

WEST AREA COMMITTEE – 14 January

Minutes of the meeting of the **West Area Committee** held on **14 January 2010** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr J M Pullen
Vice-Chairman: Cllr S P Smith

Cllr Mrs P Aves	Cllr D Merrick
Cllr C I Black	Cllr Mrs J A Mockford
Cllr Mrs J Dillnutt	Cllr R A Oatham
Cllr K A Gibbs	Cllr Mrs M J Webster
Cllr A J Humphries	Cllr P F A Webster

ALSO PRESENT

Cllr Mrs L Hopkins	- Rawreth Parish Council
Cllr D Sperring	- Rayleigh Town Council
A Hilsdon	- County Highways
N Szpigelman	- County Highways
D Griffiths	- NHS South East Essex

OFFICERS PRESENT

S Fowler	- Head of Information and Customer Services
S Scrutton	- Head of Planning and Transportation
S Worthington	- Committee Administrator

10 AREA COMMITTEE – INITIAL BUSINESS

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs J E Grey and T Livings and from Cllr A Matthews, Rawreth Parish Council.

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2009 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 summarised in the appendix to the Minutes.

12 SPOTLIGHT ISSUES

(1) **Strategic Plan for NHS South East Essex 2009 – 2014: Update on Progress**

David Griffiths, Director of Finance and Information, provided a verbal update on progress against the strategic plan for NHS South East Essex 2009 – 2014, which sets out a vision for improving the health and well-being of the residents of South East Essex over the next five years.

NHS South East Essex undertook an extensive public consultation exercise last spring and held a number of patient workshops. In response to comments received from the public key local priorities for NHS South East Essex were identified as:-

- Reducing the gap between those with the best health and those with the worst health to try and increase the life expectancy for residents.
- Improving the general mental health and well-being of residents.
- Preventing the causes of ill-health and unnecessary illness.
- Providing services to cope with an ageing population to ensure there is increased choice and services available for end of life care and people with long term conditions.
- Improving quality and services to improve patient experience and patient satisfaction.
- Ensuring that resources are used more productively and action taken to release funds to divert towards local priorities.

Mr Griffiths cautioned that the level of funding increase for the next financial year was less than anticipated, which will inevitably result in some projects taking longer to deliver and some projects being re-prioritised. However, in respect of the priority around improving quality and services, GPs will be commissioned to provide a range of additional services to patients locally, including, eg, phlebotomy services. Work was being undertaken with a view to expanding GP services in Hullbridge/Hockley, on a large extension to the Leecon Way surgery in Rochford, on expanding preventative care within older people services and on a new, walk-in GP-led health centre in St Luke's ward within the Southend Borough that would be open from 8.00 am – 8.00 pm, 365 days a year.

Mr Griffiths advised that, given the current economic climate, the pace of development of new primary care centres was being delayed.

NHS South East Essex was currently undertaking two further public consultation exercises, one of which was on a draft NHS Constitution,

proposing additional rights for patients, including regular health checks for 40 – 75 year olds to screen for early signs of disease. The other consultation was on the provision of community services, which seeks to merge the two provider organisations of community health services to create one organisation for adult and children's services independent from the primary care trusts. It was anticipated that the merged organisation should offer patients more choice, greater access to an increased range of local services, including district nursing, health visiting and school nursing, and make services more convenient.

In response to Member questions, the following was noted:-

- The 40 – 75 year old age range for health checks was a nationally set age range with the expectation that this age range would benefit most from health checks.
- There is currently no national screening programme for prostate cancer.
- The proposal for a primary care clinic covering Rochford/Rayleigh/Hockley would not be developed within the 5-year timescale of the strategy.
- The strategy does include initiatives aimed at addressing issues relating to drug and alcohol abuse and teenage pregnancies.
- Members would be provided with comments from NHS South East Essex on the discontinuation of Disability Essex's mobile blood testing service outside the meeting.
- Approximately 1% of the total available NHS budget goes towards administration/management. NHS South East Essex has to reduce the costs of running the NHS, in respect of the primary care trust and of those from whom it commissions services.

(2) Update on Highways Localism

The Committee considered the report of the County Highways Area Manager, South, providing an update on the progress of schemes under the Localism programme for 2009/10 and asking Members to prioritise schemes to be progressed during 2010/11. The report also included a list of updates relating to highways issues raised at previous meetings of the West Area Committee.

Replacement pages to the report, from pages 4.2.11 to 4.2.16, were circulated at the meeting as the original pages did not contain the most up to date information.

In response to Member questions the following points were noted:-

- 2009/10 was a period of transition from the locally determined programme to highways localism. In the current financial year highways maintenance

schemes totalling approximately £1.5 million were being delivered. There wasn't a fixed budget for localism, as was previously the case for the locally determined programme; under localism it was possible to utilise funding from other budgets, eg, passenger transport, in order to deliver prioritised schemes of work.

- The County Council budget was currently being reviewed to assess whether there might be funds available to address highways maintenance problems associated with the cold weather; it might, for example, be possible to use budget from road markings to make repairs to roads.
- A pram crossing in Hullbridge Road, opposite Lubbards Farm, will be added to the list of works in next year's list of localism schemes for prioritisation.
- Highways officers would take into consideration the fact that the proposed traffic regulation order for Downhall Park Way at the junction with Salisbury Close on page 4.2.11 of the report was closely linked with the footway proposal for Bristol Close, Rayleigh listed on page 4.2.13.
- A puffin crossing, such as that proposed for Station Road, Rayleigh by Rayleigh train station, could be delivered in 12 months, although a survey would first need to be undertaken.
- Highways officers would revise the comment on page 4.2.13 relating to the proposed footway in Bristol Close, Rayleigh to reflect the fact that although there is already a footpath in that road it is located on the wrong side of the road for school children, who currently have to cross a very busy road twice.
- A compulsory purchase order may not be required to acquire a corner of the landowner's field to facilitate junction improvements in Rawreth Lane at the junction with Hullbridge Road, as detailed on page 4.2.14 of the report.
- County Highways was in discussion with the gas company about appropriate repairs to sections of roads, following the recent gas works in parts of Rayleigh.

Members expressed concern at the lack of progress on a pegasus crossing in Downhall Park Way/Rawreth Lane; despite 3 years of feasibility studies nothing has been achieved. It was disappointing that after such a long period of time the County Council was now looking at the possibility of a puffin crossing, which could have been designed and installed in this time. Members requested that this concern be raised with County Cllr N Hume. Highways officers advised that a puffin crossing has been formally advertised, with formal advertisements to be displayed on site this month. The County Council would continue to apply pressure on Asda in terms of releasing section 106 monies to offset the costs of a puffin crossing.

H08/09 – Condition of Little Wheatley Chase Roadway and Footpaths (Minute 66/09)

This item would be added to the list of localism projects for 2010/11 for prioritisation.

H09/09 – Possibility of Removing the Turning Bay at the End of London Road, Rawreth (Minute 66/09)

An update would be provided for the next meeting.

H24/09 – Scheme to Bring the Unmade Roads of Eastwood Rise, Rayleigh Avenue and Sandhill Road, Rayleigh up to Adoptable Standard (Minute 157/09)

Section 106 monies would not cover all the costs. Legislation was on a road by road basis, such that if all the owners of one road were to agree to works and to cover costs, works could go ahead in that road.

H25/09 – Junction Improvements at the Entrance to Fairland Close, Rayleigh (Minute 157/09)

Parking restrictions in this location would be included in the list of localism projects for 2010/11 for prioritisation.

H28/09 – Creation of a Dedicated Slip Road at the Fairglen Interchange from Southbound A1245 to eastbound A127 (Minute 206/09)

County Highways was attempting to identify funding for this project from other sources, but costs were likely to be in the region of a six figure sum.

H31/09 – Status of the Upgrade to Existing Lighting at Downhall Road, Rayleigh (Minute 265/09)

This would be an upgrade to the existing luminaires.

H41/09 – Problem with Traffic Light Sensors at the Downhall Park Way / Rawreth Lane Junction (Minute 309/09)

An update would be provided at the next meeting.

The Committee went through the list of localism schemes for 2010/11 and prioritised each of the schemes.

Resolved

That the prioritised list of localism schemes appended to the Minutes be recommended to Essex County Council for delivery during 2010/11.

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In response to questions and concerns relating to roads and footpaths during the recent snowy weather, Andy Hilsdon provided an update to the meeting. The following was noted:-

- Salt bins were filled in advance in expectation of snow at some stage during the winter months.
- On 17 December 2009 salting of roads was undertaken before, during and after the snow fall; salting requires vehicular movement over the snow in order for the salt to work properly. During the winter the County Council has 16 vehicles on standby in South Essex for this purpose, each of which can be fitted with a snow plough.
- Rochford District falls within the Thames/Castle Point/Basildon area, which is slightly warmer than other parts of Essex. The usual salting frequency is 40 to 45 times per annum.
- The cost of salting is approximately £45,000 per time.
- During the recent snowy weather, the Government took over control of salt supplies.
- Highways officers worked with District Council officers over Christmas to salt the District. Crews worked on the weekend after the New Year. Stocks of salt were picked up by the District Council and both District and County contractor crews worked salting roads and pavements in the District. Crews also worked hard on potholes that appeared in the District as a result of the cold weather. During a very difficult fortnight a dedicated team has been on call 24 hours a day.

Cllr D Sperring advised that Rayleigh Town Council had received telephone calls from residents relating to the condition of roads and pavements during the cold weather. People were unable to access the high street in Rayleigh in the week before Christmas. The Town Council was still waiting for a response from County Highways to communications it had sent regarding the roads and pavements during this period; there appeared to have been a breakdown in communication. There did not appear to be any co-ordinated planning between the County, District and Town Councils during this time.

In response to these comments, Andy Hilsdon confirmed that there had been problems in many shopping high streets in the County during this period in terms of access due to snow and ice. Lessons have been learned and when snow fell again between Christmas and the New Year preventative steps were taken.

In response to concern expressed by Members about residents taking salt from salt bins for use on private driveways, etc, Andy Hilsdon advised that the Government became involved in the distribution of salt, rationing it nationally. Essex County Council took a cautious approach and ordered more salt than

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was needed, but was forced to distribute it to other areas in the country.

In response to a question about what shops and residents were able to do during such weather conditions in order to make roads and pavements safer, Andy Hilsdon advised that Councillor Sperring had indicated that Rayleigh Town Council was to start discussions with the MP for Rayleigh with respect to legal liability in the event of injuries caused by the weather conditions.

Responding to a Member enquiry about a District budget for gritting/salting, Andy Hilsdon confirmed that it was difficult to narrow budgets down on a district by district basis as it was County Council practice to move budgets around in order to meet changing priorities.

13 WEST AREA UPDATE

The Committee received the West Area Update.

38/09 – Parking of Advertising Trailers on the A1245 and on Land Adjacent to the Fairglen Interchange (Minute 307/09)

It was anticipated that these trailers would be removed within the next 14 days.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Chairman

Date

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Question

Response

Mr Oliver, Rayleigh

Is there any possibility of installing lighting in the alleyway between Little Wheatley Chase and Haddon Close?

This item will be included in the list of 2010/11 localism schemes to be prioritised.

Prioritised Highways Localism Schemes to be considered for future funding 2010/2011

Scheme/Description	Estimated Cost	Order of preference 1-4 where 1 is highest priority
Worcester Drive Rayleigh - Junction protection at Leslie Road	£75 plus cost of advertising	1
Essex Close - Junction protection at Warwick Road	£75 plus cost of advertising	1
Grange Parade (London Road Service Road) Rayleigh - Limited Waiting Restriction fronting shops	£500 plus cost of advertising	1
Grove Road junction with Grove Court and on school side, Rayleigh - NWAAT Limited waiting Mon-Fri 8am-4pm	£750 plus cost of advertising	1
Downhall Park Way Rayleigh - NWAAT at junction with Salisbury Close and playground car park	£500 plus cost of advertising	1
London Road Rayleigh - Extension to 30mph speed restriction	£2500 plus cost of advertising	3
Rawreth Industrial Estate - NWAAT across entrance to Westfield Close	£500 plus cost of advertising	4

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Scheme/Description	Estimated Cost	Order of preference 1-4 where 1 is highest priority
Hullbridge Road, opposite Lubbards Farm, Rayleigh - Pram Crossing		4
Eastwood Rd Rayleigh - Pedestrian crossing requested by residents of Francis Cottee Lodge (Sheltered Housing)	£15k	3
London Road Rayleigh - Pedestrian facility to be situated between EDF building and Little Wheatley Chase.	£100k for Puffin	3
Hullbridge Rd Rayleigh - Pedestrian crossing Vicinity of Lubbards Farm	£100k	2
Daws Heath Road Rayleigh - Provide footway and kerbs, from end of 30mph to A127. This section does not have any facilities for pedestrians.	£20k	4
Bristol Close Rayleigh - Provide footway to link to open space		3
London Road, Rayleigh junction with London Hill - Request for junction change		4
Rawreth Lane junction with Hullbridge Road - Junction improvements	£40k Section 106 monies from ASDA	1
Bardfield Way/Langham Drive Rayleigh - Upgrade street lighting in alley	£2000	1
Alleyway between Little Wheatley Chase / Haddon Close, Rayleigh - Install street lighting in alley		Survey to be undertaken.
The Chase Rayleigh – temporary vehicle activated signs	Rangers Work	1
Weir Gardens Rayleigh – temporary vehicle activated signs	Rangers work	3 (subject to full review)

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Scheme/Description	Estimated Cost	Order of preference 1-4 where 1 is highest priority
Vicinity of ASDA Rawreth Lane Rayleigh – Puffin crossing £100k Section 106 monies for the provision of facilities	£100k	1
Church Rd Rayleigh – Surface deteriorating		1
Little Wheatley Chase - Repairs to road and footpaths.		1
Entrance to Fairland Close, Rayleigh - Junction improvements		1