

Planning Policy & Transportation Committee – 28 November 2006

Minutes of the meeting of the **Planning Policy & Transportation Committee** held on **28 November 2006** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr P A Capon

Cllr C I Black
Cllr J P Cottis
Cllr T G Cutmore

Cllr A J Humphries
Cllr J M Pullen
Cllr Mrs M J Webster

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs C A Hungate, J R F Mason and D Merrick.

OFFICERS PRESENT

S Scrutton - Head of Planning and Transportation
A Meddle - Team Leader (Local Plans)
S Worthington - Committee Administrator

COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICERS PRESENT

P Grimwood - District Manager

404 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

405 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs M J Webster declared a personal interest in item 14 of the agenda, relating to the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE), by virtue of being a trustee of the RCCE and did not take part or vote in the debate. Cllr T G Cutmore also declared a personal interest in that same item by virtue of being a member of the RCCE Local Committee.

406 PROGRESS ON DECISIONS

The Committee reviewed the progress on decisions schedule.

Quys Lane, Rochford (Minute 273/05)

Members expressed their satisfaction that the works to Quys Lane were now completed, including the lighting. The end result was very pleasing.

407 HIGHWAYS LOCAL SERVICE AGREEMENT QUARTERLY UPDATE REPORT: JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2006

The Committee considered the report of the Area Manager, Highways and Transportation Services informing Members of County Highway and Transportation issues in the Rochford District in the period from July to September 2006.

County officers advised:-

- The Main Road/junction with Folly Lane junction improvement scheme within the locally determined budget could not be progressed; County Highways was accordingly looking at alternative schemes that might replace this one within the current year's budget.
- The Hullbridge Road, Rayleigh fencing improvement scheme had now been completed.
- Temporary speed indicators were being rolled out around the District; initial feedback was positive.
- Response from the Parish Councils on planned parish visits had been disappointing.
- The resurfacing of the A129 in the vicinity of the Carpenters Arms had still to be completed; site investigations were currently being conducted.
- Work on the joints and overlay of the A1245 from the Carpenters Arms to Bedloes was still to be completed; suitable material for overlaying repairs to the concrete bays was being investigated.
- The road condition of Rectory Road, Hawkwell, at its junction with Main Road, was bad and would need to be deep planed and re-laid.
- A specialist contractor would be required to address the surface of Folly Lane, in the Aldermans Hill to Church Road section; work would take place in February/March 2007.
- The widening of Bradley Way Cycleway would be done in conjunction with the Rochford re-lighting scheme, as part of the Rochford regeneration programme.

County officers noted Member concern relating to a large black spot in the vicinity of Rectory Road/Hall Road, which Members perceived would benefit from extra lighting.

County officers noted Member concern relating to the recent re-surfacing of Trinity Wood Road, which was supposed to be a public right of way and bridle. Rainwater was collecting on the new road surface and not draining

away.

Members remarked that there could be merit in considering expanding the temporary speed sign scheme next year.

Officers noted a Member request to monitor Upmans Park Road, where parents continued to park on pavements and in the road, causing a hazard for other road users.

In response to Member concerns and enquiries, the following was noted:-

- The overall locally determined budget was £50,000.
- Flooding/drainage problems in the Anne Boleyn roundabout section of Sutton Road was being investigated.
- An area of bumpy surface on the A130 in the vicinity of the Carpenters Arms would be addressed.
- Varying speed limits on the A129 on the other side of the Carpenters Arms roundabout would be examined in detail by officers.
- Officers would examine the section of footpath from Stambridge Primary School to the back end of the Stambridge Memorial Hall.
- Passenger Transport officers at the County Council were reviewing the programme of bus stops and bus shelters, which would take account of the new, bendy buses which were, of course, longer than current buses within the county.

Resolved

That the Highways Local Service Agreement update report July to September 2006 be noted. (County Highways)

408 THE FORMATION OF NATURAL ENGLAND

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning and Transportation informing Members of the formation of Natural England, a new and powerful Government agency that had been created to champion the natural environment.

During debate, Members expressed dissatisfaction with the creation of this new Government body, and were unclear as to whether its aim was to achieve savings by amalgamating 4 different agencies into one body, or to try and quash any opposition to further plans for development.

On a motion moved by Cllr Mrs M J Webster and seconded by Cllr T G Cutmore it was:-

Resolved

- (1) That the creation of Natural England as the new Government body intended to champion the protection of the natural environment be noted.
- (2) That a letter be sent to the relevant Government Minister expressing this Council's concern that this new body will not be as effective as its current 4 constituent parts. There is likely to be a conflict of interest within the body because of competing priorities, and the Government has, at a stroke, reduced any opposition to its development plans from 4 to 1. (HPT)

409 SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT CONSULTATION RESPONSES

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning and Transportation setting out the results of the public consultation on eight supplementary planning documents, and seeking Members' approval for the adoption of the amended documents.

Members observed that there appeared to be a number of changes within the supplementary planning documents, which warranted further discussion. There was a general consensus that a meeting of the Planning Policy Sub-Committee should be scheduled for that purpose. An item should be included in the Members' Bulletin requesting Members to take these supplementary planning documents along to the Sub-Committee meeting.

On a motion moved by Cllr P A Capon and seconded by Cllr T G Cutmore, it was:-

Resolved

That the Planning Policy Sub-Committee should give detailed consideration to supplementary planning documents 1 to 8 and report back to this Committee with its recommendations. (HPT)

410 PLANNING DELIVERY GRANT 2006/07 – UPDATE

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning and Transportation updating Members on planning delivery grant expenditure in the current financial year, as requested by the Policy, Finance & Strategic Performance Committee (Minute 186/06).

Resolved

That progress on the various planning delivery grant initiatives be noted. (HPT)

411 REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF ESSEX

(Note: Cllr P A Capon declared a personal interest in this item by virtue of membership of Stambridge Parish Council.)

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning and Transportation regarding a request received from the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) for financial support for a Rochford District Field Officer post.

While mindful of the fact that the Council might wish to follow up on actions identified within parish plans in developing its main development plan documents, Members nevertheless considered that the Parish Councils should precept for their parish plans.

On a motion moved by Cllr T G Cutmore and seconded by Cllr P A Capon it was:-

Resolved

That financial assistance should not be provided to the Rural Community Council of Essex to fund a field worker for Rochford District in 2007/08, but that this should be included within Parish Council precepts. (HPT)

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Chairman

Date