

Finance & Procedures Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 23 July 2003

Minutes of the meeting of the **Finance & Procedures Overview & Scrutiny Committee** held on **23 July 2003** when there were present:-

Cllr T G Cutmore (Chairman)

Cllr P A Capon
Cllr T Livings

Cllr Mrs J R Lumley
Cllr C R Morgan

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs H L A Glynn, C C Langlands and D Brown, Rayleigh Chartered Outdoor Market

DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICERS PRESENT

A Bugeja Head of Legal Services
M Martin Committee Administrator

COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICER PRESENT

K Bristow District Manager, Transportation & Operational Services

REPRESENTING ESSEX POLICE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT UNIT

PC D Saunders

REPRESENTING RAYLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Cllr Mrs N Jaworski

REPRESENTING RAYLEIGH CHARTERED OUTDOOR MARKET

J Pilgrim Joint Proprietor
J Brown Joint Proprietor

REPRESENTING RAYLEIGH MARKET TRADERS

J Holdsworth, P Holdsworth, J Fentis, K Kelly, F Nash

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The Committee considered the report of the Head of Legal Services which advised Members of the results of the investigations which had been carried out following the discussions at the meeting of this Committee held on

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10 June 2003 when the feasibility of relocating Rayleigh Market within the High Street had been considered.

In clarification of the Minutes of that meeting, Members noted an explanation from the Market Proprietors that at the time the District Council purchased the Market site in 1953, permanent stalls existed on the site and it subsequently became a car park when Mr Pilgrim introduced portable stalls.

Copies of responses received to the consultation on the feasibility of relocating the market had been previously circulated to Members of the Committee. These included comments from the Essex Police Casualty Reduction Unit, Essex County Council's Highways and Transportation local office, Essex County Fire & Rescue Service and Rochford Market Operatives. In particular, Members had noted that Essex Police and Essex County Council would have serious reservations about such a proposal.

The representative from Essex Police confirmed that their view was that such a relocation would only further extend the existing traffic problems within the High Street and cause increased safety issues on the surrounding roads. There would be safety issues around the extra pedestrian movements, together with the reduced visibility caused by market stalls.

The representative from Essex County Council concurred with these views, together with highlighting the enormous logistical problems that would be created. The officer confirmed that should Members wish to consider this option, a traffic study would need to be undertaken which would initially look at existing queuing and delays.

Rayleigh Town Council and the Market Proprietors reported that they were still not in favour of the option to relocate the market.

In response to a suggestion put forward by the Market Proprietors that the siting of the stalls could be condensed within a smaller area of the site, thus freeing up some car parking spaces, the following concerns expressed by the representative from Essex Police were noted:-

- The issue of pedestrian conflict with traffic movements would require the erection of a barrier by the Market Proprietors which would be rigorous enough to provide a safe segregation.
- A detailed plan would need to be submitted which would be the subject of a Safety Audit.

Members noted that provision could be made within the licence for some flexibility as to the use of the car park area, should the market requirements change and that an appropriate period for the licence given changing circumstances would be 7 years.

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Members were of the view that when taking into account the views of all concerned, and in particular those of Essex Police and Essex County Council that the market should remain in its present location.

On a Motion, moved by Cllr P A Capon and seconded by Cllr T G Cutmore, it was agreed that the Market Proprietor's proposal be investigated further in order to identify a workable scheme.

Recommended to Council

- (1) That at the present time the market be retained within the Market Car Park, Rayleigh.
- (2) That the licence be renewed for a period of 7 years within a relevant area which allows for the retention of car parking throughout the week on the western part of the site and subject to a workable scheme being agreed which addresses the pedestrian and health and safety issues.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and finished at 3.20 pm.

Chairman

Date