

ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Community Services Committee

At a Meeting held on 20 January 2000 Present: Councillors Mrs W M Stevenson (Chairman), R S Allen, C I Black, T G Cutmore, J M Dickson, D F Flack, K A Gibbs, N Harris, Mrs J Helson, C C Langlands, Mrs S J Lemon, R A Pearson, Mrs M S Vince, Mrs M J Webster and Mrs M A Weir.

Ex Officio Member Attending: Councillor D R Helson.

Apologies: Councillors P A Beckers, D M Ford, J E Grey and Mrs A R Hutchings.

Substitutes: Councillors Mrs J M Giles, V D Hutchings and G A Mockford.

21 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 November 1999 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

22 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor C I Black declared a remote non-pecuniary interest by virtue of his Mother's family being mentioned in one of the Rochford Town Trails.

23 SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

- (i) Urgency Sub-Committee – 16 December 1999
- (ii) Leisure Sub-Committee – 5 January 2000

Minute 64 – Leisure Connection Management Report (Minute 430/99)

Resolved

That the report be received and the points outlined in the Minutes be actioned.
(131)(HLCS)

Minute 65 – Arts Audit and Draft Art Strategy (Minute 351/99)

Resolved

- (1) That the Art Strategy be adopted in principle subject to appropriate funding being available.

- (2) That an Arts Development Officer be employed to develop the action plan within the Strategy subject to appropriate funding being available. (HLCS)

Minute 66 – Leisure Strategy (Minute 430/99)

Resolved

That the report be received and points outlined in the Minutes be actioned. (HLCS)

24 OUTSTANDING ISSUES

Members were advised that the anti-climb fence at St John Fisher Playing Field was due to be installed in the week commencing 24 January 2000. A monitoring report would be submitted three months after this time.

The Committee was satisfied that all necessary action had been taken. Minute 214/99 (HHHCC) was carried forward.

25 HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME - LOCALITY ACTION PROGRAMME

NOTE: Councillor D F Flack declared a non-pecuniary interest by virtue of being a non-executive director of the Southend Community Care Services NHS Trust and took no part in the debate on the items.

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing Health and Community Care which sought Members' comment on matters for inclusion within the Rochford Primary Care Group's Locality Action Programme (LAP) covering the period 2000 to 2003. In concurring with the Officer's view, in that the LAP should avoid repetition of work already carried out under other strategies, Members considered that the Officers suggested points should be included within the programme. It was also considered appropriate for the following points to also be sent for inclusion within the programme.

- Provision of outreach health care services for the more rural areas of the District.
- Continue to address the high Doctor/Patient ratio within the district given the continuing development within the area.
- Health Awareness Days
- Improved consideration of waste management, particularly waste incineration and the impact such proposals could have on the health of residents.
- The pump- priming of new Doctor's surgeries by the PCG
- Development of a Healthy Living Centre..

Resolved

That the Officers suggested response along with those points outlined above be sent to Rochford Primary Care Group as this Authority's concerns to be considered for inclusion within the Locality Action Programme for 2000/2003. (26609) (HHHCC)

26 LICENSING OF PET SHOPS (Minute 88/99)

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing Health and Community Care which advised Members that as part of a national campaign, the RSPCA had made recommendations for improving the animal welfare standards in pet shops but that the Pet Care Trust, a trade organisation, believed that these recommendations were unnecessary.

In noting the background to pet shop licensing at Rochford, the previous decision to implement national model standards following consultation and when resources permit and the points raised by both the RSPCA and the Pet Care Trust, Members considered that all points raised by the RSPCA should be included within licensing conditions for pet shops. Members further considered that in agreeing the point that pet shops should be annually inspected by a vet, the cost of such work should be re-charged to the applicant. The inspection should continue to be carried out on an unannounced basis with the licence issued being seen as a "seal of approval" from the Local Authority.

On the matter of training for pet shop staff, the Head of Service advised that staff would endeavour to advise businesses where suitable courses for appropriate qualifications were run. On a Motion put by Councillor Mrs M J Webster and seconded by Councillor T G Cutmore it was

Resolved

That the amendment of Pet Shop Licensing Conditions to take into account model standards include those points raised by the RSPCA as detailed in the report. (HHHCC)

27 HALYCON CARAVAN PARK: APPLICATION TO CHANGE SITE LAYOUT

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing Health and Community Care on an application for the change of site layout to Halycon Caravan Park, Pooles Lane, Hullbridge under the site licence conditions. Whilst being mindful of the Legal Officer's suggestion for deferment of decision pending the satisfactory resolution of matters relating to Tree Preservation Orders at the site, Members considered that the application should be refused on the grounds that the site plan could not be adopted given the issue of Tree Preservation Orders on the site, given the proposed site layout was at odds with the existing site licence for mixed holiday/residential use, and also the potential for flooding at the site. There was support for a Member's suggestion that Counsel's opinion should be sought and, if appropriate, the grounds of refusal should include this.

It was further considered that a planning application would need to be submitted for the change of use to a fully residential caravan site. On this matter, Members were mindful of a recent similar planning application where part of the site fell within the flood plain of an adjacent river and on these grounds, that planning application had been refused. Members further questioned whether trees on the site were actually the cause of subsidence, damage to drainage and cracking of hard-standings at the site or whether this was a result of the geology of the area. On this matter, the Committee were advised that, Officers had requested evidence from the Applicant that the subsidence and the damage to both hard-standings and drainage were being caused by those trees protected under the Tree Preservation Orders; To date this evidence had not been received..

On a motion put by Councillor D F Flack and seconded by Councillor Mrs S J Lemon, it was:

Resolved

(1) That the revised site layout application be refused on the grounds that having regard to the Tree Preservation Orders on the site, the layout cannot be implemented,

(2) That Officers seek Counsel's opinion on whether the proposed layout could be implemented given the present mixed holiday/residential licence and given the site's potential for flooding, and be authorised to include these as further grounds for refusal if appropriate.
(HHHCC)(1479)

28 ROCHFORD DISTRICT TOWN TRAILS (Minute 437/99)

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Leisure and Client Services which sought Member approval to the publication of one District and four Town Trails. Noting the history to the Town Trails, Members were advised that it was the intention to produce a fifth Town Trail for Hullbridge and that the trails would be subject of regular updating as appropriate. In agreeing the publication of the District/Town Trails, Members considered that the following points should be clarified prior to printing.

Rochford District Trail

Members questioned whether the picture of Rayleigh Town Centre could be updated to reflect the recent Town Centre Enhancements (this picture would also need updating within the Rayleigh Town Trail).

A Member requested that the part of this trail mentioning Hullbridge should be expanded to provide a better history of the village.

Rayleigh Town Trail

Members requested that an improved picture of the windmill could be used to reflect the forthcoming enhancements to this area of the Town.

It was further considered that the map of Rayleigh should indicate the High Street as well as the High Road.

All Trails

Members requested that where railway stations were quoted, that they should be all listed in order of their rail stopping points. It was further considered that a spell-check of all Town Trails should be undertaken prior to publication.

Resolved

That the Town and District Trails be produced as appended to include all those amendments outlined above. (HLCS)

The Meeting closed at 9pm

Chairman

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Date

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