

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 5 November 2002

Minutes of the meeting of the **Community Services Committee** held on **5 November 2002** when there were present:

Cllr Mrs R Brown (in the Chair)
Cllr Mrs L Hungate
Cllr C C Langlands
Cllr Mrs J R Lumley

Cllr J M Pullen
Cllr P K Savill
Cllr Mrs M S Vince
Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs R A Amner, K A Gibbs, T E Goodwin, Mrs M J Webster

OFFICERS PRESENT

G Woolhouse Head of Housing, Health & Community Care
Mrs M Martin Committee Administrator

Note: In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of this Committee and on a Motion moved by Cllr P K Savill and seconded by Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins, Cllr Mrs R Brown was appointed Chairman for the meeting.

526 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2002 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

527 FORMER PLAY AREA AT TYLNEY AVENUE, ROCHFORD

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care which invited Members to consider proposals for the potential development of the former play area at Tylney Avenue, Rochford.

Members noted that:-

- In late 2000 three Housing Associations had been asked to submit outline proposals for the development of social rented housing on five Council owned sites in the District, including Tylney Avenue.
- The proposals for all five sites had been evaluated and the one from the Swan Housing Association had represented the best value for money. Their outline proposal had provided for 15 one bedroom bungalows for elderly persons.
- Any bid is unlikely to receive Housing Corporation funding, due to a limited demand for this type of accommodation in Rochford Town.
- Officers are continuing to pursue the issue of funding with the Corporation.
- There is a need for other forms of housing development for rent.

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- Should the Council decide to change the brief, it is likely that the three Housing Associations would submit further outline proposals for this site.

Members were in agreement that this site would benefit from a mix of dwellings which would address a range of one and two bedroom needs within the District and it was:-

Resolved

- (1) That the Tylney Avenue site be redesignated from the provision of elderly persons housing to the potential development of general needs housing for rent for key workers and people with disabilities, to include a mix of 1 and 2 bedroom bungalows and houses of an appropriate type.
- (2) That Estuary, Springboard and Swan Housing Associations be invited to submit outline proposals.
- (3) That, failing any expression of interest, or funding, in respect of the Housing Association's schemes, a report be brought back to this Committee for further consideration. (HHHCC)

528 ANNUAL VANDALISM REPORT

The Committee received the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) which provided Members with information regarding the cost of vandalism to Council property throughout the District during the 12 month period from 1 October 2001.

Members were concerned to note that the total cost of vandalism to the Council was £11834.15 over the 12 month period and that the public conveniences in the District had attracted approximately 29% of all the vandalism.

A Member expressed particular concern that complaints had been received from residents about vandalism in the public conveniences and the area surrounding the sports complex in Great Wakering. The Head of Service agreed to pass on this information and request that an officer from the Contracted Services division investigate and contact the Member.

On a Motion moved by Cllr Mrs Brown and seconded by Cllr C C Langlands it was:-

Resolved

That a press release be issued explaining the cost of vandalism to the Council. (CD(F&ES))

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529 CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS – MONITORING REPORT

The Committee received the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care which advised Members of orders valued at £5,000 or above for the period from 1 April 2002 to 30 September 2002.

Members noted that:-

- The figures quoted for the provision of bed and breakfast accommodation would be reduced by housing benefit payments, but they were still concerned at the high cost involved.
- Although there had been a rise in the costs associated with providing a rodent control service for residents in domestic properties, this figure was reduced by employing a contractor to do the work.
- As there had recently been a general increase in rodent numbers, care would need to be taken before taking a decision to withdraw the provision of this service.

Resolved

That the Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee be requested to consider whether this Council should continue to provide a Rodent Control Service for residents. (HHHCC)

Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved

That the press and public be excluded from the Meeting for the remaining business on the grounds that exempt information as defined in Paragraph 12 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed.

530 CARAVAN SITE LICENCE – ENFORCEMENT

The Committee received the exempt report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care which provided an update on enforcement action in respect of a breach of caravan site licence conditions. Members noted that officers would continue to monitor the situation.

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The meeting finished at 8.07 pm.

Chairman

Date