

## Central Area Committee – 10 September 2009

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Central Area Committee** held on **10 September 2009** 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 M G B Starke

### **ALSO PRESENT**

Cllr Mrs M A Weir – Hawkwell Parish Councillor  
Cllr B T Hazlewood – Hockley Parish Councillor  
Cllr Miss A Marriott – Hullbridge Parish Councillor  
J Tidbury – Essex County Fire and Rescue Service  
A Prophet – Essex Police

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

R Evans – Head of Environmental Services  
J Bostock – Committee Services Manager

## **201 AREA COMMITTEE – INITIAL BUSINESS**

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs R Brown, Mrs L A Butcher, M R Carter, D G Stansby, J Thomass and Mrs C A Weston

### **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **202 SPOTLIGHT ISSUES**

### **(1) County Fire and Rescue Service Campaign on Inconsiderate Parking**

The Committee heard from John Tidbury, Community Safety Manager for the County Fire and Rescue Service, on a campaign relating to inconsiderate parking, particularly around schools, which affects emergency vehicle access.

The campaign had been developed in liaison with colleagues from other authorities, including civil enforcement and road safety officers. In the first instance the campaign would be trialled at five schools over a two month period and would include attendance at school assemblies, the issuing of correspondence to parents and the use of leaflets and banners. A media launch was scheduled for the end of September. Whilst it would be possible

for persistent offenders to be prosecuted by the police, the emphasis was on effective education.

The Parish Council representatives confirmed that they would be happy to consider the inclusion of articles in Parish publications and the display of leaflets.

Responding to questions, Mr Tidbury advised that:-

- The Fire and Rescue Service was aware that there could be issues of problem displacement and education needed to cover this aspect.
- The public always demonstrated good will towards the fire service and it was hoped that the campaign would be able to capitalise on this.

It was noted that, whilst cases had to be reviewed on an individual basis, there are occasions when parking on pavement areas can be considered wilful obstruction of the highway. It was also noted that the policy on matters such as the disposal of land at schools was led by the County Education Authority.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked Mr Tidbury for his informative presentation.

### **(2) Crime and Disorder in the Central Area**

Chief Inspector A Prophet presented the figures relating to reported crime and anti-social behaviour over the central part of the District.

The Chief Inspector acknowledged that statistics could not reflect the experience of individuals affected by crime. In terms of crime reduction there had been improvement in the right direction over the summer period. There had been eight burglaries at domestic properties in the last two months. Whilst this was eight too many, the figure had been the same the previous year. In terms of District wide crime statistics, Rochford District was on a par with Maldon District as the lowest in the County.

Whilst there are national standard definitions of anti-social behaviour, definitions are very broad. Notable recent activity has included addressing concerns about possible issues with young people obtaining alcohol in the Golden Cross area of Ashingdon.

Responding to questions, Chief Inspector Phopphet advised that:-

- Recent boat yard crime was the subject of an ongoing investigation by the Marine Section.
- There had been no reports of problems around Plumberow Mount this summer.

- An incident number would be created every time someone contacts Essex Police to report a crime. Incident numbers can be requested.
- The terms 'wounding' covered an amalgamation of types of bodily offence starting with actual bodily harm.
- Arrangements could be made for the police to undertake a site visit with Members of the Hawkwell North Ward and worried residents in relation to concern at the dangers of speeding lorries along White Hart Lane.
- The Division detected 22% of burglaries. The overall national detection rate was 17-18%. Information from members of the public is usually a key aspect of detection.
- There will always be views for and against the introduction of teen shelters, and there can sometimes be issues for residents close to a locality. Generally speaking, shelters can be seen as an appropriate meeting facility for young people within parks.

It was observed that White Hart Lane was an unadopted highway.

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

### **203 COMMUNITY FORUM**

Whilst no specific requests for information had been received a number of residents wished to ask questions around the Rochford District Core Strategy Submission Document.

In response to questions the Portfolio Holder for Planning & Transportation, Councillor K H Hudson, advised that:-

- At a meeting the previous evening the District Council had agreed that the Rochford Core Strategy Submission Document be accepted for pre-submission consultation over a six-week period, followed by formal submission to the Secretary of State.
- Within the Core Strategy Document the Council had identified the five-year supply of housing essential to comply with the law. This would protect the District from proposals from developers for locations other than those identified within policy H2; within recent days one planning application for development in a location identified in the Core Strategy and a further speculative residential application had been submitted.
- In developing a Strategy Document that complies with legislative requirements, the Council had been cognisant of the fact that land availability is finite and of infrastructure issues.

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- Residents are able to make representations to the Secretary of State, which would be considered as part of a public inquiry.
- In structuring the document the Council had been mindful of maintaining a position that would mean it should be able to determine housing needed.
- In considering submissions from residents Government Inspectors can take account of suggestions that a proposal would be undesirable. Inspectors would be looking to ensure that development was in the most sustainable locations.
- Residents could submit representations in respect of any planning applications about which they have concern.

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

### **204 CENTRAL AREA UPDATE**

The Committee received the Central Area update.

#### **Power Poles at Rectory Road, Hawkwell (5/09)**

It was observed that the power poles were of concern from a health and safety perspective and noted that the possibility of additional land acquisition was being considered. There would be an update at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.03 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

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