

West Area Committee – 4 March 2010

Minutes of the meeting of the **West Area Committee** held on **4 March 2010** when there were present:-

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

Cllr Mrs P Aves	Cllr Mrs J R Lumley
Cllr C I Black	Cllr D Merrick
Cllr Mrs J Dillnutt	Cllr Mrs J A Mockford
Cllr J E Grey	Cllr R A Oatham
Cllr A J Humphries	Cllr Mrs M J Webster
Cllr T Livings	Cllr P F A Webster
Cllr C J Lumley	

VISITING MEMBER

Cllr M G B Starke

ALSO PRESENT

Cllr Mrs L Hopkins	- Rawreth Parish Council
Cllr D Sperring	- Rayleigh Town Council
A/Insp A Clarkson	- Essex Police
M Hughes	- Essex County Integrated Youth Service
S Serota	- Essex County Integrated Youth Service
R Carpenter	- Rochford District Youth Council
E Hobbs	- Rochford District Youth Council

OFFICERS PRESENT

S Fowler	- Head of Information and Customer Services
R Evans	- Head of Environmental Services
M Howlett	- Principal Environmental Health Officer
L Jefferys	- Leisure and Cultural Services Manager
S Worthington	- Committee Administrator

54 AREA COMMITTEE – INITIAL BUSINESS

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A Matthews, Rawreth Parish Council.

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2010 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.

55 COMMUNITY FORUM

Questions raised during the Community Forum and the responses given are summarised in the appendix to the Minutes.

It was noted that a response to a supplementary question from Mr Stanley relating to the costs of moving the sign in Preston Gardens, Rayleigh would be provided to him by County Highways outside the meeting.

56 SPOTLIGHT ISSUES

(1) Essex County Council Integrated Youth Service and the Rochford District Youth Council

Mr Hughes advised the meeting that the County Youth Service merged with Connexions in September 2008 to become the Integrated Youth Service. There were currently personal advisers in every educational establishment, providing a range of support to youngsters on issues relating to GCSE options, future employment, post-16 and further education.

In addition, there were targeted personal advisers working with young people with multiple needs or barriers to education or employment, which could include problems at home or alcohol or drug-related problems. There is a Connexions centre in Rayleigh where young people can drop in and receive support. The Connexions team provides a range of activities for young people and works closely with the Youth team helping with informal learning around developing young people's confidence and self esteem. The team engages in various programmes, eg, youth centres, a mobile team that can be employed anywhere around the area. There are also programmes such as complementary education, supporting young people having difficulties with the mainstream curriculum in schools and helping to re-engage them in the learning process.

The Youth Service also delivers a Youth Action Agenda; the Young Essex Assembly has elected Members working closely with the County Council elected Members. The Area's Youth Bank Team receives funding from the Government via Go-East to award to local young people who want things to do or places to go. The Youth Bank receives funding applications and identifies successful bids and allocates awards. The Team holds regular presentation events facilitated and hosted by the youngsters themselves. There are Youth Councils in every district and borough across the Area, including Rochford.

Rochford District Youth Council began about five years ago, but really

came into its own in 2008 when its members were given the opportunity to join with Basildon Youth Council for a two week training course. The course covered organising meetings, roles of various Youth Council representatives and ended in a 2-day residential element that helped the youngsters to work together as a team.

Following on from this the Rochford District Youth Council held a launch event at the Mill Arts and Events Centre in Rayleigh, which enabled it to find new members. A strong Youth Council has now been established representing the views of youths across the Rochford District.

The Youth Council held an inaugural Rochford Youth Conference, which allowed members to discover the main areas affecting the District and what were the most important topics for young people in the area. Representatives from the District Council, Connexions and a number of other youth services were invited to the day-long conference. The conference resulted in yet more new members and three working groups were established looking at health, publicity and the environment.

A year later a second Youth Conference has taken place around the theme of health. The Youth Council is seeking to create a better understanding of the other groups in the area with which it can link in order to improve its work and the ways in which it can publicise its work.

In response to questions, the following was noted:-

- Youth Service activities were aimed at 13 – 19-year olds, and up to 25-years for those with additional needs.
- The work delivered by the youth services is promoted in all the schools. In addition, detached workers and mobile teams go out to where the young people are and will assess needs in communities, following relationship-building with young people, the teams can establish projects in which the young people have an interest. In addition there is a mobile vehicle that can be deployed anywhere across the district that is equipped with a range of activities and facilities for the young people.
- Questionnaires were sent out to all those who attended the youth conferences; the views of around 50 or so young people have been obtained about the district as a whole. These views have been shared with the Integrated Youth Service. Information has subsequently been fed back to a number of partners, including, eg, concerns around sexual health to the NHS.

- The issues arising from the conference that particularly concerned young people were the environment, particularly with respect to there being sufficient litter bins around, litter in parks, graffiti and recycling and how young people can access relevant information around health issues.

(2) Proposal for a Temporary Teen Shelter in Sweyne Park, Rayleigh

Richard Evans advised that two meetings of the Friends of Sweyne Park had taken place. At the most recent meeting a presentation was given by 2 local schools; one of those attending from Sweyne Park School asked whether it might be possible to have socialising areas in the park. There were a number of residents present at that meeting and the suggestion was well received and supported.

Lisa Jefferys confirmed that the Council has installed several teen shelters in various places around the District. Ashingdon Parish Council had asked for a teen shelter to be trialled at the recreation ground; a temporary teen shelter has been in place there for 9 months now, and proven successful. Residents whose properties backed onto the site were consulted and public meetings were also held. The possibility of purchasing a permanent shelter for the recreation ground was currently being explored. The Council was therefore proposing to trial a temporary teen shelter in Sweyne Park on a similar basis.

In response to questions, the following was noted:-

- No specific site for the teen shelter had been agreed. In the case of the shelter at Ashingdon consultation had taken place before installation and during the period the shelter was on site.
- Consultation could be arranged with residents living around the edge of Sweyne park.
- There is qualitative data confirming the success of the Ashingdon teen shelter; young people in Ashingdon have been engaged in looking at the different types of permanent shelter available. There has been positive feedback from the local Police, coupled with a lack of negative comments from residents.
- The smashed windows at Grange Community Centre could not be attributed to the presence of a teen shelter at John Fisher playing fields as vandalism was a problem before the shelter was installed; this shelter only accommodates 4 -6 young people compared to the one in Ashingdon, which can hold 6 – 8 young people.
- The temporary teen shelter was placed in Ashingdon for an initial trial period of 6 months in order to cover more than one season. The length of time for any teen shelter to be placed in Sweyne Park

was yet to be determined, but the fact that this is proposed as a temporary trial offers a degree of flexibility and protection in the event of any problems arising.

- The Police have mixed views about teen shelters. It was evident that children should be given somewhere to go, however large groups of young people gathering together can cause problems.
- The teen shelter in Websters Way car park reduced instances of young people congregating in Rayleigh high street and has reduced crime in the town centre.
- There was currently a lack of facilities in Sweyne Park for young people; the Integrated Youth Service was willing to work closely with District Council colleagues on identifying the best location for a teen shelter in Sweyne Park.
- The ideal location for the shelter would not necessarily be right in the middle of the park, although admittedly this would be furthest from residential properties. The teen shelter in Websters Way, for example, was highly visible, away from residential properties but close to the Police station. The ideal location would be sufficiently far away from residential properties not to cause noise nuisance but not as distant as to cause the Police difficulties in gaining access to it.
- There are no direct plans to create any specific clubs or facilities for young people in Rayleigh, but this is something that the Council's Leisure team is always reviewing. The Council was currently working in partnership with various stakeholders to provide a successful teen café in Great Wakering and a similar project is run by the community at St Marks Hall, Rochford. Resources were, in addition, being stretched more widely; the Integrated Youth Service was working in partnership with the Council and other partners to share resources in an attempt to reduce costs.

It was noted that Cllr C I Black would be provided with data relating to any problems associated with the Ashingdon teen shelter, including complaints received from residents and any instances of vandalism outside the meeting.

(3) Update on Crime and Disorder in Rawreth and Rayleigh

Acting Inspector Andy Clarkson provided a verbal update on crime and disorder in Rawreth and Rayleigh. There was currently increased focus on neighbourhood policing with the number of neighbourhood police officers doubled. Around 50 or so young people congregate in Websters Way on Friday and Saturday nights. The vast majority of these do not cause any difficulty, but occasionally there are instances

of shoplifting, violent crime or drug-related incidents. The neighbourhood police work to identify trouble makers and will remove them from an area and will arrest them, not allowing them to return to that area. 3 arrests have been made recently by the Police in the centre of Rayleigh.

In around 50% of instances of Police taking a child home after committing offences a negative response is received. The Police instigate agreed behavioural contracts (ABCs) with the children and their parents which place a curfew on the children, banning them from going to certain areas. If a child is subsequently re-arrested the Police will place an anti-social behaviour order (ASBO) on the young person. The Police have had good success so far in Rayleigh in dealing with incidents involving young people.

The Police like to listen to what residents have to say. The Neighbourhood Action Panel (NAP) meets monthly, on the second Tuesday of each month. Priorities are identified by the Police following on from the NAP meetings. In Hullbridge, for example, traffic offences were identified as a priority following a meeting of the NAP and around 19 traffic offences were dealt with there last month.

It was noted that there had been 1340 recorded crimes in Rayleigh during the past 11 months, around 340 of which related to criminal damage/graffiti. The vast majority of culprits had been caught and served with ABCs. The Police were currently considering the possibility of Section 69 dispersal orders.

Acting Inspector Clarkson noted the comment of a resident who considered that a dispersal order for Hambro Parade would be beneficial.

In response to a question from a resident relating to next week's NAP meeting, Acting Inspector Clarkson confirmed that local NAP statistics would be available at that meeting, although such statistics could often be misleading.

(4) Local Air Quality Management in West Rayleigh

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Environmental Services providing an update on the current air quality work taking place at Rawreth Industrial Estate and the surrounding area.

Officers advised that the map attached to the report shows that there is predicted to be a marginal exceedance of a national target for ultra-fine dust particles known as PM10. The reason for looking at PM10 is because of the potential for increased risk of respiratory disease.

The area in red on the map showed where the average annual level of

PM10 is 32 micrograms per metre cubed or more. An average annual level of $32\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ means that there will be 35 days in a year when the daily average is $50\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The target is thus 35 days, but long term predictions indicate that there were 36 days in a year where the daily average will be 50 or above, just one day above the target.

The Council must therefore declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), ie, designating the affected area and creating an action plan to reduce PM10 levels. Those properties and premises in the red area on the map are those that are to be included in the AQMA.

In response to questions the following was noted:-

- Levels shown in red on the map had predicted annual average levels of PM10 exceeding $32\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
- It is hoped that increased street cleansing has helped to decrease PM10 levels with industrial sources. There was, however, a limit to what Rochford District Council can do to tackle PM10 levels in this instance as much of it is comprised of naturally occurring background levels of dust.
- Street cleansing in this area is done very early in the morning before the majority of heavy traffic starts arriving.
- The last period of monitoring was conducted in 2007; the Local Authority is seeking grant funding to carry out a year's worth of monitoring, ideally in the pink area indicated on the map.
- Rawreth Lane traffic does not contribute to the PM10 levels indicated by the pink area on the map; there is too sharp a drop-off in PM10 levels from vehicles using Rawreth Lane and typically SW wind.
- Alleged odour pollution arising from a body shop to the rear of Makro should be reported to Environmental Health for investigation.
- The last time monitoring was done from air quality monitoring receptors in the garden of a property in Victoria Avenue was in 2007.
- The Council also undertakes monitoring of nitrogen dioxide at junctions around the district due to tail pipe emissions.
- Some quotations had been obtained for the next round of monitoring; costs would depend on the type of equipment used.

- Sources of the PM10 levels included background levels of dust, dust kicked up by heavy duty vehicles visiting the industrial estate and business, farm and vehicle emissions.
- Monitoring is conducted every 3 years, in line with national reviews, where a Local Authority considers there is likely to be an exceedance of accepted levels and where there is likely to be a risk to health; it is not done routinely as it is very expensive.
- County Highways would be contacted in order to look into concern raised by a resident relating to the surface of the road within the industrial estate.
- Prior to 2008 the District Council had a different contract for road sweeping. Under current contractual arrangements with SITA, the roads are swept as necessary and it is considered that a fortnightly sweep is required at Rawreth industrial estate.

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (2) That the officer recommendation regarding the boundary of the AQMA be endorsed. (HES)

57 WEST AREA UPDATE

The Committee considered 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 noted that although the original advertisement had been removed it had subsequently been replaced with a different one. Officers were continuing to pursue the matter with the advertising company.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Chairman

Date

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Question

Response

Mr Moore, Rayleigh

What does the Council propose to do to address the now regular flooding with contaminated water of the Sweyne Park car park, bridle path and neighbouring properties?

An order has been placed with a contractor to clear and prove clear the land drain from the car park. This will be carried out in the next week. Once this work has been done we will be able to assess the cause of the water run off. A fuller report will be available for the next Area Committee meeting.

Mrs Halpin, Rayleigh

Why was permission given for the housing estate when the 'heavy' Rawreth Industrial estate has always been there?

An update will be provided at the next Area Committee meeting.

Mr Stanley, Rayleigh

What will be done to address the problem of a sign being located in the wrong place in Preston Gardens, Rayleigh?

County Highways has confirmed that the sign will be moved.

Mr Stanley, Rayleigh

Is the area along London Road, Rayleigh opposite Eon, going to be tidied up? A fence is lying on the ground and needs to be replaced with something.

A response will be provided at the next Area Committee meeting.