

Central Area Committee – 13 January 2011

Minutes of the meeting of the **Central Area Committee** held on **13 January 2011** when there were present:-

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

Cllr Mrs L A Butcher
Cllr P A Capon
Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn
Cllr M Hoy
Cllr K H Hudson

Cllr M Maddocks
Cllr J R F Mason
Cllr Mrs J E McPherson
Cllr D G Stansby

ALSO PRESENT

Cllr Mrs M A Weir - Hawkwell Parish Council
Cllr B Hazelwood - Hockley Parish Council
Cllr Miss A Marriott - Hullbridge Parish Council
A/Sergeant S Joynes - Essex Police

OFFICERS PRESENT

N Khan - Principal Solicitor
J Bostock - Member Services Manager

10 AREA COMMITTEE – INITIAL BUSINESS

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 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 contributions from members of the public.

11 COMMUNITY FORUM

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

In conjunction with the response provided by the Head of Planning and Transportation on the Allocations DPD Consultation, the Council's Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation, Cllr K H Hudson, observed that it could be seen as inappropriate to apply valuable resources in relation to the Consultation, or any other DPD related documentation, until the District Council knows precisely how it stands with the Core Strategy and whether it will be approved by the Secretary of State. Should the Inspector determine that the Core Strategy is unsound, the Council may be asked to refer back to

housing allocation figures identified under the Regional Spatial Strategy, which would be worrying.

The Committee concurred with the observation of the Chairman that, notwithstanding that the Head of Planning and Transportation could be asked to clarify the definition of the term 'all responses to the allocations DPD consultation are available to view on the Council's website', the current situation pointed to there being no merit in utilising Council resources on this subject. A Member observed that appropriate wording could be added to the website qualifying the nature of the Consultation responses.

With regard to Watery Lane, the Committee noted that the Rayleigh Neighbourhood Action Panel had identified the enforcement of weight restrictions along the Lane as a priority. A/Sergeant Steve Joynes confirmed that, if appropriate, he would be happy to attend a meeting with representatives of Hullbridge Parish Council, Rawreth Parish Council and Rayleigh Town Council on this issue. It was confirmed that the District Council was mindful of highway infrastructure issues within the District and would continue to champion issues at Watery Lane as necessary.

The Committee reconvened into formal session.

12 SPOTLIGHT ISSUES – CRIME AND DISORDER IN THE CENTRAL AREA OF THE DISTRICT

The Committee welcomed A/Sergeant Steve Joynes to the meeting, who provided an update on crime and disorder in the Central Area of the District.

Whilst there had been an increase in violent incidents across the District, there had been a fall within the Central Area. Vehicle crime was down across the District. There had been an increase in burglary in the Central Area, but this was down across the District. Incidents of robbery had decreased in other parts of the District.

Operation Flax, involving plain clothed officers, was underway to address burglary. The recent merging of Rochford and Castle Point Police teams, working out of Rayleigh under the Rochford Commander, should mean that there will be an increase in the number of Police patrol vehicles. The Police were mindful of links between a specific group of travellers from the north of England and crime.

There had been an increase in anti-social behaviour across the District. A Dispersal Order had been introduced in the Centre of Rochford. The Police were in close liaison with the District Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator on acceptable behaviour contracts (the pre-cursor to anti-social behaviour orders).

It was noted that regulations published in 1988 could be applied to questions on the correct use of mobility scooters, including those raised in the Central Area Update paper (item 23/10). Whilst scooters can be used on roads, certain restriction and use regulations are applicable. The Police were

already addressing a number of issues and would be happy to know of the detail of cases of concern. Questions on this and other subjects can always be addressed to the appropriate Neighbourhood Action Panel. A national Police website www.askthepolice.co.uk can also be utilised. The question of scooter users and insurance cover could be looked into, as could the situation with regard to an individual riding a scooter whilst walking their dog if details could be provided.

There is no one set pattern associated with the timing/nature of burglaries. The Police looked to prosecute burglars and are happy to undertake a crime prevention survey at homes on request.

13 CENTRAL AREA UPDATE

Note: Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn declared a personal interest in any matters relating to Southend Hospital by virtue of being a Carer Governor for the University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, and would take no part in any discussion thereon.

The Committee received the Central Area Update.

Primary Care Trust (PCT) Statistics (Item 22/10)

It was recognised that changes associated with Government proposals for Practice Based Commissioning would have consequences for the health service locally. It would be useful if the PCT could attend a meeting to report on that and other previously raised aspects.

Ironwell Lane/Ironwell Close, Rochford (Item 25/10)

It was noted that a footpath crossed Ironwell Close. It was also noted that a school in the vicinity of Ironwell Lane had indicated to parents that they could park in the Lane.

The meeting closed at 8.34 pm.

Chairman

Date

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

Appendix

Question	Response
<p>A James, Hockley</p> <p>My son lives in a private flat and two years ago he and his neighbours were given green recycling bins and recycling information. The bin was then taken away and no explanation was given. Residents were informed about a year ago that recycling for flats will be introduced but one year later my son has still not heard anything. Could you please give this meeting an update?</p>	<p>Since the Maximise Recycling Scheme was introduced throughout the Rochford District in July 2008, the majority of flats have been provided with communal facilities for recycling of glass, plastics, paper and cans. However, we are keen to improve upon this and there is currently a project underway to upgrade these facilities to provide the full range of materials collected under the scheme, including food and garden waste, to all flats and mobile homes where practical.</p> <p>Due to the unique nature of flatted properties, each premises is being surveyed individually to determine how many bins are needed and how much space is available for the bins. The Recycling Team are currently working through all the properties in the district of which there are approximately 3,500 and we would welcome any point of contact from residents in flats to enable the roll-out to progress further.</p> <p>It is anticipated that a large proportion of the properties will be on the new three bin scheme by April 2011.</p>
<p>A James, Hockley</p> <p>On the 9 November 2010 a question was asked about the state of the stretch of Ironwell Lane between Ashingdon Road and the railway bridge and in the Central Area Committee minutes it states ‘this will be raised with Highways’. Hawkwell Residents Association have now had a complaint from one of our members that the Rectory Road end of Ironwell Lane should be swept down to the end of the housing area as there is a build up of dirt on the roads surface. Have you had a response from Highways on the Ashingdon end of Ironwell Lane and could you now pass on this new complaint about the Rectory Road end?</p>	<p>The Council’s Contractor has been asked to check the condition of the road and sweep if necessary.</p>

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Question	Response
<p>A James, Hockley</p> <p>On the 2 September in the Central Area Committee minutes it states 'Lyn Harvey confirmed that consideration was being given to concerns about a missing bus stop post and flag in Rectory Road in the vicinity of Sweyne Avenue'. The bus stop was already marked on the road but bus stop post, flag and time table are still missing. Could you please chase this up with Highways as they seem to be ignoring us?</p>	<p>The request for a post and flag has been passed to Essex County Council Passenger Transport - Adrian Summons. No date has been given for installation however a new contractor has been appointed to supply bus stop furniture and details will be passed on to the contractor as soon as possible.</p>
<p>B Guyett, Hockley</p> <p>Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) Discussion and Consultation – It is now nearly 9 months since this consultation, which attracted a record response of over 8,000 representation, was completed on 30 April. Yet it has still not been analysed and the result published. This is presumably because the overwhelming mass of responses rejected the council's proposals. However, further Core Strategy consultations and hearings have been undertaken in the interim. Does the Committee consider this is a positive example of open democracy and the image the Council wish to portray?</p>	<p>All responses to the Allocations DPD Consultation are available to view on the Council's website, and the responses are clearly categorised into objections, support or comments. Whilst the Allocations DPD is closely linked to the Core Strategy DPD, the procedures for the preparation of each document are separate. The delay in progressing the Core Strategy to adoption has inevitably resulted in a delay in progressing the other development plan documents intended to make up the Rochford Local Development Framework.</p>
<p>B Guyett, Hockley</p> <p>Watery Lane has lived up to its name in recent months, and also to its reputation for being dangerous with another major accident, yet the Council are looking to build hundreds of houses which will add to traffic volumes. Will the Council support residents in calling for urgent improvements and/or enforcement of existing restrictions?</p>	<p>The Core Strategy recognises the need for improvements to road infrastructure in Hullbridge if development is to take place. In the meantime, the Council certainly supports the effective enforcement of the existing weight limit restrictions.</p>
<p>A Gouldsmith, Hockley</p> <p>Are we going to have to wait until somebody dies before something will be done to prevent lorries travelling through Watery Lane?!</p>	<p>This question was addressed in tandem with the above related question.</p>