

Central Area Committee – 18 November 2009

Minutes of the meeting of the **Central Area Committee** held on **18 November 2009** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn

Cllr Mrs L A Butcher
Cllr M R Carter
Cllr Mrs L M Cox
Cllr K H Hudson

Cllr M Maddocks
Cllr D G Stansby
Cllr M G B Starke

ALSO PRESENT

Cllr Mrs M A Weir - Hawkwell Parish Council
G Westley - Essex Police
J Gilham - Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
A James - Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
D Fairweather - Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

OFFICERS PRESENT

A Bugeja - Head of Legal & Technical Services
J Bostock - Committee Services Manager

298 AREA COMMITTEE – INITIAL BUSINESS

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs R Brown, P A Capon, B Hazlewood (Hockley Parish Council), Miss A Marriott (Hullbridge Parish Council), J R F Mason and C A Weston.

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn declared a personal interest in the item on Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust by virtue of being a Trust Governor.

Cllr Mrs L A Butcher declared a personal interest in the item on Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust by virtue of being a Trust Governor and in the item on crime and disorder in the Central Area by virtue of being a member of the Rochford District Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

299 SPOTLIGHT ISSUES

(1) Update on Crime and Disorder in the Central Area of the District

Chief Inspector Glen Westley, Essex Police, provided an update on crime and disorder in the central area of the District and central area update item 8/09 (speeding lorries along White Hart Lane).

With regard to item 8/09, there appeared to be an issue with lorries at the point where White Hart Lane joins Magnolia Road. There is to be a site visit at 9.00am on 5 December. The Committee noted that this location was separate to that referred to by a Mr B Mather in a question considered under the community forum.

Responding to questions, the Chief Inspector advised that:-

- Regular meetings with District Council officers assist the Police in identifying problem locations.
- Police resources have been re-organised to achieve an even spread in the local context.
- Whilst statistics show that the District is relatively safe, the Police are not complacent. The 'vigilance' programme has been introduced across Essex to help combat street robbery.
- The Police took a proactive approach to potential problems around Halloween, including the leafleting of schools and parents. Halloween, Christmas and the New Year period could bring policing problems and it is important to undertake advance planning to ensure key resources are in key places.
- NPO Steve Joynes was currently working with a contractor to resolve some health and safety questions relating to a planned satellite office near Hockley railway station. A suggestion that a Parish Council may have office accommodation that the Police could use would be followed up.
- The overall detection rate across the County for robberies was 30%. The format for reporting statistics was to be reviewed after the current round of Area Committee meetings.
- The abstraction rate (the number of times that NPO's are required for non scheduled duties) is considered when roles are allocated. This is to be further reviewed.
- Whilst he was not aware of the contents of a specific email in public circulation relating to car hijacking, it is important to remain vigilant.

The Chairman thanked the Inspector for attending and for the effective work of the Police locally.

(2) Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

The Committee received a presentation from John Gilham, Chief Executive of the Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, on the Trust's Annual Plan 2009/10.

In response to questions, the following was noted:-

- The Trust continues to work on improving communications with patients and ensuring patients are clear about the plan of action when they are admitted to hospital.
- The Trust is working to put in further improvements to enhance the existing arrangements for providing separate male/female patients facilities. Recent work has involved further provision of toilets/bathroom facilities and the hospital was in the process of separating emergency assessment facilities in line with new guidance that applies from the end of March 2010. The results of a survey of patients in relation to privacy and dignity showed the hospital scoring highly.
- Whilst there was further work to be done, a number of mechanisms were used to convey proposals to staff. All staff were provided with detail on Trust objectives and the value of their roles in that context. A system of monthly core briefs was used to relay strategic information.
- Health Care Assistants supported qualified nursing staff. The Trust had introduced 'feeding buddies', utilising volunteers in helping individuals follow recommended feeding arrangements
- There had been a memory clinic within the Day Assessment Unit for a number of years. There was joint working with the South Essex Partnership Trust on dementia and the Trust employed a mental health specialist with experience in dementia.
- The Trust recognised that appropriate service provision needed to be in place over public holidays and weekends.
- Whilst the Hospital Trust is working with NHS South Essex on a proposal for the location of an urgent care centre pod at the hospital, a pre-requisite would be that such a facility should not be detrimental to existing services. The final decision on whether this scheme is feasible has yet to be taken.

Congratulations were extended to the Trust for its work in reducing admission waiting times.

The Chairman thanked the Trust representatives for attending presentation.

Central Area Committee – 18 November 2009

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

300 COMMUNITY FORUM

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

At this point the Committee re-convened into formal session.

301 CENTRAL AREA UPDATE

The Committee received the Central Area update.

The meeting closed at 9.03 pm.

Chairman

Date

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Question	Response
<p>A James, Hawkwell</p> <p>What plans do RDC have to overcome the situation with the power supplies to our area? We have been reliably informed the power cuts that we had last week, that were particularly bad in the Rectory Road area, were caused by old transformer poles that are used in rural areas. The problem is made worse by the lack of trained maintenance men for this type of work. As we experience these cuts almost every winter, we are concerned that the planned new homes for Rectory Road would make the electrical infrastructure situation critical. What plans do RDC have to overcome this problem?</p>	<p>The delivery of electricity to properties in the District is the responsibility of EDF Energy. Therefore, information about the arrangements for checking and replacing the wooden telegraph poles that are used in many parts of the District to carry electricity from sub-stations to properties should be sought directly from EDF. It is believed that recent power cuts were related to a fault in a sub-station.</p> <p>The arrangements for supplying electricity to a new development are likely to involve the provision of a new sub-station of suitable capacity and this is a technical matter for the developer. The electricity from such a sub-station at new properties will usually be by underground cables.</p>
<p>A James, Hawkwell</p> <p>Are RDC going to replace the two seats that have been removed from Clements Hall grounds? We are informed that these were removed because of complaints from residents even though one of these seats was actually located in an area away from housing. We received no complaints about these seats when they existed but we have now that they have been removed. Could you please replace the seat that was away from housing and find a new location for the other one.</p>	<p>The benches at the Clements Hall grounds have not been removed by Environmental Services for a number of years. It is intended that further investigation be undertaken to identify the owner of the seats and the reason for their removal. A further report will be made to the next meeting.</p>
<p>A James, Hawkwell</p> <p>Would it be possible for RDC to ensure that all employees and contractors working for them on road work have labels on their jackets? It has been brought to our attention that last week leaf clearers in Rectory Road had yellow</p>	<p>On any contract of this nature it is a requirement under health and safety legislation that all employees wear high visibility jackets or waistcoats. The refuse contractor, SITA, requires that all its staff wear clothing with its logo. SITA</p>

Central Area Committee – 18 November 2009

<p>visibility jackets with no name on the back. The resident is concerned that they could be a bogus group sizing up properties for burglary.</p>	<p>have been undertaking extra work and have employed Agency staff. It is normal practice that the Agency supplying the workforce also provides the safety equipment. The main reason for this is to control any clothing with company logos printed on them so as to prevent identify theft. If the clothing is not returned, casual workers could misrepresent the company in some manner. This is a short term arrangement as SITA's policy is to employ its own staff as much as possible so as not to rely on Agency or casual workers. SITA has recently agreed to introduce two extra crews, which should help to overcome this problem.</p>
<p>D Mather, Hawkwell</p> <p>Does the Committee think that 3½ years is too long to resolve an issue raised by my mother (Mrs B Mather) regarding speeding traffic in White Hart Lane from the public open space to the Royal British Legion.</p>	<p>In expressing concern at the time factor and noting that Mrs Mather had been in previous liaison with County Council Highways in an attempt to resolve issues at this narrow location, it was confirmed that the matter would be raised directly with County Highways through the new localism arrangements (including police support as appropriate).</p>