

Hullbridge Sub-Committee - 12 May 2004

Minutes of the meeting of the **Hullbridge Sub-Committee** held on **12 May 2004** when there were present:-

Cllr Mrs R Brown (Chairman)

Cllr Mrs L A Butcher

Cllr C R Morgan

REPRESENTING HULLBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllrs Mrs L Campbell-Davey and Mrs K Morgan

SUBSTITUTE

Cllr M G B Starke

VISITING

Cllr K H Hudson

OFFICERS PRESENT

R Crofts	- Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
D Timson	- Property Maintenance and Highways Manager
Richard Tatton-Bennett	- Principal Engineer
J Bostock	- Principal Committee Administrator

COUNTY OFFICER PRESENT

L Harvey - District Engineer, Transportation and Operational Services

48 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2004 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

It was noted that two bollards had been introduced at the junction of Wallace Close/Ferry Road - one on either side of the pedestrian crossing. County was considering the possibilities for additional bollard/s given that the radius of pavement at this location was particularly broad.

49 HULLBRIDGE TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENT SCHEME (INCLUDING FORECOURT WORKS)

Officers provided a verbal update on the progress of the phase 2 works.

It was noted that, to facilitate the continuation of work, the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) had authorised additional kerbing and edging work in front of the shops at a cost of £4,000. A Member observed that this amount was relatively significant in the context of phase 2 costs.

Two lighting columns were now in place and due to be painted. Litter bins were available and the finger sign post due on 25 May. Notwithstanding a few days delay due to adverse weather conditions, the project was progressing well.

The shop proprietors in attendance at the last consultation meeting had indicated that they were pleased with work undertaken. The proprietors of the Riviera Café had advised that they would be happy to keep the trees outside their premises well watered.

Responding to questions, the District Engineer confirmed that work on part of the tarmac on the corner by the crossing had been left whilst TransCo was on site. The work would recommence to remove the tarmac and pave the area in line with its surround.

Members were pleased at the general progress being made.

Specific reference was made to recent problems of vandalism experienced within Hullbridge and to the potential value of closed circuit television (CCTV) in addressing these. There was a strong possibility that a Rochford District Council CCTV camera may have picked up recent damage to a tree outside the Co-operative store as well as vandalism to a temporary toilet outside Hot Gossip. It was agreed that it would be appropriate to ask the Council's Community Safety Officer to review CCTV footage.

It could be recognised that co-ordination between the District and Parish Councils was a key aspect of CCTV effectiveness. Members noted that the Crime and Disorder Partnership Group was currently reviewing the number and location of CCTV cameras. The Sub-Committee concurred with the view of a Member that it would be appropriate to recommend to the Partnership Group that a camera could usefully be introduced opposite the Ferry Road development. It was further noted that the County was currently reviewing issues around the weight of cameras in terms of the structural implications when they are mounted on lamp posts.

It was observed that the worst vandalism in Hullbridge invariably occurred during the early hours of Saturday morning (1.00am to 4.00am). Given this, an appropriate presence from the Police at this time could be particularly helpful. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Police expressing the Sub-Committee's concern about the vandalism and asking if an appropriate Police presence could be made available at the key time when it is likely to occur.

Turning to the junction of Wallace Close/Ferry Road, the Sub-Committee saw merit in a suggestion that a black safety rail could resolve the problems of

kerb mounting at this location. A rail would be a good safety feature on what is a route to school (part of the school walking bus). The District Engineer confirmed that County would investigate and report back on the cost of a rail and the possibility of it being funded from monies within the safer route to school budget.

In discussing the way forward, Members noted that it was anticipated Phase 2 works would be finalised over the next four weeks. It was agreed that arrangements should be put in place for pursuing the introduction of a black handrail at the Wallace Close/Ferry Road junction. It was also agreed that it would be appropriate for a final meeting of the Sub-Committee to be scheduled as soon as practicable after the next meeting of Annual Council.

Resolved

- (1) That it be recommended to the Crime and Disorder Partnership Group that a CCTV camera be introduced opposite the Ferry Road development, Hullbridge.
- (2) That a letter be sent to Essex Police expressing this Sub-Committee's concern about the vandalism at various locations in Hullbridge Centre and asking if an appropriate Police presence could be made available at the key time on a Saturday morning when this is likely to occur.
- (3) That, given recent incidences of vandalism, the District Council's Community Safety officer be asked to review the content of the CCTV cameras at Hullbridge over the last six week period.
- (4) That, with regard to the introduction of a black safety rail at the junction of Wallace Close/Ferry Road:-
 - (i) County investigate and report back on associated costs and the possibility of funding from the safer route to school budget.
 - (ii) Authority be delegated to the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services), in consultation with the Chairman and Members of the Sub-Committee, to agree the way forward.
- (5) That a final meeting of the Sub-Committee be convened as soon as practicable after Annual Council. (CD(F&ES))

The meeting commenced at 9.30am and closed at 10.32am.

Chairman

Date