

Central 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
11/07 (Minute 263(3)/07)	Replacement of the length of footpaths 8 and 9 adjacent to Brandy Hole on the River Crouch, which has suffered coastal erosion. Horse riding interests to be included in considerations. (Issue raised by Hockley Parish Council representative during the 'Consultation on Tourism' spotlight item)	A formal request has been submitted to the County Council for this to be given high priority status within the County's Rights of Way Improvement Plan. Essex County Council is currently prioritising the list of creations (through a point scoring system) and this scheme will be included in the process. The County Council is currently considering its stance on the draft Marine and Coastal Access Bill and this issue may be one that is resolved through the creation of a 'coastal corridor' that rolls back with erosion if the provisions in the Bill become law. The Marine Bill has now had its final reading in the House of Lords and passed to the House of Commons. It is not expected to receive Royal Assent until after the summer recess in Autumn 2009. A newsletter can be viewed at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/marine/pdf/legislation/marine-news10.pdf	Christine Allman Essex County Council 01245 437132

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12/07 (Minute 307/07, 354/07 and 93/08)	The possibility of opening a route for horses on the western side of Clements Hall to come out at Hawkwell Park Drive and join the bridleway to Park Gardens. (Issue raised by Ashingdon Parish Council representative during the Community Forum item)	Project funding is within 2009/10 Capital Programme. Final details will be provided to the Committee.	Albert Bugeja Rochford District Council 01702 318130
13/08 (Minute 264(2)/08)	Changes to the phasing of the traffic light facility at the junction of Greensward Lane and Plumberow Avenue. (Issue raised by a District Councillor during the Highways Matters spotlight item)	Initial improvement to traffic detector loops is to be completed 28 th August. Further small adjustments can be considered within the existing traffic signal if necessary.	Andy Hilsdon Essex County Council 01268 297540
2/09 (Minute 56(1)/09)	Investigate possible issues with young people obtaining alcohol in the Golden Cross Area of Ashingdon. (Issue raised by a District Councillor during the Crime and Disorder spotlight item)	Additional patrols and visits to Somerfields, the off licence and also the Jet garage in Ashingdon Road. Test purchasing was conducted about 5 weeks ago – no underage sales discovered. Not much alcohol seized during stop checks – so positive news. Local officers still using the yellow/red card system and those caught are having letters sent home.	Andy Parkman Essex Police 01268 775533

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3/09 (Minute 167/09)	Who instigated a recent traffic survey at the junction of Hockley Rise and Southend Road and what was the purpose? Will the conclusions be available to the public? (Issue raised by a representative of the Hockley Parish Plan Group during the Community Forum)	Internal enquiries have not met with any success as to who instigated the survey. We will endeavour to have the information for the Committee meeting.	Andy Hilsdon Essex County Council 01268 297540
4/09 (Minute 168(2)/09)	Addressing issues of parking on grass verges through the Essex Act. (Issue raised by District Councillor during the County Highways Localism item.)	Further discussions with Essex County Council Legal Team may provide solution as to how to progress this. This is to be arranged.	Andy Hilsdon Essex County Council 01268 297540
5/09 (Minute 168(2)/09)	Concern about power poles at Rectory Road, Hawkwell (in the vicinity of Clements Hall Way) from a health and safety perspective. (Issue raised by a District Councillor during County Highways Localism item)	It is not possible to relocate existing power poles or street lighting columns at present due to lack of footway width. This item should be considered if and when development possibilities occur.	Andy Hilsdon Essex County Council 01268 297540
6/09 (Minute 168(2)/09)	Advice from the Police on the precise legal position with regard to responsibilities for addressing issues of parking on footpaths. (Issue raised by a District Councillor during County Highways Localism item).	Police can deal with vehicular parking on footpaths by means of a non endorsable fixed penalty notice (FPN). Officers have discretion whether they issue a FPN or give advice in the event that the vehicle owner is immediately available. Invariably each situation is different and must be judged on its own individual	Andy Parkman Essex Police 01268 775533

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		<p>circumstances. For example, we may take a more lenient approach where pedestrians are not inconvenienced or where roads are narrow and a vehicle has been parked partially on the footpath to ensure the road is kept clear. Conversely, parking on pavements outside an OAP complex which significantly hinders access would attract a different view.</p> <p>It is the case that illegal parking issues figure fairly regularly across our NAPs and in the event that this issue is raised through an Area Committee, we would take this to the relevant NAP to determine whether it is identified as a priority of problem solving (in terms of a longer term approach involving enforcement, education, and environmental changes where appropriate). In the event that a member of the public wishes to report illegal parking on an individual basis, we would deal with this in the normal manner of any incident reported to us i.e. telephone call made to us, incident created, response graded as appropriate, attendance & action in accordance with officer discretion.</p>	

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7/09 (Minute 169/09)	Young people carrying alcohol in the Spencer's area of Hawkwell and nearby bridle paths/playing fields. (Issue raised by a resident during consideration of the Central Area Update)	Operation Lark, Operation Repose and Operation Velo have all been positive initiatives towards this problem with alcohol seizures and stop-checks where appropriate. Reports of anti-social behaviour have been reduced and less reports of misuse of alcohol. Test purchase enquiries have been completed at local outlets. Leaflets and posters have been distributed to outlets and purchase of alcohol articles sent to Hawkwell Residents and Hockley Parish for inclusion in forthcoming newsletters/websites. Essex Youth services have been conducting detached work at Clements Hall and also highlighted dangers of alcohol abuse to young people attending their workshops.	Andy Parkman Essex Police 01268 775533