

Central Area Committee – 11 March 2010

Minutes of the meeting of the **Central Area Committee** held on **11 March 2010** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn

Vice-Chairman: Cllr P A Capon

Cllr Mrs L A Butcher

Cllr M Maddocks

Cllr J R F Mason

Cllr D G Stansby

Cllr M G B Starke

Cllr Mrs C A Weston

ALSO PRESENT

Cllr Mrs M A Weir	– Hawkwell Parish Council
Cllr B Hazlewood	– Hockley Parish Council
Cllr Miss A Marriott	– Hullbridge Parish Council
Sergeant P Schwarz	– Essex Police
M Hughes	– Essex County Integrated Youth Service
F Johns	– Rochford District Youth Council
J Johnson	– Rochford District Youth Council
N Pavelin	– Rochford District Youth Council
T Reynolds	– Rochford District Youth Council

OFFICERS PRESENT

A Bugeja	– Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services
J Bostock	– Member Services Manager

62 AREA COMMITTEE – INITIAL BUSINESS

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs R Brown, M R Carter, Mrs L M Cox, K H Hudson, P R Robinson and J Thomass.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 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.

63 COMMUNITY FORUM

Note: Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn declared a personal interest in the part of this item relating to British Rail works by virtue of having experienced property flooding.

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

Responding to observations on the District Council's tree planting programme the Portfolio Holder for the Environment, Cllr M G B Starke, advised that, whilst officers could be advised of a suggestion that additional planting be undertaken in the Main Road/Rectory Road area of Hawkwell, the next stage of the current Programme relates to the Hockley area.

It was noted that the Chief Executive of NHS South Essex had provided written clarification to some questions raised by Hockley Parish Council. Copies had been posted on Parish notice boards.

In reconvening the meeting the Chairman reported that British Rail was currently carrying out works to clear the railway embankment adjacent to Magnolia Road between Lincoln Road to the east and Rochford Rugby Club to the west of tree shrubs and growth. In terms of assisting surface water/land drainage, Hawkwell Parish Council had suggested to British Rail that it would be most beneficial if they also cleared the ditch at the front of the embankment whilst the tree work is being carried out. The Parish Council was asking the Area Committee to lend its support to the Parish Council in this matter.

It was noted that there would be no cost to the District Council in supporting this request, which related to British Rail land. During discussion reference was made to the poor state of the chain link fence on the White Hart Lane railway bridge.

Resolved

That the Area Committee lends its support to Hawkwell Parish Council in this matter, the poor state of the chain link fence on the White Hart Lane railway bridge to also be raised with British Rail. (HLEMS)

64 SPOTLIGHT ISSUES

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

The Committee received presentations from Mr Hughes of the Integrated Youth Service and the representatives from the Rochford District Youth Council.

Mr Hughes advised that the County Youth Service had 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.

Targeted personal advisers worked with young people with multiple needs or barriers to education or employment. 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, 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 Area's Youth Bank Team receives funding from the Government 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 young people themselves. There are Youth Councils in every District and Borough across Essex.

The Rochford District Youth Council began about five years ago. 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.

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 responding to questions, the Youth Council Representatives advised that:-

- The perception of young people is that Rochford District has a low crime rate. This is borne out by the work of the Youth Council's Crime Sub-Group. Issues such as health and the environment are seen as of higher priority.
- Research had established that only 15% of young people are aware of facilities that are available to them, which points to the value of publicity. It was likely that many young people would use outdoor gym facilities. Youth cafes can also be a good idea.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked and congratulated the Youth Council representatives for their presentation and work. The District Council's Portfolio Holder for Young Persons, Adult Services, Community Care and Wellbeing, Health and Community Safety, Cllr Mrs L A Butcher, advised that she would welcome being able to seek the views of the Youth Council on the subject of public safety.

(2) Update on Crime and Disorder in Hawkwell, Hockley and Hullbridge

Sergeant Schwarz provided a verbal update on crime and disorder in Hawkwell, Hockley and Hullbridge. Rochford was a safe District and the Police were committed to reducing and allaying fears. Anti-social behaviour and other crime was reducing. The Police endeavoured to meet repeat victims of anti-social behaviour within sixty minutes.

Responding to questions, Sergeant Schwarz confirmed that a selection process was in place to fill a recently vacant post. It would be appropriate for Hockley Parish Council to correspond with Chief Inspector Graham Westley on suggestions for an accommodation facility that could be used by the Police. In terms of office arrangements the Police had to be mindful of ICT, supervisory and other issues. The observation that use of the term 'robbery' within statistics could give a misleading impression when it includes items such as bag snatching would be reported back.

The Chairman thanked Sergeant Schwarz for his contribution.

65 CENTRAL AREA UPDATE

The Committee received the Central Area update.

Items 1/10, 2/10 and 3/10 relating to NHS South Essex

It was felt that the progress information provided by NHS South Essex in response to these issues was not sufficiently definitive. In terms of comparisons between service provision in Southend Borough and Rochford District it would be of value to have specifics on expenditure and related dates. It would also be useful to know when an annual update report card would be available.

Bench Seat in the Clements Hall Grounds (Item 4/10)

It was noted that a location had been agreed for the bench seat.

Speeding Traffic in White Hart Lane from the public open space to the Royal British Legion (Item H 14/09)

On behalf of Hockley Parish Council, Cllr B Hazlewood extended thanks to County Highways for the various facilities being provided to help address local issues.

The meeting closed at 8.57 pm .

Chairman

Date

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

Question	Response
<p>Pat James, Hawkwell Hawkwell Park Drive, rear of print shop (possibly now empty) and fronting Main Road but rear of property lies in Hawkwell Park drive. The rear doors to the property have access from HPD but the grass verge has large shrubs which someone has partly demolished maybe thought to be in danger of falling but they are blocking the grass verge. Alongside this some large wooding shelving structures have been dumped. Added to this the property next door has deposited (for months) some type of covered building material on the grass verge, then further alongside another wooden structure (gas or telephone) there is another large shrub, itself not a problem, but the rubbish under it is making the area an eyesore that needs clearance. There is also a problem at the front of the print shop where a lovely large budlia has been left to grow freely but is so large it is covering almost the total foyer of the shop. Someone must have responsibility for the upkeep of the foyer of shop and keeping the verges front and rear free of debris.</p>	<p>Essex County Council will need to undertake a site visit before being able to comment or provide options for a solution.</p>

Central Area Committee – 11 March 2010

Question	Response
<p>Pat James, Hawkwell Parking on Hawkwell Park Drive at the junction of Main Road – vehicles park at this end of Hawkwell Park Drive, making it very difficult to see approaching vehicles coming into HPD from main Road. The vehicle trying to leave cannot see when behind a parked car when a vehicle is likely to come into the road as they tend to enter fast due to approaching traffic coming down the hill from Hockley and swing into HPD at speed. There have been accidents here. Would it therefore be possible to have lines on the road? As the Indian Restaurant has a large car park mostly unused during the day could they perhaps be approached to allow some of the doctors patients to use some of their spaces? The owner of the property mentioned above tends to park his vehicles in his rear garden although has limited space to do so, so it is not his vehicles.</p>	<p>This request will be added to the localism list and Essex County Highways asked to provide more information.</p>
<p>Pat James, Hawkwell Shops at the bottom of White Hart Hill - the car parking area is a disgrace with litter around all edges. Unfortunately, Mrs Wier our very community aware Councillor I believe no longer carries out the important task of clearing rubbish and no one has carried on her good work. However, someone needs to take responsibility because it will only get worse as the better weather approaches and the teenagers hang out more.</p>	<p>Essex County Council will need to undertake a site visit before being able to comment or provide options for a solution.</p>
<p>Pat James, Hawkwell Sweyne Avenue (emergency exit) to Clements Hall Sports Centre and the footpath over the bridge has not been cleared of fallen tree branches for years and again is an eyesore. Think it maybe the responsibility of the sports centre to clear this which to date has not been attended to. Likewise the car parking areas in this part of the sports centre.</p>	<p>The District Council is addressing this matter through its contractor.</p>

Central Area Committee – 11 March 2010

Question	Response
<p>Pat James, Hawkwell Grass verges Rectory Road from Clements Hall Way to Windsor Gardens. Some grass verges are a disgrace due to illegal car parking on them. This has made the grass verges full of vehicle tyre ruts, the grass very muddy or none existent and the vehicles through constant use have made the footpaths muddy too. This has become worse in latter years as residents that respected the area have moved and new residents moved in. They need a reminder that the grass verges are not to be used for parking cars. One way to prevent this from being a constant car parking facility would be for the Council to plant trees of an ornamental variety, flowering cherries, mountain ash etc. Please do not ask the residents beforehand (as HPC did before) whether they would like a tree as this gives them the option to say no and to continue to use the verges for cars but to make the grass verges inaccessible to cars. This has been carried out at the other end of Rectory Road on the grass verges and along Ashingdon Road, is this something Hawkwell West can adopt too? It would make the areas look attractive and stop illegal parking.</p>	<p>The District Council has a programme to plant trees on the highways in conjunction with the County Council. Officers are surveying areas for planting in the 2010-11 planting season. The area from Rectory Road to Windsor Gardens will be surveyed and, if suitable, will be added to the 2010-11 planting programme.</p>
<p>Pat James, Hawkwell Can you update me please on the matter of seats in Clements Hall playing fields. It would be good to have them in place by springtime.</p>	<p>The current position is set out on page 5.2 of the Central Area Update sheet provided with the meeting papers.</p>
<p>Ms P James, Hawkwell Still the public footpath notice is down at Windsor Gardens end in the direction of Hawkwell Village Hall. Footpath totally impassable due to erosion of the ploughed fields onto footpath making it part of the field which is clay. No Bridleway notice by Magees nursery indicating a bridle path. No notice for Bridle/footpath that runs rear of playing fields then alongside Clements Hall House though to Victor Gardens.</p>	<p>Essex County Council Public Rights of Way will need to undertake a site visit before being able to provide an answer.</p>

Central Area Committee – 11 March 2010

Question				Response				
<p>Brian Guyett, Hockley The PCT's response to UDA's in the Central Area Update (item 2/10) is misleading. The 19,000 UDAs were commissioned on a temporary basis in 2008 and are now being made permanent – they are not new or additional. It was this change to permanent status that has resulted in around two thousand people in Hockley having to change dentists, and the need for them to go to another temporary dentist in Rayleigh for 5-6 months until the new dentist opens. The following table has been prepared using the PCT's data and they have been provided with a copy. It shows the movements over a 3 year period:-</p>				<p>This subject was discussed during consideration of the Central Area update (minute 65 refers).</p>				
Projected Combined UDAs (post Southend Central set-up) as at 24 February 2010								
As at April 2008			As at Dec 2009 *			Projected post SoS Central		
	Population	UDAs	Ratio	UDAs	Ratio	Adjustments**	Net UDAs	Ratio
Southend/Westcliff	46,882	137,600	2.9	141,810	3.0	9,500	151,310	3.2
Hadleigh, Benfleet	49,129	104,000	2.1	119,290	2.4	-4,000	115,290	2.3
Canvey	37,479	75,400	2.0	75,900	2.0		75,900	2.0
Shoebury & Wakering	54,350	64,900	1.2	87,061	1.6		87,061	1.6
Rayleigh & Hullbridge	29,942	35,000	1.2	41,060	1.4		41,060	1.4
Eastwood & Leigh	72,451	45,100	0.6	50,600	0.7	-5,500	45,100	0.6
Hockley/Rochford	35,121	20,300	0.6	39,133	1.1	2,367	41,500	1.2
Total	325,354	482,300	1.5	554,854	1.7		554,854	1.7
	* inc. SoS provisions		** Temp UDAs to SoS and revised Hockley UDAs					

Central Area Committee – 11 March 2010

Question	Response
<p>It clearly shows that the gap between best (Southend/Westcliff) and worst (Eastwood/Leigh and Hockley/Rochford) is growing. In fact, the best area (Southend/Westcliff) is gaining over every other area.</p> <p>Within Southend/Westcliff area there is in fact a marked divide and the Westcliff section has over <i>seven</i> times the capacity (pro-rata) of the Hockley/Rochford and almost rayleigh/Hullbridge.</p> <p>I would ask the council to revert to SEE NHS and seek clarification of when and how they will be implementing a fairer allocation of resources across the whole district.</p>	
<p>Brian Guyett, Hockley This question is a follow up to CAC update item reference 3/10. SEE NHS indicate they 'would be happy to support the proposal for an annual update on progress and new developments in local health services'. Could the Council please tell us when and how this will happen?</p>	<p>This subject was discussed during consideration of the Central Area update (minute 65 refers).</p>
<p>Alan James, Hockley I have received a number of complaints about the poor state of the pavements in Poplars Avenue and Woodside Chase in Hawkwell. I have brought to the attention of Highways a couple of times in the past but nothing has been done. Could you please have it added to the Maintenance Schemes List?</p>	<p>This issue would be raised with County Highways with an update to the next meeting</p>
<p>Alan James, Hockley After complaints from residents about the poor state of Hawkwell Parade, about two years ago Hawkwell Residents Association wrote twice to the owners but did not receive a reply. Is there anything RDC could do, as there are a number of public safety issues? Copies of the correspondence are available.</p>	<p>This issue would be raised with County Highways with an update to the next meeting</p>

Central Area Committee – 11 March 2010

Question	Response
<p>Alan James, Hockley Why does RDC and Highways not consult with the residents that request improvements to local facilities before installing what they believe is best? I am pleased that the new crossing has been started on Main Road but I am disappointed that it has not been located in the requested area for children walking to school between Thorpe Road and Tudor Way. Instead it has been located south of Thorpe Road which would require school users walking further. This distance may only be an additional 20 metres or so but from the experience at Golden Cross you would have thought that Highways would have learnt a lesson?</p>	<p>This matter will be raised with County Highways who will be asked to consult with the local Ward Members/residents as appropriate. Where a decision is made to locate a crossing at a location away from a requested area, there should be communication with interested parties.</p>
<p>D Fryer-Kelsey, Hockley I see Rochford District Council has launched the Friends of Sweyne Park Project. Are they interested in launching Friends of Hockley Woods</p>	<p>This question will be referred to the Portfolio Holder.</p>