

Central Area Committee – 19 January 2010

Minutes of the meeting of the **Central Area Committee** held on **19 January 2010** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn
Vice-Chairman: Cllr P A Capon

Cllr Mrs L M Cox
Cllr K H Hudson
Cllr M Maddocks

Cllr J R F Mason
Cllr D G Stansby
Cllr M G B Starke

ALSO PRESENT

Cllr Mrs M A Weir - Hawkwell Parish Council
Cllr B Hazlewood - Hockley Parish Council
A Atherton - NHS South East Essex
L Harvey - Essex County Highways
N Szpigelman - Essex County Highways

OFFICERS PRESENT

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

MINUTES

14 AREA COMMITTEE – INITIAL BUSINESS

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs R Brown, Mrs L A Butcher, M R Carter, Miss A Marriott (Hullbridge Parish Council), J Thomass and Mrs C A Weston

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor J R F Mason declared a personal interest in the item on the Strategic Plan for NHS South East Essex by virtue of being a Public Governor for the Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

Councillor Mrs H L A Glynn declared a personal interest in the item on the Strategic Plan for NHS South East Essex by virtue of being a Carer Governor for the Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

Councillor K H Hudson took no part in the discussion on localism schemes to be progressed during 2010/11 by virtue of his role as Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation.

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

15 COMMUNITY FORUM

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

At this point the Committee reconvened into formal session.

16 SPOTLIGHT ISSUES

(1) Strategic Plan for NHS South East Essex 2009–2014

Dr Andrea Atherton, Director of Public Health, provided a verbal update on progress against the Strategic Plan for NHS South East Essex 2009–2014, which sets out a vision for improving the health and wellbeing of the residents of South East Essex over the next five years.

During the update Dr Atherton referred to the organisation's six key objectives. The Plan had been the subject of an extensive public consultation exercise from January to March 2009. Marked changes in the economy and public finances meant that there was an assumption of no growth after the financial year 2010-11. Achievements during the first year of the plan include increased access to phlebotomy services in the community, endoscopy services in the community, improved access to NHS dentistry, improved access to psychological therapies and a major extension at Audley Mills Surgery, Rayleigh. June 2009 had seen the opening of the St. Luke's Centre -a GP surgery (for registered patients) with a walk in facility (for non-registered patients). As part of a "refreshed plan", care of the elderly services and musculoskeletal services have been enhanced. As part of the presentation, Dr Atherton drew attention to two current NHS consultation papers – one on patient rights and a local consultation on the format of a new provider organisation for community services.

Responding to questions Dr Atherton advised that there could be a report back to the Committee on:-

- The timeframe associated with the introduction of a primary care centre within the Rochford District.
- Work that had been done on access to dentistry and comparisons between units of dental activity within the Southend Borough and the Rochford District.
- The possibilities around an annual report card specifying progress made and delivered to the community raised at a previous meeting.

In response to concerns about the impact of recent issues at Basildon Hospital, it was noted that routine waiting times were regularly monitored at Southend Hospital and, to date, these were being met.

The Chairman observed that, in the context of investment considerations, it is important to be mindful of maintaining service levels for carers and cared persons.

The Chairman thanked Dr Atherton for attending the meeting.

(2) Update on Highways Localism

The Committee considered the report of the Area Highways Manager South on the progress of schemes under the Localism programme for 2009/10 and which schemes should be progressed during 2010/11. The report also included an update of issues raised at previous meetings of the Central Area Committee.

In presenting the report Mrs Harvey confirmed that, in addition to monies for Localism, the County Council had a budget for highway and footway works to address issues such as potholes.

During discussion it was observed that, when the County Council is communicating works to the Parish/Town Councils, it would assist if locations are identified on a map. It was noted that some of the locations identified in the report fell within the Eastern Area of the District. It was also noted that the introduction of two permanent speed signs on the Approach Road was being financed through community initiative funding and was on target for March 2010. Once Highways officers knew which Localism schemes had been identified for progression during 2010/11, detailed work could be undertaken on precise feasibility and costing.

Responding to questions Mrs Harvey confirmed that, if a resident finds that legal vehicular access is restricted through inappropriate parking this would be a matter for the police to address. It was also confirmed that the Town/Parish Councils should have been included in recent communication on the installation of bus shelters for Essex County Council passenger transport.

Having considered which schemes to be progressed during 2010/11 it was:-

Resolved

That the following prioritised list of Localism schemes be recommended to Essex County Council for delivery during 2010/11:-

Scheme/Description	Estimated Cost	Order or Preference 1–4 where 1 is highest priority
Rectory Road, Hawkwell – Relocate street furniture to edge of rear of footway to allow greater access to pedestrians	To be confirmed	3

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Scheme/Description	Estimated Cost	Order or Preference 1–4 where 1 is highest priority
Woodpond Avenue, Hockley Rise, Sunny Road, Belchamps Way, Wood End, Hockley – Pram Crossings	£20K	1
White Hart Lane between British Legion Hall and Shops – Provide footway	To be confirmed	2
Hall Road, Hawkwell – Provide footway between The Lawns and the cemetery	To be confirmed	1
Pooles Lane, Hullbridge – Protection of verge to prevent parking abuse	£3–£10K	3
Rectory Terrace, Rectory Road, Hawkwell – Protection of verge to prevent parking and obstruction of sight lines	£500	1
Clifton Road, Ashingdon – Temporary vehicle activated signs	Rangers work	1
White Hart Lane – Temporary vehicle activated signs	Rangers work	1
Beech Road, Hullbridge – Carriageway Resurfacing	To be confirmed	2

17 CENTRAL AREA UPDATE

The Committee received the Central Area update.

Replace of length of footpaths 8 and 9 adjacent to Brandy Hole on the River Crouch (Item 11/07)

Hockley Parish Council held extensive photographs of this location for use as appropriate. It was observed that, given the lengthy timeframes that can be associated with this type of issue, the project should be considered a priority.

Concern at the dangers of speeding Lorries along White Hart Lane (Item 8/09)

A further site meeting had been scheduled to help address concerns.

Availability of Parish Council office accommodation for a Police Satellite office (Item 12/09)

It was observed that, a few years ago, the then Chief Constable had not felt the introduction of outlying offices to be appropriate.

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Bench seat at the Clements Hall grounds (Item 13/09)

It was agreed that the Head of Environmental Services, in consultation with the two local Ward Members, should determine the location of a bench seat in the Clements Hall grounds. (HES)

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Chairman

Date

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Question	Response
<p>A James, Hawkwell</p> <p>A number of people, including myself, have asked questions in previous Central Area Committee meetings but have still not had these questions answered. It is no good saying you will take the question away and get back to you when I have an answer if this does not happen. Are RDC going to answer these questions or are they hoping they will be forgotten?</p>	<p>It was confirmed that Mr James should provide officers with the detail of any questions that have not been answered.</p>
<p>A James, Hawkwell</p> <p>I have received many complaints about the dog bins not being emptied on a regular basis particularly in Clements Hall grounds and the three Parish Council parks, which I believe are part of the same contract. This seems to have been particularly bad during December 2009 before we had the snow. Would it be possible for RDC to monitor the situation and take steps where necessary?</p>	<p>The District Council's Head of Environmental Services would take this issue up with the Council's contractor with an update to the next meeting.</p>
<p>Mrs M Curtis, Benfleet for British Horse Society</p> <p>With regard to the Wallesea Island Wild Coast Project can the Area Committee please take action to overcome the RSPBs decision to omit Rochford's equestrians from being included in the public access to this special wetland landscape area. Despite the British Horse Society, on behalf of local riders, being assured in 2008 of access consideration along with walkers and cyclists of an 8.4 kilometre bridleway, equestrians are now alone to be omitted.</p>	<p>The District Council's Head of Planning and Transportation would establish the precise details of the situation with the project manager and provide an update to the next meeting.</p>