

Central Area Committee – 9 November 2010

Minutes of the meeting of the **Central Area Committee** held on **9 November 2010** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs L M Cox
Vice-Chairman: Cllr Mrs C A Weston

Cllr Mrs L A Butcher	Cllr M Maddocks
Cllr P A Capon	Cllr J R F Mason
Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn	Cllr Mrs J E McPherson
Cllr M Hoy	Cllr J Thomass
Cllr K H Hudson	

ALSO PRESENT

Cllr Mrs M A Weir	– Hawkwell Parish Council
Cllr B Hazelwood	– Hockley Parish Council
Cllr Miss A Marriott	– Hullbridge Parish Council
J Hull	– Essex Trading Standards
S Lynch	– Essex Trading Standards

OFFICERS PRESENT

N Khan	– Principal Solicitor
S Scrutton	– Head of Planning & Transportation
J Bostock	– Member Services Manager

285 AREA COMMITTEE – INITIAL BUSINESS

Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Cllr M R Carter.

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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

286 COMMUNITY FORUM

Questions raised during the Community Forum and the responses given are set out in the Appendix to these Minutes.

The Committee reconvened into formal session.

287 SPOTLIGHT ISSUE – PRESENTATION FROM ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL TRADING STANDARDS

The Committee was pleased to welcome John Hull and Steve Lynch of Essex County Council Trading Standards. Mr Hull delivered a presentation on the work of Essex County Council Trading Standards, specifically:-

- Doorstep trading/cold calling (the problem/what can be done/who to contact).
- Age restricted goods (what they are/the problems/what can be done).
- Buy with confidence – trader approved scheme (why an approved scheme/benefits to consumers/benefits to businesses/the nature of trading standards approval).

Responding to questions, the representatives from Trading Standards advised that:-

- The concern of a Member that young people may be able to access alcohol from a supermarket via online purchase would be raised with the Trading Standards team.
- The introduction of ‘no cold call zones’ was aimed at trade activities. Information on the precise position with regard to canvassing by politicians within such zones would be ascertained.
- Consumer Direct on 08454 040506 could offer advice to individuals on consumer law. Consumer Direct alerts Trading Standards to issues as appropriate.
- Concern at aggressive sales techniques utilised by the staff of agencies employed by energy companies falls within the remit of Trading Standards.
- The illegal sale of puppies is a problem across the Country, with concentrated work activity being undertaken in the Chelmsford area at the current time. Trading Standards undertakes roadside checks on vehicles with the police.
- The ‘Buy With Confidence’ scheme means that Trading Standards can now point consumers to trustworthy traders.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hull and Mr Lynch for their contribution.

288 CENTRAL AREA UPDATE

The Committee received the Central Area update.

Item 216/10 – Vehicles double parking where there are parking restrictions in Windermere Avenue, Hullbridge

Cllr Miss A Marriott confirmed that the fire service had been able to provide leaflets relating to its campaign on retaining access for emergency vehicles which would be distributed along Windermere Avenue shortly.

In response to a question from Cllr B Hazelwood, the Chairman confirmed that the latest situation with regard to the replacement of footpaths 8 and 9 adjacent to Brandy Hole on the river Crouch could be ascertained.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Chairman

Date

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

Appendix

Question	Response
<p>P James, Hawkwell</p> <p>I understand from reading the Echo that the Council has amended the Core Strategy and is undertaking a further public consultation.</p> <p>How will the many residents who do not receive the local paper know about this? Even if you have access to the internet you need to know that this Consultation is actually taking place to participate!!</p> <p>Please explain what changes have been made and how these will effect Hawkwell, Hockley, Hullbridge and the very nearby parts of Ashingdon which comprise of the Central Area?</p>	<p>The Council has carried out extensive consultation to notify residents of the proposed Schedule of Changes to the Rochford Core Strategy Development Plan Document, part of the Local Development Framework. The consultation is in accordance with our adopted Statement of Community Involvement, and includes:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emails sent to all people registered on our database (including those who had not made representations on previous iterations of the Core Strategy); • Letters to those on our database without email addresses (again, including those that had not responded to the Core Strategy previously); • Letters/emails to representative and community groups on our database; • Press releases to:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Echo – BBC Essex – ITV Anglia – Essex Chronicle – Yellow Advertiser – Rayleigh Times – Essex Enquirer – LGA First; • Formal notice in local paper; • “Hot Topic” on the Council’s website and links to our online consultation system; • Copies of the consultation available in the District’s libraries;

Question	Response
<p>E Short, Hawkwell</p> <p>Would not the green belt release requirement be reduced if the dwellings for sale in estate agents located in Rochford District were included in the Core Strategy – Proposed Amendments methodology, thereby reducing the proposed 190 dwellings per annum quota. Migrants such as myself came into the District having used this tried and tested method.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic exhibition material in Rochford and Rayleigh Council offices. <p>It is also worth noting that we contact a large number of people directly by email or letter. In fact, we have been encouraging those people that are interested in the future planning of the District to join our mailing list for some time now so that we can contact them directly and, as a result, we now have over 7,000 people registered on our system.</p> <p>The schedule of changes is available to view on the Council’s website, in our offices and at the public libraries.</p> <p>Specifically, Core Strategy Policy H2 lists a number of proposals for dwellings over the next 20 years, including 175 in South Hawkwell, 100 in East Ashingdon between 2011 and 2021, and 450 in South East Ashingdon between 2021 and 2031.</p> <p>The Core Strategy is about identifying net additions to the housing stock, though it is accepted there is merit in looking for opportunities to reduce the number of empty homes in the district.</p>

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<p>Miss Humphreys, Rochford</p> <p>What is the legal position around entitlement to own and drive a mobility scooter?</p> <p>What is the legal position around mobility scooter drivers allowing children to sit at the front of the scooter while driving the vehicle around the streets?</p>	<p>This question would be looked into with an update at the next meeting.</p>
<p>C White, Rochford</p> <p>Can the Council help us to ensure London Quadrant Housing Association maintain their boundary fence between Parklands and Ashingdon Gardens Block G, Lesney Gardens, Rochford as, due to constant criminal damage to this boundary fence, London Quadrant feel they no longer have the funds to continue to maintain this fence. When this fence has not been in place, anti-social behaviour and criminal damage to our property has risen dramatically.</p>	<p>Consideration would be given as to whether there has been a planning breach.</p>
<p>A James, Hockley</p> <p>Bearing in mind the decision to spread the period for the Core Strategy over a 20 year period, why is all the housing proposed for South Hawkwell and West Rochford in the first phase? Would it not be fairer to have spread housing across the District in each phase, allowing wind fall sites to come forward and thus reducing loss of greenbelt and lessening the environmental impact?</p>	<p>The Core Strategy is subject to examination and the views of the public will be considered by an Inspector in due course. How plans might be adjusted to take account of regional spatial changes has already been considered, and the soundness of the Strategy will be tested in due course. The Council believes that it has taken a balanced approach to the distribution of housing in the district, taking account of both green field releases and development on brownfield land. However, it is understandable that there are differing views on aspects such as infrastructure.</p>

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<p>L Bannocks, Rochford</p> <p>As an owner of a new house in Ironwell Close, Rochford why is it that Ironwell Lane is still a byway and not a now needed highway for maintenance reasons. When can it be reclassified? Is Ironwell Close now adopted? If not, when would it be? The verges at the top of Ironwell Lane, along Ashingdon Road, are not cut frequently enough and cause a hazard when driving from Ironwell Lane into Ashingdon Road. Can the frequency of cutting be increased? Parent parking in Ironwell Lane/Ironwell Close is proving a constant problem between 2.45 to 3.45 pm. Can a new single yellow line restriction be put in place?</p>	<p>This issue, as it relates to the stretch of Ironwell Lane between Ashingdon Road and the railway bridge, would be raised with County Highways.</p>
<p>C White and L Bannocks, Rochford</p> <p>The planning consent for A – C Swaines Industrial Units had privacy glass and adequate soundproofing as conditions. This is not the case – residents from 70 to 104 Lesney Gardens, Rochford are being disturbed with noise. Can planning re-address the noise situation?</p>	<p>Consideration would be given as to whether there has been a planning breach.</p>