

East Area Committee – 11 June 2009

Minutes of the meeting of the **East Area Committee** held on **11 June 2009** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr C G Seagers

Cllr Mrs T J Capon
Cllr J P Cottis
Cllr T G Cutmore
Cllr T E Goodwin

Cllr K J Gordon
Cllr M J Steptoe
Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

ALSO PRESENT

Cllr Mrs P Shaw, Ashingdon Parish Council
Cllr N Wallace, Canewdon Parish Council
Cllr Mrs K Perring, Great Wakering Parish Council
Cllr J Bond, Rochford Parish Council
Cllr P A Capon, Stambridge Parish Council
L Harvey – Essex County Highways

OFFICERS PRESENT

Y Woodward	-	Head of Finance, Audit & Performance Management
S Scrutton	-	Head of Planning & Transportation
A Law	-	Solicitor
M Power	-	Committee Administrator

143 AREA COMMITTEE – INITIAL BUSINESS

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillor Mrs G A Lucas-Gill and Mr B Summerfield (Sutton Parish Council).

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Appointment of Vice Chairman

Cllr M J Steptoe was appointed Vice-Chairman.

At this point the Committee adjourned the formal meeting to move into the community forum to hear contributions from members of the public.

144 COMMUNITY FORUM

A request for information, which had been received at the meeting, is appended.

145 COUNTY HIGHWAYS LOCALISM

(1) Highways Localism – Role of the Area Committees

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Planning & Transportation detailing the new role of the Area Committees in dealing with highway issues through 'Localism'.

Resolved

That the Committee notes the Localism objectives for the Area Committee as set out in the report.

(2) Localism Programme of Works for 2009-10

The Committee considered a report from Nick McCullagh, Area Manager (South), Essex County Highways on the work programme under the Localism initiative for 2009/10. The report included a list of updates relating to Highways issues raised at previous meetings of the East Area Committee.

In response to questions, Lyn Harvey provided the following:-

- Two Highway Rangers would be sufficient to deal with minor Highways issues arising in the District. The Highway Rangers team would have a badged, fully-equipped vehicle and would be employed full time around the District, focussing their efforts in specific areas at a time. The Rangers had already started clearing vegetation in the District, pending other issues being identified. Issues such as congestion, facilities for pedestrians and highway safety were of major concern and had been included on the list of schemes for 2009/10 under Localism.
- The public could raise local issues under Localism via County Highways forms that were available at the meeting. Also available at the meeting were ECC Highways & Transportation fault reporting cards, which gave County Highways contact details.
- Lyn advised that a budget of over £1 million has been allocated under Localism for Maintenance schemes (footway and carriageway surfacing) and between £2-300,000 for improvement schemes in the District. More detailed financial information could be provided for discussion at future meetings when the Localism initiative had had a chance to 'bed-in'.
- Appendix B showed a further list of schemes put forward by Members to form the basis of a programme of works to be developed by the Area Committees for 2010-11. The following items from Appendix B were discussed, as follows:-
 - **Item 1.4 - Proposed street lighting improvements**
The proposed improvements to lighting had been drawn from the Parish/Town Councils' wish lists. In response to a Member question

about structural integrity of lamp columns, Lyn advised that some lamp columns in the District had indeed failed to meet structural requirements under health and safety legislation to support the additional weight of a hanging basket. This posed an issue in respect of the suspension of the hanging baskets from lamp columns in Market Square, Rochford. The result of the tests needed to be considered thoroughly before a decision could be reached; details of a previous survey were requested. Lyn was advised that the lamp columns had been tested by an independent contractor in November 2008 and baskets had been hung.

When the issue of adoption of the lighting in Hall Road, Rochford had been raised previously, the County Engineer had advised that a County-wide initiative was being undertaken in two Districts whereby, wherever possible, lights were switched off in an attempt to conserve energy. During the course of this trial it would be unlikely that the County Council would agree to take over additional lighting. Lighting that was already the County Council's responsibility would be upgraded where necessary.

- Item 1.3 - Cagefield Road, Stambridge

The County Council had not supported the proposal to harden the verge to allow car parking as generally it did not support parking issues. When it was explained that the road was a dead end and that parking on both sides made it difficult to get refuse trucks past the parked cars, Lyn advised that the issue would be looked into.

- A request was received to move the 30mph signs in Stambridge to the other side of the Memorial Hall due to the problem of speeding traffic. This solution had been endorsed by the police who had inspected the area. The Parish Council was prepared to fund the works and additional lighting had been installed in the area. Lyn advised that funding from the Parish Council would be useful but that the process of moving the speed limit sign would have to accord with County Highways policy. If the Highways criteria are met, the issue can be referred to the Traffic Management division with a view to it being added to the Parish Council's 'wish list' for 2010/11.
- In respect of there being no diversion signs in place during resurfacing works in Scotts Hall Road, Canewdon, Lyn advised that this was a rolling operation and as such was dependant on cars being driven on it to help embed the aggregate into the bitumen. The contractor would be advised that diversion signs should be used in future.

The Committee discussed the East Area Committee Update (contained in Appendix C to the report), as follows:-

41/08 Widening of footpath to Stambridge School

Although it had been reported that repairs to holes in the newly laid tarmac on the footpath had been effected, it was reported that weeds were coming through in many places, particularly in the area from Stambridge School to the village hall. Lyn advised that a material had been laid under the new section of footpath that was designed to suppress weeds but the weeds were coming through between the new and old surface. Weed spraying was due shortly and, following this, repairs would be made.

36/08 Re-siting the bus stop in Great Wakering

It was requested that an update be provided on progress on the Great Wakering school pedestrian crossing. Lyn Harvey advised that it would be necessary for the site to be surveyed to enable the scheme to be ranked and considered under Localism.

An invitation to the County Council's Highways Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation to attend a meeting of the East Area Committee had been raised at a previous meeting of the Committee. Officers were asked to look into progress on this matter. The Committee was advised of a bi-monthly forum run by Basildon, Castle Point and Rochford Councils that included representation from County Highways, including Nick McCullagh, County Highways Area Manager (South) and the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation.

The Committee's thanks were extended to County Highways for the successful work carried out in respect of Crouchmans Avenue, Sutton Road drains and Poynters Lane.

Resolved

That the Committee notes the Localism objectives for the Area Committee as set out in the report.

146 SPOTLIGHT ISSUES

(1) Proposed Part Extinguishment of Footpath 21 Canewdon – The Wallasea Island Wild Coast Project

(Note: Councillor C G Seagers declared a personal interest in this item due to his membership of the Crouch Harbour Authority.)

The Committee considered an application from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) requesting a part Extinguishment Order for Footpath 21.

In response to questions, Chris Tyas, the Wallasea Island Project Manager for the RSPB, advised the following:-

- The new cell dividing walls will be built to the same standard as the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) wall on which the existing footpath runs, which is to a greater specification than the standard rural sea wall.
- A footbridge over the 100m breach (to allow the footpath to remain at its current length) would not be feasible due to cost and long term Health and Safety implications. Fishing would still be available at various locations along the length of the north sea-wall and at Wallasea Ness. The tunnel arisings from the Crossrail project that would be used for the Wallasea Island project would be of inert material, comprising mostly London clay and a small amount of chalk. If intertidal dredgings were used, these would be tested prior to being used on the site to ensure that no contamination was present. Rochford District Council, as a consultee, would be notified of any findings.
- Subject to planning permission being granted, main works will be started in Summer 2010, with the first breach in the sea wall being scheduled for 2011 or 2012. The scheme would be completed in phases and the breach to extinguish Footpath 21 would be one of the first.
- Modelling for the scheme in respect of the River Roach indicates that changes attributable to the scheme would be minor in respect of changes in flow speeds along the Estuary. Only a sustainable amount of water would be allowed on to the island and this accords with that allowed on the DEFRA scheme.
- The seal population in the river Roach should not be unduly disturbed by the works as they were located further up the river and contractors would be obliged to adhere to noise and dust limits.

The proposal was carried by a show of hands.

Resolved

That the application be agreed.

147 EAST AREA UPDATE

The Committee received the East Area Update.

16/08 – Public Footpaths 1 and 3, Stambridge – proposed footpath diversions

It was reported that the final objection had now been withdrawn and it was hoped that completion of the diversions would be reported to the Committee imminently.

Statutory notices would be put in the local newspapers and posted on the site. Notices would be sent to all Members of the East Area Committee, Stambridge Parish Council and neighbours. Following a request, it was agreed that notices would be erected at either end of the site.

5/09 – Speeding motorcycles through Great Stambridge village

It was commented that there had been no sign of a Police presence in the village despite assurances that the situation would continued to be monitored. The Police would be in attendance at the next East Area Committee meeting.

6/09 – Youth nuisance at Golden Cross Parade, Ashingdon Road

Golden Cross Parade was in the Central part of the District and, as such, the item should be transferred to the Central Area Committee update.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Chairman

Date

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

Appendix

Question

Mr V Newby, Canewdon

The trucks collecting the recyclable waste from Canewdon are leaking waste all over the road, which will cause more flies and smells.

Response

An update will be provided at the next meeting.