

Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 18 March 2003

Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee** held on **18 March 2003** when there were present:-

Cllr P A Capon (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs R Brown (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr R A Amner
Cllr C I Black
Cllr C A Hungate

Cllr P K Savill
Cllr P F A Webster
Cllr Mrs M A Weir

VISITING MEMBERS

Cllrs D F L Flack, J E Grey, Cllr R A Oatham and Mrs M J Webster.

OFFICERS PRESENT

A Bugeja	Head of Legal Services
S Scrutton	Head of Planning Services
D Timson	Property Maintenance & Highways Manager
H Drye	Corporate Policy Manager
S Garland	Community Safety Officer
M Martin	Committee Administrator

COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICERS PRESENT

N McCullagh	Area Manager, Transportation & Operational Services
L Harvey	District Engineer, Transportation & Operational Services

ALSO ATTENDING

K Brown	Mouchel
A Ditima	Mouchel
S Nasson	Mouchel
G Such	Regional Manager, Serviceteam
D Leicester	Refuse & Street Cleansing Manager, Serviceteam

130 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 February 2003 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

131 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2003

The Committee received and noted the report of the County's Area Highways Manager, Transportation & Operational Services which provided Members with updated information which had been requested by this Committee at its meeting held on 12 February 2003.

In particular Members noted that:-

- Environmental Maintenance – the original budgetary figure had been increased and that details of the new figure would be published in the Members' Bulletin.
- Downhall Road/Hambro Hill Rayleigh – mini roundabout study - residents had requested confirmation that there would be safe access and egress from their properties.

132 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs R Brown declared a personal interest in the item on CCTV Funding in Local Shopping Parades by virtue of being a Hullbridge Parish Councillor.

133 MAGNOLIA ROAD, HAWKWELL – PROPOSED PROHIBITION OF DRIVING

The Committee considered the evidence which had been gathered from the meeting of the Committee held on 26 February 2003.

The County Council's Area Manager complemented the District Council on the format of that meeting when members of the public and interested parties had been in attendance to give their views.

A Motion was moved by Cllr Mrs M A Weir and seconded by Cllr C A Hungate that the County Council investigate designating Magnolia Road as a no through road with adequate signage. The County Council's Area Manager confirmed that it would be necessary to consider all the implications, including discussion with the Police, and to report back to this Committee on the effectiveness of such a proposal.

Members noted that any signage would need to be backed by a Traffic Regulation Order, enforceable by the Police. However, gaining evidence in such circumstances and ascertaining legitimate uses of the road would often be difficult.

Resolved

That the County Council investigate the implications of designating Magnolia Road as a no through road, with appropriate signage, and report back to this Committee. (Area Highways)

134 RAYLEIGH TOWN CENTRE TRAFFIC STUDY

The Committee welcomed representatives from Mouchel, who had been commissioned by the County Council to consider options for improvement in traffic flow within Rayleigh town centre and which could also minimise queuing on

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the approach to the town centre. Members received a presentation in the form of a full traffic analysis study .

Members noted that:-

- the aim of the study had been to find ways of controlling and quickly dissipating queues on internal links, so as to improve the general traffic environment in Rayleigh town centre.
- the objectives of the study were to:-
 - assess the extent of the congestion and delay problems
 - test if replacing three existing mini roundabouts with signals would improve operating conditions in Rayleigh town centre by reducing congestion and delays
 - test the effect of fully signalling Church Street junction only on the operation of the whole network
 - test the effect of signalling all key junctions, with one-way flow on Webster's Way.
 - assess if benefits arising from signalisation would be justified economically.

The traffic study had considered eight potential options, as follows:-

- (1) full signalisation of Church Street Junction only
- (2) signals with no pedestrian stage; maintain pelican crossing on High Street between Crown Hill and Eastwood Road
- (3) signals with pedestrian stage; no pelican crossings
- (4) signals with pedestrian stage; no pelican crossings; add short turning lanes.
- (5) Signals with parallel pedestrian stage, plus turning lanes and pelican crossing on High Street between Crown Hill and Eastwood Road.
- (6) Signals with separate pedestrian stage; additional turning lanes; no pelican crossing; full signals at Church Street. The study had concluded that this was the preferred option.
- (7) As in option 6, but with one way flow on Webster's Way.

The benefits of change were considered to be as follows:-

- Some reduction in delays
- Generally reduced queue lengths
- Slightly reduced degree of saturation
- Ability to control/minimise/optimize delays and queues on selected approaches to the junction
- Ability to keep queues on external links thus keeping the town centre free of congestion
- Pedestrians able to cross at junctions
- Better operating conditions overall
- The improvements come at a cost of around £420,000 for signal installation only. This would not include the cost of widening or of service diversion.

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Members noted that it had been felt that replacing mini roundabouts with traffic signals would result in better movement of traffic, with the important additional benefit of being able to dissipate queues via signal settings.

Members were in agreement that any decision ought to be taken only after careful consideration, as it would then be in place for some years.

On a Motion moved by Cllr P F A Webster and seconded by Cllr P K Savill it was agreed that a Sub-Committee be formed consisting of seven Members to look more closely at this issue.

Resolved

- (1) That a Rayleigh Traffic Study Sub-Committee be formed, consisting of seven Members of the District Council.
- (2) That the Sub-Committee report in to Council with its recommendations before the Summer recess. (HPS/County Highways)

135 SERVICETEAM UPDATE

The Committee welcomed Serviceteam's Regional Manager and Contracts Manager who reported to Members on the progress of the refuse and street cleansing contracts in the District.

Members noted the following:-

- Reduction in missed bins by 50%
- 24 hour collections also down significantly.
- Recycling targets are being met and 735 tons of waste have been recycled to date since April 2002. Included in this are the following; plastics, cans, foil, scrapped steel, paper, newsprint, cardboard, plastic bags.
- There has been some contamination amongst green waste caused by items such as food bags, which is not discovered until it is offloaded at the site. This was now much better.
- Details of where recycled goods are dispatched for reprocessing.

In response to a question, Serviceteam agreed to advise Members of any limitations on mixing recycled paper with virgin pulp. Members thanked them for their attendance at the meeting.

136 CCTV FUNDING IN LOCAL SHOPPING PARADES

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive which updated Members on progress regarding the installation of CCTV in the shopping

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parades at Hockley, Hullbridge and Rochford Square, and the investigation of Grove Road and Hambro Hill.

Members noted that following site visits it was considered that the most suitable equipment in terms of both quality and simplicity was a digital system. Whilst the cameras were of a higher standard and therefore more expensive, the lack of cabling and therefore the necessity for road works would reduce the overall cost.

Recommended to the Policy & Finance Committee

- (1) That the revised proposals for CCTV cameras in Hockley, Rochford Market Square and Hullbridge using funds previously allocated for each scheme be agreed; including the reviewing equipment.
- (2) That, in the case of Hullbridge, the scheme be financially supported by residual funds from the Rochford Market Square and Hockley schemes.
- (3) That, any residual funds from the schemes, approximately £1000, be reserved for repairs and maintenance.
- (4) That these cameras be installed by June 2003. (CE)

The meeting closed at 8.52 pm

Chairman

Date