

Minutes of the meeting of the **Community Safety Sub-Committee** held on **14 March 2001** when there were present:

Cllr Mrs J E Ford - Chairman

Cllr R A Amner
Cllr Mrs R Brown
Cllr D M Ford
Cllr K A Gibbs
Cllr J E Grey

Cllr Mrs J Hall
Cllr D R Helson
Cllr Mrs W M Stevenson
Cllr R E Vingoe (until 8.10pm)
Cllr Mrs M J Webster

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs V H Leach and R A Pearson.

SUBSTITUTES

Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn

OFFICERS PRESENT

P Warren – Chief Executive
S Garland – Community Safety Officer
R Hill – Assistant Community Safety Officer
A Smith – Head of Administrative and Member Services
C Thomas – Emergency Planning and Health and Safety Manager

ALSO PRESENT

Inspector Coady – Essex Police
Superintendent Noakes – Essex Police

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs Glynn declared a pecuniary interest in minute no 173 by virtue of her being an owner of livestock that might in future fall victim to foot and mouth disease should the present outbreak worsen.

172 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting on 10 January 2001 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

173 THE DISTRICT EMERGENCY PLAN

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Chief Executive that included the latest draft of the District Emergency Plan.

During discussion, the following points were raised:

- Consideration should be given to Members of the Sub-Committee attending courses on emergency planning held at the Home Office training establishment at Easingwold, Yorkshire.
- The Plan when finalised should include reference to the action to be taken in the event of an outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the District.
- Further information on combating the present outbreak of foot and mouth disease would be issued by the Council to the owners of private recreational facilities and to local clubs and associations. However, Members were reminded that the District Council had no powers to compel the owners of private land to implement the advice provided.
- The Council had amended its refuse collection arrangements, deferred site visits and issued staff with guidance on dealing with foot and mouth disease. Increased pavement cleaning had been arranged and “dog bins” were being emptied more frequently. Information on any further actions required by the Council would continue to be issued to Members through the Members’ Bulletin.
- The Chief Executive would report back the concerns expressed by Members arising from the recent outbreak of foot and mouth to the Countywide feedback/monitoring sessions organised by MAFF and Essex County Council. The Emergency Planning and Health and Safety Manager also undertook to investigate Member concerns that a neighbouring local authority appeared to be interpreting the guidance for foot and mouth in a different manner to Rochford.
- There should be reference within the Plan to the evacuation of animals from land threatened with flooding.
- The Emergency Planning and Health Safety Manager undertook to look at whether arrangements could be introduced for the provision of road salt and grit for public use on untreated footpaths and highways.
- The Plan should include reference to the role of voluntary organisations and actions arising from a major rail incident.
- Issues of accuracy raised by Members would be checked and amended as appropriate prior to consultation commencing on the Plan.

RECOMMENDED

- (1) That the Chief Executive be authorised to issue the draft District Emergency Plan for consultation after making the necessary amendments to take account of the matters outlined above.

- (2) That the need for Members to receive training in Emergency Planning be considered when the Member training programme for 2001/02 is prepared. (CEX)

174 FLOODING – RESOURCING EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive providing an update on recent flooding events across the District. In particular, Members were informed that whilst the Council was not obliged to provide equipment or materials to deal with flooding, there was a high expectation by the public that it would.

In response to Member questions therefore, it was noted:

- Agreement would be sought to arranging for links from the Council's website to the website of other agencies, such as Essex County Council and the Environment Agency. This would enable the public to find information on the risk of flooding and actions that they could take to minimise the risk.
- The Emergency Planning and Health and Safety Manager would look at the issue of animals becoming trapped on land during periods of flooding.
- Attention would be given to how best to ensure pets were dealt with in the event that their owners were evacuated as a result of flooding.
- The Council would publicise the need for ditches and drains to be kept clear and for action to be taken to clear them following a period of flooding.
- The Council in its role as planning authority would need to have regard to the risk of flooding when determining planning applications. New government guidance on the matter was anticipated in the near future.
- The Emergency Planning and Health and Safety Manager would keep alternative methods of protecting property from water ingress under review.
- A representative of Anglian Water would be invited to attend a future meeting of the Sub-Committee to discuss the actions that they took to prevent flooding.

RECOMMENDED

- (1) That a review of facilities available at the Depot to store sand and sandbags be undertaken and reported back to Members with full cost implications.
- (2) That "Rochford District Matters" and direct mailing be used as a means to highlight the threat of flooding in certain areas, and to encourage householders to take pre-emptive action wherever possible. (CEX)

175 UPDATE ON CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION STRATEGY

The Sub Committee considered a report by the Chief Executive which updated Members on the progress made in implementing the District Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy.

The Sub-Committee noted that in 1999, five mobile telephones had been purchased for issue to the victims of domestic violence. However, whilst the benefits of the telephones were clear, it was noted that during the last 12 months only 2 of the telephones had been issued at any one time. The line rental on the telephones was now due for renewal at a cost of £20 per handset and Members concurred with the suggestion that initially the line rental be renewed for just two of the telephones – the remaining rentals to be renewed in the event that it should prove necessary.

The Sub-Committee then went on to note the progress made with initiatives contained within the Strategy and during debate the following additional points were raised:

- Paragraph 7.5 (4) – Crime awareness leaflets for the elderly would be distributed as widely as possible.
- Paragraph 7.7 (a)(12) – The Chief Executive would arrange for an update to be circulated to all Members of the Council on the progress of the Council's proposal that Albert Jones Court should become a resource centre for the elderly.
- Paragraph 7.7 (b)(1) – Members congratulated the Police on the successful motor vehicle campaign that they had recently undertaken in the Rochford and Hawkwell areas.
- Paragraph 7.7 (d)(4) – The provision of CCTV cameras at Golden Cross was currently the subject of tender.

Discussion then ensued on the Partnership to Success event involving members of the Rochford Crime & Disorder Partnership which had been held in January 2001. Reference was made to the arrangements for the future review of the District Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy and the need for all Members of the Council to be aware and involved in this process. The recommendations within the Chief Executive's report having been moved, Cllr Helson and Cllr Mrs Glynn moved the following amendment –

Add the following clauses

3. The Minutes of the Rochford District Crime & Disorder Partnership meetings be reported to the Council through the appropriate Committee.

4. The District Council nominations to the Rochford Crime & Disorder Partnership be formalised and representations reflect the policies of the Council.
5. That a review of all scheduled items be undertaken with each appropriate partner agency with a view to:
 - a) deleting those items which have been completed
 - b) deleting those items that are unlikely to be realistically achieved
 - c) carrying forward those items not yet started into the strategy for 2002 onwards
 - d) rolling forward those items to continue into the strategy for 2002 onwards
6. That the results of the review be reported to a future meeting of the Community Safety Sub-Committee and the Rochford District Crime & Disorder Partnership.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was declared carried and the Sub-Committee

RECOMMENDED

- (1) That the report be noted and update reports be submitted to future Meetings of the Community Safety Sub-Committee.
- (2) That a sum of £100 be made available for the renewal of the line rental for the mobile telephones issued to victims of domestic violence, but initially only the rental of two handsets be renewed pending as assessment of demand.
- (3) The Minutes of the Rochford District Crime & Disorder Partnership meetings be reported to the Council through the appropriate Committee.
- (4) The District Council nominations to the Rochford Crime & Disorder Partnership be formalised and representations reflect the policies of the Council.
- (5) That a review of all scheduled items be undertaken with each appropriate partner agency with a view to:
 - a) deleting those items which have been completed
 - b) deleting those items that are unlikely to be realistically achieved
 - c) carrying forward those items not yet started into the strategy for 2002 onwards
 - d) rolling forward those items to continue into the strategy for 2002 onwards
- (6) That the results of the review be reported to a future meeting of the Community Safety Sub-Committee and the Rochford District Crime & Disorder Partnership. (CEX)

176 FEAR OF BURGLARY – PROVISION OF DOOR CHAINS AND VIEWERS FOR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive on actions being taken to provide and fit door chains and viewers to the homes of vulnerable residents. It was noted that 500 sets might be purchased at a cost of £1.35 each and that monies made available by Essex County Council would fund this. The Lions Club had offered to fit the equipment.

RECOMMENDED

That subject to sufficient numbers of vulnerable residents wishing to take advantage of the provision of door chains and viewers being identified, 500 sets be purchased at a cost of £1.35 each, this to be funded from monies made available by Essex County Council.

177 ILLEGAL PARKING – INFORMATION CAMPAIGN

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Chief Executive on the proposed publication of a leaflet outlining the law on parking. A quantity of 2000 of the leaflets would cost £690.

During debate, reference was made to the problems arising in Rayleigh town centre as a result of buses being prevented from pulling up in bus bays as a result of cars parking there. It was noted that this problem would be included in the proposed leaflet.

Concern was also expressed at the need to ensure that the leaflets were provided in areas where particular problems were known to occur. Leaflets would therefore be distributed through schools and shops as well as at Police Stations, libraries and at the offices of the District Council. A similar article would appear in a future edition of Rochford District Matters.

In order to maximise the effectiveness of the campaign, Inspector Coady indicated that the Police would consider mounting a ticketing campaign against the owners of vehicles parked illegally.

RECOMMENDED

That 2000 copies of a leaflet advising of the problems caused by illegal and irresponsible parking be produced at a cost of £690. (CEX)

178 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE – SECONDARY SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive outlining proposals to progress the Secondary Schools Domestic Violence Awareness Programme during 2001/02. It was noted that this would involve Theatre Active spending a day in each of the secondary schools in Castle Point and Rochford Districts and undertaking performances for Year 9 pupils that would address the issue of

domestic violence. The cost would be £6,500 but this would be reduced by the availability of grant assistance secured by Essex County Council amounting to £3,000. After apportioning the remaining cost between the two District Councils, this Council would be required to contribute £1400 towards the project.

RECOMMENDED

That the Council participate in the Theatre Active domestic violence awareness project at a cost of £1400. (CEX)

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Chairman _____

Date _____