, etc)</p>	<p>Monitoring Officers are dealing with removal when this is possible. However, they are unable to remove posters on private property when stuck on glass windows, etc, as there are Health and safety implications. Overall there is a resource issue around this task as the monitoring officers have more duties than they are able to cover in their working hours.</p>
<p>14. Brooklands Members requested details of ownership of a piece of neglected land on the embankment outside Brooklands. The pond at this site is also in need of cleaning.</p>	<p>Rochford District Council/County Highways The embankment outside the site does not belong to RDC, and ECC have also indicated that it does not belong to them. However, RDC has cleaned the embankment of litter on a number of occasions. The pond was partially cleared in 2001, and is being cleaned and cleared of weeds in February 2002. There will be a programme of ongoing</p>

	maintenance to the pond.
<p>15. Advertising Hoarding – junction of Castle Road/High Street Rubbish is being left there. Ownership of board requested.</p>	Rochford District Council
<p>16. Free shopping bus Members noted that the free shopping bus frequently parks for a considerable amount of time in this lay-by, thereby preventing the use of the raised kerb facility. A letter to go to the manager of Sainsbury's to highlight the problem.</p>	Actioned
<p>17. Half Moon Paved area outside could be enhanced with planter arrangements</p>	Rochford District Council/Rayleigh Town Council/County Highways
<p>18. Tackling graffiti This issue needs to be taken forward to the Community Safety Sub-Committee.</p>	Matter is identified for action in the Crime and Disorder strategy
<p>19. 20 mph zones Members noted that a report on Home Zones will be debated at the meeting of the Planning Policy Sub-Committee to be held on 5 September 2001.</p>	County Highways have a programme for investigating the provision of Residential Zones throughout the district
<p>20. Private footpath adj. Sansoms The Chamber of Trade agreed to deal with the issue of the untidiness of the private footpath at the side of Sansoms.</p>	Rayleigh Chamber of Trade
<p>21. Oriental Inn The Head of Planning Services would update Members on the situation regarding the Oriental Inn and the Bakery which are both closed.</p>	Planning application has been submitted for conversion of premises to a pub
<p>22. Planning Appeals It was suggested that the District Council might publicise those occasions when it loses Planning Appeals, in order that residents might be better informed. Members noted that these are all reported to the local press,</p>	Rochford District Council - HPS

<p>who choose which ones to publish and that Rochford District Matters is limited in terms of space.</p>	
<p>23. Pavement between Rayleigh Hi-Fi and Home Regal House Needs upgrading to be in keeping with the rest. Members requested a price for the next meeting. The question of it being jointly funded by the District Council, Town Council and Chamber of Trade could also be addressed.</p>	<p>County Highways</p>
<p>24. Cleaning under waste bins – update</p> <p>It was noted that no response had been received from the District Council’s Property Maintenance and Highways Manager. The Working Group agreed that he should be invited to meet with the Chamber of Trade to walk the Town Centre to be shown the problem areas.</p> <p>The Working Group considered the matter concerned environmental standards which apparently were not being met. If this was the case, it was requested that a report be brought to the Transportation and Environmental Services Committee.</p>	<p>Rochford District Council</p> <p>A meeting was held with representatives of the Chamber of Trade in 2001. The areas under the bins are being cleaned of collected rubbish.</p> <p>However, as pointed out at that meeting, some of the staining is due to rusting of the bins which need redecoration.</p> <p>EPA standards are being met in Rayleigh High Street and appropriate monitoring indicates that the standard is being met on 99% of the inspections.</p>
<p>25. General Condition of Town Centre</p> <p>Essex County Council advised that they allocated a fifth of the Town Centre budget for furniture to be painted on a year on year basis. The Town Council advised there was still a question over responsibility for the painting works and Essex County Council advised they would speak further with their Legal Department and endeavour to clarify matters in due course.</p>	<p>Town Council/County Highways</p>

<p>26. Dead Trees outside Sansoms and Iceland It was noted that the County Arboriculturist was of the opinion that the death of the tree could possibly have been caused by a gas leak. It was agreed that the tree should either be replaced with a gas resistant species or that the leak should be fixed.</p>	<p>County Highways/Patrick McKenna</p>
<p>27. Mechanical Sweeper – Town Centre Members had before them the Cleansing Schedule for the mechanical sweeper in Rayleigh High Street. The Group were of the opinion that it was hard to believe the mechanical sweeper was performing up to standard, indeed it was mooted that the schedule included roads, which some District Council Members believed had been removed at the Contract specification stage.</p> <p>It was noted that the Town Councillors present did not have a copy of the Schedule. The Working Group requested that the Council’s Monitoring Officers look into the situation of whether the mechanical sweeper was indeed being used at the times stated on the Schedule as they believed the time periods used were not achievable.</p>	<p>Rochford District Council</p> <p>Schedules of sweeper operation have been provided to the Chamber of Trade.</p> <p>The list of roads being swept has been amended in line with Members’ requests.</p> <p>Monitoring of the sweeper has been ongoing and records of activity are kept.</p>
<p>28. Skateboard Nuisance It was noted that this matter was being reported to the next meeting of the Council’s Community Services Committee on 2 October.</p>	<p>Rochford District Council now followed statutory process to implement a Bylaw in liaison with DTLR.</p>
<p>29. Flowers The Working Group were advised that the Town Council had recently advertised a three year contract for hanging baskets in the Town Centre. It was noted that the report in the Rayleigh Times had misinformed people that the hanging baskets were solely the work of the Town Council and it was requested that the Town Council write to Rayleigh Times in order for an article to be placed thanking the sponsors for their help in this year’s flower display.</p>	<p>Rayleigh Town Council</p>

<p>30. Crossing – Traffic Lights outside Civic Suite It was noted that the repair to paving at the kerbline had been completed earlier in the week.</p>	Highways - completed
<p>31. Temporary Poles Essex County Council undertook to look into the removal of these poles.</p>	Highways - completed
<p>32. Clean Up areas to the rear of Websters Way Members requested that a report be brought back to the Working Group on the District Council's responsibilities for ensuring areas to the rear of shops were clean and clear of rubbish. The suggestion of school children undertaking a litter pick in the area was mooted. However, this did not meet with support.</p>	Rochford District Council
<p>33. Graffiti The Working Group requested that the obscene words which had been painted on the side of the derelict pavilion in King George's Playing Field be painted over.</p>	HPS/Town Council