Minutes of the meeting of the Heritage, Design & Conservation Awards Sub-Committee held on 17 September 2003 when there were present::-

Cllr J M Pullen (Chairman)

Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn

VISITING MEMBER

Cllr R A Oatham

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs A J Humphries and Mrs M S Vince.

SUBSTITUTES

Cllr C R Morgan

OFFICERS PRESENT

J Adams - Planning Policy Assistant M Palmer - Assistant Planner S Worthington - Committee Administrator

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn declared a personal interest by virtue of being a member of Rochford Parish Council and by virtue of her son-in-law being employed by Holt Farm School.

Cllr R A Oatham declared a personal interest by virtue of his wife occasionally working at Holt Farm School.

2 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Sub-Committee noted its Terms of Reference.

3 ROCHFORD HERITAGE, DESIGN AND CONSERVATION AWARDS 2003

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services seeking Members' views on the nominations received for the annual Heritage, Design and Conservation Awards.

Letters would be sent out to all the candidates congratulating them on the quality of their award entries. Members were, however, disappointed that there had not been a wider range of awards entries and felt that the Awards should be more publicised.

During debate it was noted that the divergence between awards categories made it difficult to make an informed judgment.

Mindful of the fact that some of the landscaping schemes were worthy of commendation, Members nevertheless felt that the Old Forge, Rochford was a worthy, overall winner. This scheme was felt to be the most ambitious and durable one and Members were particularly pleased to note that the weatherboarding on the front elevation in Back Lane was that of the original building, as were the roof tiles and brickwork. Many of the original oak beams had also been incorporated into the new building.

The Sub-Committee considered that the Marylands Nature Reserve, Hockley scheme merited an award of high commendation by virtue of the fact that the scheme, by maintaining and improving existing woodlands provided more enduring amenities for local residents.

The Sub-Committee further considered that the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Community Woods, Great Wakering and Sensory Garden, Holt Farm Infant School, Rochford schemes merited awards of commendation by virtue of the fact that each involved the local communities. The Great Wakering scheme would provide a new amenity area for residents in place of grass and scrub. The Holt Farm Infant School scheme provided an educational facility for the children while at the same time complementing the area surrounding the school.

The Sub-Committee also felt that there would be merit in organising an on-site photo call with the overall winner, together with a press release.

Resolved

- (1) That The Old Forge, Rochford be named as the overall winner of the Heritage, Design & Conservation Awards 2003.
- (2) That The Marylands Nature Reserve, Hockley be awarded a highly commended award.
- (3) That the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Community Wood, Great Wakering Common and the Sensory Garden, Holt Farm Infant School, Rochford each be awarded a commended award.
- (4) That there should be an on-site photo call with the overall winner, together with a press release about the awards. (HPS)

Heritage, Design & Conservation Awards Sub-Committee - 17 September 2003

The meeting closed at 10.30 am.

Chairman

Date