

Central Area Committee – 15 October 2009

Minutes of the meeting of the **Central Area Committee** held on **15 October 2009** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn
Vice-Chairman: Cllr P A Capon

Cllr Mrs L A Butcher
Cllr J R F Mason

Cllr M G B Starke
Cllr Mrs C A Weston

ALSO PRESENT

Cllr Mrs M A Weir	–	Hawkwell Parish Council
Cllr B T Hazlewood	–	Hockley Parish Council
Cllr Mrs L Daley	–	Hullbridge Parish Council
A Hilsdon	–	Essex County Highways
N Szpigelman	–	Essex County Highways

OFFICERS PRESENT

A Bugeja	–	Head of Legal & Technical Services
J Bostock	–	Committee Services Manager

249 AREA COMMITTEE – INITIAL BUSINESS

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Mrs R Brown, M R Carter, Mrs L M Cox, K H Hudson, M Maddocks, D G Stansby and J Thomass.

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

250 SPOTLIGHT ISSUES

Update on Highways Localism

The Committee considered the report of the County Highways District Manager for Rochford and Castle Point providing an update on highways localism.

It was noted that footway improvements in the vicinity of Brays Lane and Canewdon Road, Ashingdon and issues of poor lighting in Hall Road, Rochford were matters for the Council's East Area Committee. It was also noted that the reference to Rectory Close under footway and carriageway projects should be to Rectory Road.

Responding to questions, Andy Hilsdon advised that:-

- Whilst a number of pedestrian crossing and footway improvement works were scheduled for this financial year, it was difficult to give precise work timeframes. The Committee may wish to ask for changes in prioritisation if local factors point to this being appropriate.
- The timing of the traffic lights at the Plumberow/Spa/Greensward junction in Hockley had been changed and would continue to be monitored. In time, further works may be necessary.
- He was not aware of a Parish Council financial contribution for vehicle activated speed warning signs in Rectory Avenue, Main Road and Rectory Road, Hawkwell. This aspect could be investigated and reported back.
- Whilst the current year's localism budget had been set, there had been a meeting between the respective Area Committee Chairmen on its delivery. A list of projects was to be formulated over the coming months with a view to delivery in the next financial year.
- County Highways reviewed every road on the adopted highway network once per year.
- Further information could be provided on the precise nature of investigations into the possibility of continuing the cycleway from Cherry Orchard into Hawkwell.
- Previous statistical information associated with the capacity of the B1013 would not have a bearing on the Core Strategy. If any developers submitted future proposals they would have to fund traffic impact assessments. The County Council routinely interrogated traffic impact assessments.
- If supplied, he would be happy to consider any reports produced by external agencies that relate to problems (health or otherwise) associated with traffic volumes between Hambro Hill and the White Hart Public House.

It was noted that Officers were reviewing possibilities with regard to footway obstructions (lamp columns and BT poles) along Rectory Road, Hawkwell. Compulsory purchase activity was amongst considerations. The legal definition of an 'ornamental verge' was a factor with regard to addressing issues of parking on grass verges through the Essex Act.

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

251 COMMUNITY FORUM

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

Whilst the Appendix relates to specific requests for information, further verbal questions were allowed with responses given as follows:-

- Applications for school places are a matter for the County Education Authority. The District Council would be happy to pass on any written concerns.
- The Core Strategy protected the District from proposals from developers in locations other than those prescribed. It had been published and was on formal deposit. Residents are able to make representations to the Secretary of State.

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

252 CENTRAL AREA UPDATE

The Committee received the Central Area Update.

Route for Horses on the Western Side of Clements Hall (12/07)

It was noted that scheme details had been finalised in consultation with Hawkwell Parish Council. Precise information on the final cost would be available following the best value quotation process.

Speeding Lorries along White Hart Lane (8/09)

It was noted that both the Police and County Highway Officers were considering this problem.

The meeting closed at 8.51pm.

Chairman

Date

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

Appendix

Question	Response
<p>D Fryer-Kelsey, Hockley Parish Plan Group</p> <p>The Hockley Parish Plan asks for better and more wheelchair friendly footpaths in the countryside. Also for more disabled parking spaces in the countryside. The paths could be short and circular. What plans have RDC for this in the areas for which they are responsible? What is the timetable?</p>	<p>There are no current plans to provide additional paths within the woods, however should additional paths be planned in the future, provision will be made for disabled access where this is reasonable and practicable. Generally car parks in the countryside are constructed with a compacted material surface to minimize the visual impact and to provide natural drainage, on new or refurbished parking spaces a suitable number of disabled spaces will be identified using a wooden marker post appropriately inscribed.</p>
<p>D Fryer-Kelsey, Hockley</p> <p>What is the position with the plan for Woodlands under RDC control? I understand it is under preparation and residents will have some input but cannot find any reference to it on the website.</p>	<p>The current woodland management plans have expired and are under the process of being updated. As part of this process, residents will be consulted through the Area Committee and the website. It is anticipated that this work will commence early in 2010.</p>
<p>P Norman, Hawkwell</p> <p>Whilst I appreciate that it is not appropriate to answer questions relating to the proposed development by David Wilson Homes in the vicinity of Rectory Road, can I please ask that this forum formally acknowledges the objection of a number of local residents to the scale and size of the proposed application, which far exceeds the Core Strategy proposal.</p>	<p>The David Wilson Homes application is to be considered by the Council's Development Control Committee on 3 December 2009. Residents have the opportunity to make representations through the planning process.</p>
<p>H Flemmings</p> <p>I enjoyed the recent TV programme with Patrick McKenna and understand he has left RDC. Who is looking after the Jubilee Park and Hockley Woods.</p>	<p>The Council has a number of officers involved in woodlands management and this work continues under the Head of Environmental Services.</p>

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<p>A Heath, Hawkwell</p> <p>Why has Rochford District Council agreed to change the flight path over Rochford to appease the people of Eastwood and Leigh without asking the people of Rochford how they feel about it?</p>	<p>A detailed response would be provided and reported to the next meeting.</p>
<p>D Fryer-Kelsey, Hockley Parish Plan Group</p> <p>Earlier in 2009 the Hockley Parish Plan Group and the Hockley Parish Council made a successful application for funds under the Making the Links heading. The application was for vehicle activated speed warning signs on the approach roads to Hockley from Southend and Rayleigh. I understand the money has been forwarded to Highways, Essex County Council. When will the signs be installed?</p>	<p>This would be investigated with a report back to the next meeting.</p>
<p>D Fryer-Kelsey, Hockley</p> <p>Steve Joynes of the Police is concerned about speeding outside Greensward Academy, Hockley. I understand that Hockley Parish Council have forwarded money to the Highways Department, Essex County Council, for the installation of vehicle activated speed warning signs outside the school. When will these be installed.</p>	<p>It is hoped that the signs will be installed before Christmas.</p>
<p>A James, Hawkwell</p> <p>Are RDC going to sort out the school drop off issue in Sunny Road? There have been complaints from residents living in Sunny Road about cars parking in the turn-round, which also blocks a driveway. All they are asking for is about 15 metres of double yellow line but nothing has been done.</p>	<p>County Highways is not aware of this having been a problem. There is a process that can be followed, however, any project would have to be added to the localism list. There are some existing restrictions at this location. The County Fire and Rescue Service campaign relating to inconsiderate parking outside schools was considered at the last meeting.</p>

<p>A James, Hawkwell</p> <p>When will the footpath at the Lawns Cemetery on the B1013 Hall Road be installed and the street lighting brought up to the rest of the B1013 lighting level? There is only about 100 metres of missing footpath and it has been on the local list for many years. The lighting level on this half mile of the B1013 is currently lower than a normal side street level. Drivers on this 40 mph road are plunged from high intensity lighting into almost darkness, which is not only a danger for drivers but also residents along this stretch.</p>	<p>This is a matter for reference to the East Area Committee.</p>
<p>S Collings, Hawkwell</p> <p>How does the proposed Rectory Road development meet the RLP goal of 'to ensure that development reduces the length, number and duration of motorised journeys, particularly at peak hours and encourage the use of alternative modes of transport'.</p>	<p>The County Council has a team of officers that specifically deal with large scale developments. Highways impact is considered as part of the planning process. The public can submit representations to planning hearings.</p>
<p>M Curtis, British Horse Society, Benfleet</p> <p>With special regard to "highways localism" and reaching the bridleway highway networks existing in neighbouring Districts in safety, can Rochford District Council give assurance that local horse riders would not be marooned on islands surrounded by extremely busy main roads, but would be included in safe crossing facilities or improvements along with other vulnerable non-motorised uses?</p> <p>Regarding the confirmed Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan, will Rochford District Council be expecting local equestrians to submit ideas of improving local BR networks and what kind of publicity will the Council be giving to this Plan?</p>	<p>The County Council considers all highway users.</p> <p>The Society, along with other users, will be involved with an associated Forum.</p>

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<p>A James, Hawkwell</p> <p>What is the position of RDC on the return of the evening number 8 bus through Hawkwell? There is currently no way for residents to get to Clements Hall in the evening from Rayleigh, Hockley, or Rochford. Southend Hospital is now having more evening appointments, which means that Hawkwell residents have no public transport to get them there and back.</p>	<p>Each Parish Council has a representative on the Public Transport Committee, which holds meetings at the Freight House, Rochford. It would be appropriate for the questioner to submit this type of question to that forum.</p>
<p>A James, Hawkwell</p> <p>Will RDC provide or facilitate the provision of allotments in Hawkwell for our residents? In the current economical and environmental situation there has been a significant increase in the interest of the residents of Hawkwell in running allotments within Hawkwell.</p>	<p>Allotment provision is within the remit of Parish Councils.</p>
<p>K Holmes, Hawkwell</p> <p>With regard to the Core Strategy, has the Council purchased any land in the Hawkwell area in readiness to implement any future plans for the development of its policies.</p>	<p>The Council has not been actively assembling or acquiring land.</p>
<p>S Collings, Hawkwell</p> <p>What work is being undertaken to assess the impact of the Rectory Road development on local highways. Has the Council seen the Ardent report and its findings and does the Council believe that Thorpe Road can handle the estimated 158 trips in two peak hours per day from the 115 proposed flats accessing this road.</p>	<p>The David Wilson Homes application is to be considered by the Council's Development Control Committee on 3 December 2009. Residents have the opportunity to make representations through the planning process.</p>