

Environmental Services Committee – 3 July 2003

Minutes of the meeting of the **Environmental Services Committee** held on **3 July 2003** when there were present:-

Cllr J E Grey (Chairman)
Cllr C G Seagers (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Mrs T J Capon
Cllr R G S Choppen
Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn
Cllr Mrs S A Harper
Cllr Mrs L Hungate

Cllr A J Humphries
Cllr R A Oatham
Cllr Mrs M S Vince
Cllr Mrs M J Webster

VISITING MEMBER

Cllr T Livings.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J M Pullen.

SUBSTITUTES

Cllr Mrs M A Starke.

OFFICERS PRESENT

S Scrutton	- Head of Planning Services
G Woolhouse	- Head of Housing, Health & Community Care
D Timson	- Property Maintenance & Highways Manager
S Worthington	- Committee Administrator

COUNTY OFFICERS PRESENT

K Bristow	- District Manager, Transportation & Operational Services
L Harvey	- District Engineer

316 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 June 2003 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

317 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr T Livings declared a personal interest in item 11 of the agenda by virtue of living in the vicinity of Grove Road.

Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn declared a prejudicial interest in item 8 by virtue of living in the close vicinity of Magnolia Road and left the Chamber during discussion of this item.

318 ISSUES ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

(1) Magnolia Road, Hawkwell – Report on Current Situation

The Committee considered the report of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 17 June 2003.

County Officers noted Members' concern that alternatives for protecting the ditches and verges along Magnolia Road be explored.

Responding to a Member enquiry, County Officers confirmed that it would be inappropriate to introduce additional passing places along Magnolia Road as the road was already too wide.

Resolved

That no action be taken by the Highway Authority to restrict vehicular movements in Magnolia Road as it is a private street. (County Highways)

(2) SERAS 2

The Committee considered the report of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 17 June 2003.

Resolved

- (1) That no further comment be made with respect to the SERAS 2 consultation.
- (2) That this Council offers support to Huntingdonshire District Council in objecting to any airport development at Alconbury. (HPS)

(3) Village and Town Centre Regeneration Schemes

The Committee considered the report of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 17 June 2003.

Resolved

That the schemes at Hullbridge and Hockley are completed and that up to £5,000 be allocated from within the capital programme to achieve this. (CD(F&ES))

319 PROGRESS ON DECISIONS

The Committee received the Schedule relating to Progress on Decisions.

Taxi Ranks – Consideration of Objections (Minute 590/02)

Officers confirmed that no action could be taken with respect to parking on yellow lines in Rayleigh High Street until next year when decriminalised parking enforcement would be introduced within the District.

Provision of Additional Recycling Collection at Golden Cross, Ashingdon – Update (Minute 109/03)

Although there had not been an increase in containers the same capacity has been achieved by introducing a weekly collection.

Members confirmed that the Golden Cross vicinity was much tidier, and that there were fewer complaints about refuse.

Twice Yearly Update from Essex County Council (Minute 106(1)/03)

County Officers noted a Member request that steep hills in Rayleigh be included in the winter salting programme.

Essex Municipal Waste Strategy (Minute 174/03)

Responding to Member concern that, county-wide, Rochford District Council was attaining one of the lowest levels of recycling, Officers confirmed that this was largely due to any further expansion being dependant on additional funding from Central Government.

Rochford District Replacement Local Plan – Cherry Orchard Brick Works, Rochford (Minute 249/03)

The wording in the progress box should be amended to read “June” rather than “July”.

Community Transport – Future Development (Minute 252/03)

Officers would update Members on a meeting with RAVS held on 23 June and would also confirm whether the minibus had been completely transferred to RAVS.

Taxi Voucher Scheme (Minute 253/03)

An update report would be brought to this Committee in December.

320 LATEST REVIEW OF LOCALLY DETERMINED PROGRAMME 2002/2003 AND PRESENTATION OF LOCALLY DETERMINED PROGRAMME 2003/2004

The Committee considered the report of the Area Manager, County Highways informing Members of progress on the locally determined programme 2002/2003 and requesting Members to approve the locally determined programme for the financial year 2003/2004 and to note items for the rolling programme for 2003-6.

Responding to a Member enquiry, County Officers advised that a report on the feasibility study of a mini roundabout for Downhall Road/Hambro Hill, Rayleigh would be brought to this Committee in the autumn.

County Officers noted Members' concern that the hedgerows on both sides of Ashingdon Road at Ashingdon Hill be regularly cut back where the footway was narrow.

Members expressed concern that heavy vehicles were parking on the footway at Rectory Road, Hawkwell adjacent to the Jewsons entrance. It was felt that there might be merit in County Officers asking Hawkwell Parish to contribute towards the costs of bollards.

Responding to Member concern that a planning application condition relating to a mini roundabout being placed at Golden Cross Road/Brays Lane had not yet been implemented, County Officers agreed that they would raise the issue with the appropriate County Council department.

County Officers confirmed that capital funding was available in the current financial year for new and improved footway facilities in Websters Way.

Resolved

- (1) That the programme of Locally Determined Schemes for this financial year, as shown in Section 5 of this report, be approved.
- (2) That the rolling programme of reserve schemes, as shown in Section 6 of the report, be approved.

On a motion moved by Cllr R A Oatham and seconded by Cllr Mrs M S Vince it was further:-

Resolved

- (3) That the "Kill Your Speed" poster programme be continued in the Rochford District. (County Highways)

321 GROVE SCHOOLS, RAYLEIGH – SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOLS

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) advising Members that, as part of their safer routes to schools programme, Essex County Council have suggested that parents taking children to schools in Grove Road should park in the car park serving Grove Road Playing Fields and walk children through the woods back to the schools.

Officers confirmed that the scheme should improve parking outside the schools and that this would be further improved next year with the introduction of decriminalised parking enforcement.

Responding to a Member enquiry, Officers agreed that the County Council would be asked whether a separate entrance and exit to the car park could be introduced for this scheme, similar to that at Ashingdon Hill Park.

During debate, concern was expressed that the car park was not closer to the schools; it was therefore possible that the scheme would be less attractive to parents during the winter.

A further concern was noted that the proposed car park surface of compacted planings could result in high maintenance requirements.

Concluding the debate, it was the consensus of Members that there was merit in the scheme as it should help reduce the parking problems in Grove Road.

Resolved

- (1) That the proposed scheme be supported, with the inclusion of illuminated bollards along the path.
- (2) That a budget bid be made for 2005/2006 for the additional maintenance for this proposal. (CD(F&ES))

322 THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BILL 2003

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care recommending that Members support a Private Members Bill, sponsored by Brian White MP (Labour, Milton Keynes N.E.), providing for the development and promotion of a sustainable energy policy and the setting of energy efficiency targets.

It was the consensus of the Committee that the Bill should be supported by this Council, subject to proper funding from Central Government. It was further felt appropriate that this Council should urge Members not to table amendments to the Bill and should inform Mr Brian White MP of any resolutions made with respect to the Bill.

Resolved

- (1) That an e-mail be sent urgently to the 2 Members of Parliament wishing to table amendments to the Bill, urging them not to do so.
- (2) That a letter be sent to the local Members of Parliament:
 - (i) asking them to sign House of Commons Early Day Motion No. 148 in support of domestic energy efficiency targets and Early Day Motion No. 910 supporting the Bill, provided that adequate funding is given to authorities to enable them to meet their obligations.
 - (ii) Asking them to write to Ministers in support of the Bill and of retention of targets in it and to provide adequate funding to authorities to meet their obligations.
- (3) That a letter be sent to Ministers asking them to support the Bill with the targets retained in it and to provide adequate funding to authorities to enable them to meet their obligations.
- (4) That a copy of these resolutions, together with a supporting letter, be sent to Mr Brian White MP. (HHHCC)

323 ESSEX AIR QUALITY CHARTER

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care updating Members regarding the work of the Essex Air Quality Consortium and proposing Rochford District Council's commitment to the Essex Air Quality Charter.

Resolved

That the Essex Air Quality Charter be signed to confirm Rochford District Council's continued support for the work of the Essex Air Quality Consortium and their commitment to improving air quality in Essex and to achieving a better environment and quality of life. (HHHCC)

324 BACK LANE CAR PARK, ROCHFORD – ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEW ENTRANCE FROM LOCKS HILL

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services seeking Members' approval to funding arrangements for works to complete the construction of the proposed new entrance to Back Lane Car Park from Locks Hill.

Responding to a Member enquiry relating to the funding for this project, Officers advised that the original estimate for the works was £7,000 and that it

was proposed that the outstanding amount be funded from the capital programme.

Members expressed concern that appropriate signage would be required for Back Lane and the bottom of West Street so that drivers were made aware of the changed priorities. Officers stressed that the key changes would not relate to the actual highway, but rather to the entrance and exit to the car park, resulting in a different vehicular movement for the car park. There would, however, be extensive signage, as well as the distribution of informational leaflets to all users of the Back Lane Car Park.

Responding to a further Member enquiry, Officers confirmed that the contractor could be instructed to commence work after five days' notice had passed from the date of this Committee meeting.

Resolved

That the works to implement the new Locks Hill entrance to Back Lane Car Park be funded as outlined in the report and the actual financing reported to Members as part of the budget process. (HPS)

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Chairman

Date