

WEST AREA COMMITTEE UPDATE

At the last meeting of this Committee, a number of issues were raised that required further investigation.

Ref No.	Issue	Progress	Officer details
37/07 (Minute 340/07)	The possibility of introducing a 20mph speed limit in Glasseys Lane and other roads nearby leading onto Eastwood Road, Rayleigh. (Issue raised by a District Councillor during the Highways Matters Spotlight item)	A consultation on County Highways' speed strategy was undertaken (consultation closed on 14 July) and the results are awaited. The main areas that have elicited comment are questions along the lines of making speed limits 20mph as standard instead of 30mph in urban areas, and reducing national speed limit to 50 instead of 60. The County's speed strategy will be shaped by the consultation results. The issue of Glasseys Lane will be reviewed when the consultation results are available.	A Hilsdon Essex County Council 01268 297561
14/08 (Minute 131/08)	Time restrictions for car parking in Little Wheatley Chase (Issue raised by a District Councillor during the Highways Matters Spotlight item)	Lines have now been installed.	A Hilsdon Essex County Council 01268 297561

Ref No.	Issue	Progress	Officer details
16/08 (Minute 131/08 and 269/08)	Feasibility study for a pedestrian crossing at the top of Downhall Park Way, near Rawreth Lane (Issue raised by a District Councillor during the Highways Matters Spotlight item)	The Safety Audit has identified some small issues that are currently under consideration. The next stage is to advertise the proposal. County Highways are working towards installation of the crossing during this financial year.	A Hilsdon Essex County Council 01268 297561
23/08 (Minute 268/08)	Extension of double yellow lines in Trinity Road, junction with Warwick Road, Rayleigh (Issue raised by a District Councillor during the Highways Matters Spotlight item)	Lines have now been installed.	A Hilsdon Essex County Council 01268 297561
28/08 (Minute 334/08)	Has any further consideration been given by the Council regarding bridle way access to the west of the proposed country park where it joins the New England Woods? (Issue raised by a resident during the Community Forum item)	Following consideration of the report from the Member Advisory Group, the Council's Executive agreed that the provision of a bridleway was a low priority for funding by this Council. Officers were requested to pursue this matter with the County Council and have now met with them to discuss options. The two options discussed were a permissive route through the woods or a new route linking Eastwood Rise and Connaught Road. A further meeting will take place on 30 September subsequent to which there will be a further meeting of the Member Advisory Group.	R Evans Rochford District Council 01702 318044

Ref No.	Issue	Progress	Officer details
07/09 (Minute 28/09)	The possibility of an extension to Rawreth car park as an alternative to replacing District boundary signs. (Issue raised by a Parish Council representative during the Items to be Referred to the Executive item)	The Council has the necessary budget in place for these works. Officers have considered the feasibility of a number of different options for extending the parking facilities, but none have proved to be practicable because of the highway or other safety concerns. It is likely that only modest improvements will be achieved, comprising of up to 10 parking spaces; a plan of the final scheme is currently being prepared by the Property Maintenance Team. These will be implemented this financial year.	R.Evans Rochford District Council 01702 318044 H Meggison Rochford District Council 01702 318057
08/09 (Minute 66/09)	The condition of Little Wheatley Chase roadway and footpaths – repairs to patch up the worst of the damage. (Issue raised by a resident during the Community Forum item)	Major surfacing is not an option for this year but ad hoc repairs are required. On 17 March 2009 urgent defects were identified and repaired. Engineers are looking at the options for review in the next financial year. A site visit with a specialist sub-contractor will take place next month to look into the feasibility of injecting material under the roadway to help support it. This will be dependent on the suitability of this process and whether it is the most cost efficient solution.	A Hilsdon Essex County Council 01268 297561
09/09 (Minute 66/09)	Problems with rubbish being deposited in and around an unused turning bay at the end of London Road, Rawreth – can the turning bay be removed? (Issue raised by residents during the Community Forum item)	The only barriers available are in use at present and are unlikely to become available this financial year.	A Hilsdon Essex County Council 01268 297561

Ref No.	Issue	Progress	Officer details
15/09 (Minute 67/09)	The possibility of introducing a speed indicator sign in Down Hall Road, Rayleigh (Issue raised by a District Councillor during the crime and disorder Spotlight item)	This will be installed as part of the Localism Programme this year.	A Hilsdon Essex County Council 01268 297561
16/09 (Minute 67/09)	Damage to the t-junction signs in Down Hall Road, Rayleigh (Issue raised by a District Councillor during the crime and disorder Spotlight item)	This has been repaired.	A Hilsdon Essex County Council 01268 297561
19/09 (Minute 156/09)	Request for bins in Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh (Issue raised by a resident during the Community Forum item)	Officers have assessed that there is no need for a further litter bin in this area, but instructions have been issued to our contractor to inspect and clean the area more frequently. The contractor is required to keep such areas clean and to ensure that litter bins are available for use. The contractor is required to commit the necessary resources to ensure the areas meet the required standards.	R Evans Rochford District Council 01702 318044

Ref No.	Issue	Progress	Officer details
20/09 (Minute 156/09)	Right hand side of the road in Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh never gets swept so weeds are growing in the gutters (as a result of parked vehicles) (Issue raised by a resident during the Community Forum item)	Essex County Council is only responsible for weed control. The area has been treated and there is no weed growth visible. This issue was raised with the RDC contractor, SITA, and cleansing has now been completed in this area.	R Evans / S Scrutton Rochford District Council 01702 318044/ 01702 318100
21/09 (Minute 156/09)	Impact of the installation of rabbit and deer fences to protect new areas of tree planting on the public footpath. (Issue raised by a resident during the Community Forum item)	Rabbit and deer fences are required in order to secure the grant funding from the Forestry Authority. These works were put on hold following an on site meeting with the County Council whilst the precise route of the right of way is investigated. This matter will be resolved at a further meeting planned for 30 September.	R Evans Rochford District Council 01702 318044
22/09 (Minute 157/09)	Weeds in rose beds in London Road, London Hill and Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh (Issue raised by a District Councillor during the County Highways Localism item)	The rose beds are maintained on a regular basis throughout the year. However, in warm wet conditions the growth of weeds can be rapid and the beds can become unsightly quickly. The Council does not use any herbicides (weed killers) on any of its beds and this allows weed germination to take place and become established between maintenance visits; these are normally once per month, depending on weather conditions and manpower.	R Evans Rochford District Council 01702 318044

Ref No.	Issue	Progress	Officer details
23/09 (Minute 159/09)	Grass cutting and litter clearing required in Sweyne Park (Issue raised by a District Councillor during the County Highways Localism item)	<p>The mown grass areas are cut on a fortnightly basis. Occasionally this period is extended, depending upon weather conditions. A large area in the centre of the open space is allowed to grow as a conservation area with the grass being collected as hay once per year.</p> <p>Litter collection takes place once a week across the park with litter and dog bins being emptied on two occasions per week.</p> <p>Issues such as this and the overall management and development of the park are being discussed with the planned 'Friends of Sweyne Park' at its initial meeting on 8 September.</p>	R Evans Rochford District Council 01702 318044
24/09 (Minute 157/09)	Scheme to bring the unmade roads of Eastwood Rise, Rayleigh Avenue and Sandhill Road, Rayleigh up to adoptable standard. (Issue raised by a District Councillor during the County Highways Localism item)	A second resolution is required by the County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation and is in preparation. This will include a specification with costings and set out the extent of Essex County Council cost responsibility. Following signing off by the Cabinet Member, Legal will write to frontagers setting out costs in detail. It was noted that, in the current economic situation, residents' willingness to pay may have been affected, but the costs are relatively small compared to the benefits and a delayed payment system is available. Earliest possible start date will be October 2009.	Andy Hilsdon Essex County Council 01268 297561

Ref No.	Issue	Progress	Officer details
25/09 (Minute 157/09)	Need for junction improvements at the entrance to Fairland Close, Rayleigh (Issue raised by a District Councillor during the County Highways Localism item)	Essex County Council will need further details in order to progress this.	Andy Hilsdon Essex County Council 01268 297561
26/09 Minute 156/09)	Speed notice at the end of Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh is not illuminated and the post is unsafe. (Issue raised by a resident during the Community Forum item)	Due to change in regulations the sign does not need to be illuminated. An order has been placed to reset the pole.	Andy Hilsdon Essex County Council 01268 297561