

WEST AREA COMMITTEE UPDATE

At the last meeting of this Committee, a number of issues were raised that required further investigation.

Ref No.	Issue	Progress	Officer details
02/07 (Minute 238/07)	Rayleigh West Sewage Works – timescale for the implementation of additional/improved signage at Hullbridge, Battlesbridge and Rawreth Lane.	The order for new signs has been raised – erection of signs is imminent. No further advance signing is planned at present.	L Harvey Essex County Council 01268 297540
07/07 (Minute 239/07)	The Bridge on the Old Chelmsford Road – update on the progress of the feasibility study as to whether it might be possible to install traffic lights on the bridge.	Battlesbridge – feasibility study is still being worked on. Due date - March 2008. Ongoing.	L Harvey Essex County Council 01268 297540
19/07 (Minute 287/07)	Battlesbridge Conservation Area – Progress on establishing a joint forum for issues relating to the Battlesbridge Conservation Area.	A meeting between the two Councils took place on 24 January 2008 to discuss the arrangements for a joint forum and the implementation of the action plan. The management options included in the plan were discussed and it has been agreed that a further meeting will be organised involving County Highways to explore the options available to begin to implement the proposals. Arrangements for a forum were considered, but have not yet been finalised: initial thoughts are that a forum should involve a wide range of interests, including the Parish Councils.	S Scrutton Rochford District Council 01702 318100

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Ref No.	Issue	Progress	Officer details
23/07 (Minute 287/07)	Unauthorised Travellers' Site on A1245.	Essex Districts have agreed to commission consultants to undertake a new Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment.	S Scrutton Rochford District Council 01702 318100
24/07 (Minute 239/07)	Cutting of verges on green in Graysons Close	The section of land with the plant debris on it is private land and not the responsibility of the Council. Landowners are responsible for maintaining their own land.	R Evans Rochford District Council 01702 318044
25/07 (Minute 340/07)	Improvements to the wet side changing rooms and showers at Clements Hall Leisure Centre.	A quarterly partnership meeting held between Rochford District Council and Virgin Active on 25 January 2008 highlighted delays in the confirmation of capital expenditure until after the Virgin Active Board meeting due to be held in the week commencing 4 February 2008. A further update will be provided after that date.	J Bourne Rochford District Council 01702 318163
27/07 (Minute 340/07)	Victoria Avenue, adjoining London Road, is in need of re-surfacing.	This site is being considered for surfacing in the new financial year. The programme will not be finalised until the budget is known.	L Harvey Essex County Council 01268 297540
28/07 (Minute 340/07)	Hedgerow removed from Hambro Parade has still not been re-planted.	Hedgerow has been replanted.	L Harvey Essex County Council 01268 297540

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Ref No.	Issue	Progress	Officer details
29/07 (Minute 340/07)	The status of Priory Chase and whether or not this has been adopted. The lights on the turning circle are still not switched on.	The information that we have received is that the street lights are now operational.	L Harvey Essex County Council 01268 297540
32/07 (Minute 340/07)	Continued speeding and parking problems in Little Wheatley Chase. Speed limit signs are not illuminated.	An informal consultation has taken place with residents and the school with a view to implementing parking restrictions. Response was favourable, thus an extension to proposal has been requested. Put forward to be considered as part of next year's Locally Determined Budget works. Speeding is more of an issue and a request has been put forward for mobile enforcement to be considered.	L Harvey Essex County Council 01268 297540
33/07 (Minute 340/07)	Poor condition of the footpath in Little Wheatley Chase.	Footpath has been inspected and no safety defects identified – there will therefore be no further action.	L Harvey Essex County Council 01268 297540
34/07 (Minute 340/07)	Uneven road surface in Rawreth Lane in the vicinity of Trenders Avenue.	The site is being monitored. May be included as part of the surfacing programme in 2008/09 but programme will not be finalised until the budget is known.	L Harvey Essex County Council 01268 297540

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Ref No.	Issue	Progress	Officer details
36/07 (Minute 340/07)	Excessive speeding in Langham Drive/Wheatley Chase/Bardfield Way, Rayleigh and limited parking in these roads.	Speed data has been sent to Essex Police who are now considering appropriate action.	L Harvey Essex County Council 01268 297540
37/07 (Minute 340/07)	The possibility of introducing a 20mph speed limit in Glasseys Lane and other roads in that vicinity leading onto Eastwood Road, Rayleigh.	Essex County Council is reviewing policy at present. Draft is expected by March 2008. Ongoing.	L Harvey Essex County Council 01268 297540
38/07 (Minute 340/07)	Extension to double yellow lines in Picton Gardens/Picton Close, Rayleigh.	This is being progressed at the moment, however there is an objection. If this can be resolved the likely implementation date is March 2008. Still on target for this.	L Harvey Essex County Council 01268 297540
39/07 (Minute 340/07)	Site visit by Ward Members and County Highways officers to the junctions of Trinity Road, The Chase and Grove Road with Eastwood Road, Rayleigh.	Cllr Humphries has been advised of outcome.	L Harvey Essex County Council 01268 297540

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Ref No.	Issue	Progress	Officer details
44/07 (Minutes 339/07 and 410/07)	Flooding in Rawreth – an assurance to be sought from the Environment Agency that ditches within the District would be maintained to prevent build-up of silt.	A letter has been sent to the Environment Agency and a response is awaited.	S Scrutton Rochford District Council 01702 318100
45/07 (Minute 339/07)	Speeding and traffic-related problems in Rawreth Lane – there have been recent incidents involving children being knocked over in Rawreth Lane.	Revision to speed limit being undertaken. 40mph western end and 50mph in the centre. Speed survey required.	L Harvey Essex County Council 01268 297540
47/07 (Minute 409/07)	Youngsters drinking Asda-branded alcohol outside St Nicholas School Area, Rawreth in a poorly lit area.	The Police are taking steps to address this, with consideration being given to various options, including test purchases and a licensing review.	A Parkman Essex Police 01268 775533
49/07 (Minute 409/07)	Rubbish not being cleared from bushes adjacent to Swayne Park.	The area described has been litter picked during the week commencing 28 January 2008. The Council's contractors have been instructed to monitor the area closely to ensure litter collection standards are met.	R Evans Rochford District Council 01702 318044

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Ref No.	Issue	Progress	Officer details
01/08 (Minute 02/08)	What can be done to reduce the number of carrier bags being used and discourage shops and supermarkets from giving them out as a matter of course?	Unfortunately there is very little a District Authority can do in this case, apart from encouraging customers not to take plastic bags when they go shopping. Lobbying needs to take place via Central Government to discourage industry giants from providing bags, although the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) in a recent study highlighted that even this is not straight forward as neither taxation nor banning are necessarily the answer; the focus needs to be on reducing the environmental impact of the bags. The Republic of Ireland went down the route of implementing a levy on plastic bags (in 2002) and there are mixed reactions as to how well this has gone.	R Evans Rochford District Council 01702 318044
08/08 (Minute 02/08)	Graffiti and damage in play areas in Hartford Close, Rayleigh	The damage to signs in the play space has been identified by the ground maintenance contractor during regular inspections. The damaged signs will be re-installed within the next 2 weeks. The graffiti on the play equipment is not offensive and will be painted over in the spring.	R Evans Rochford District Council 01702 318044
02/08 (Minute 02/08)	Pearsons Farm Estate has no litter or dog bins and is in general need of a re-vamp.	Pearsons Farm Estate / Pearsons Avenue – there are 3 litter bins located in this area, 2 litter bins are located in Vernon Avenue and there is 1 litter bin in Cheapside West. The area is well provided with litter bins and there are no plans currently to provide further bins. Council officers will be seeking agreement with residents to locate dog bins near or outside their properties. Subject to residents agreeing, dog bins will be installed later in the year. The consultation with residents will take place in February.	R Evans Rochford District Council 01702 318044

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Ref No.	Issue	Progress	Officer details
03/08 (Minute 02/08)	Is the no. 3 bus service from Chelmsford to Southend due to cease?	It has been confirmed that the No. 3 service will operate until 5 April 2008. Its future beyond that date is dependant upon the financial performance of the service and concessionary fare income is likely to be a critical component.	S Scrutton Rochford District Council 01702 318100
04/08 (Minute 02/08)	Why is there no record of accidents last October in Rawreth Lane? How many accidents have happened and not been recorded?	<p>Essex Police has never been requested to provide road traffic collision data to any of the Area Committees across the District – to do so would add to the data sets we already routinely provide (which is already specifically prepared to align with the geographical boundaries of the respective Area Committees). Unless there is a compelling case to demonstrate the absolute need to routinely provide this data, I do not propose to extend the scope of the data we already routinely provide.</p> <p>In relation to road traffic collisions (RTCs) that are not recorded, Essex Police does not record RTCs that meet certain limited criteria. This would include circumstances where there are no injuries and details of drivers are exchanged in accordance with Section 170 Road Traffic Act 1988 and that there is no evidence of unacceptable driver behaviour, or if the RTC is attributable to a minor error of judgment or a momentary lapse of concentration.</p>	A Parkman Essex Police 01268 775533
05/08 (Minute 02/08)	Trees have been broken and there's an increase in rubbish at Rayleigh Leisure Centre.	Seven trees have been vandalised at this location. They are planned to be replaced before the end of the current season planting. The litter deposited on the grass and amenity areas has been removed.	R Evans Rochford District Council 01702 318044

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06/08 (Minute 02/08)	Rain is soaking pedestrians, including children, walking along Rawreth Lane.	Noted but exact location to target action is required.	L Harvey Essex County Council 01268 297540
07/08 (Minute 04/08)	A review of policy by the Executive Board with respect to the removal of graffiti in Childrens' Play Areas.	Whilst the Area Committee was concerned that non-offensive graffiti could take up to 3 years to be removed from children's play equipment, the Executive Board at its meeting on 6 February 2008 noted that, under the new grounds maintenance and street cleansing contracts, any sexist, racist and offensive graffiti would be removed within 24 hours of being reported and that all other graffiti would be removed within 3 days. In view of this significant improvement in dealing with graffiti removal, the Board agreed that it would be appropriate for the Council's Review Committee to be asked to review the working of the graffiti removal policy after the new contracts have been in operation for a number of months.	R Evans Rochford District Council 01702 318044