

East Area Committee – 28 January 2010

Minutes of the meeting of the **East Area Committee** held on **28 January 2010** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr C G Seagers
Vice-Chairman: Cllr M J Steptoe

Cllr Mrs T J Capon
Cllr J P Cottis
Cllr T G Cutmore

Cllr K J Gordon
Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill
Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

ALSO PRESENT

Cllr Mrs P Shaw	-	Ashingdon Parish Council
J Bond	-	Rochford Parish Council
N Wallace	-	Canewdon Parish Council
K Perring	-	Great Wakering Parish Council
P A Capon	-	Stambridge Parish Council

OFFICERS PRESENT

Y Woodward	-	Head of Finance, Audit & Performance Management
S Scrutton	-	Head of Planning & Transportation
M Power	-	Committee Administrator

32 AREA COMMITTEE – INITIAL BUSINESS

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from District Cllr T E Goodwin, Mr B Summerfield (Sutton and Barling Parish Councils) and Cllr David Whittingham (Paglesham Parish Council).

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the inclusion of apologies from Cllrs V Newby and N Wallace of Canewdon Parish Council.

Declarations of Interest

Cllr C G Seagers declared a personal interest in item 4(1) of the Agenda by virtue of his daughter being employed by the National Health Service.

At this point the Committee adjourned the formal meeting to move into the Community Forum to hear contributions from members of the public.

33 COMMUNITY FORUM

Questions raised during the Community Forum and the responses given are set out in the appendix to these Minutes.

In respect of the question received from residents of the Coachman's Court (appended to the Minutes), the Committee was advised that the works had been completed and the matter was now closed.

The issues raised in the question from a resident of Boleyn House, Roche Close (appended to the Minute) would be referred to the appropriate authority and may be a matter for consideration by the Rochford Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP).

At this point the Committee reconvened into formal session.

34 SPOTLIGHT ISSUES

(1) Strategic Plan for NHS South East Essex 2009-2014

Russ Platt, Director of Commissioning and Contracting, provided a verbal update on progress against the Strategic Plan for NHS South East Essex 2009-2014, which sets out a vision for improving the health and wellbeing of the residents of South East Essex over the next five years.

Mr Platt advised that an extensive public consultation exercise had taken place at the beginning of 2009, as a result of which key local priorities for NHS South East Essex had been identified.

In response to Member questions, Mr Platt advised that:-

- The majority of mental health services were provided by South Essex Partnership NHS Trust (SEPT) and a considerable investment had been made in this area. As a result of the work achieved towards improving the general mental health of residents, it had become apparent that the demand for mental health services exceeded the forecast.
- The plans for new buildings in Westcliff and Shoeburyness to accommodate existing doctors practices had been put back from 2012 to 2014. Investment had been made to extend/upgrade the premises of existing practices towards achieving the commitment of ensuring that patients have ready access to care. It was noted that every patient has the right to be seen by a GP within 48 hours and a nurse within 24 hours.
- In response to concern around a lack of doctors' surgeries in the District, particularly around Hawkwell and Hockley, Mr Platt advised that the NHS was confident that there was sufficient capacity locally and that no patients were experiencing difficulty in accessing GP practices. It was

noted, however, that there was a disproportionate number of small GP practices in the District.

- Mr Platt advised that the revised strategy is focussed on drawing out funding inefficiencies and making gross efficiency savings over next 4 years, whilst maintaining quality standards and services provided by both GP's and hospitals.
- NHS South East Essex buys midwife services from within the NHS and does not employ private midwives. The 'Maternity Matters' initiative is addressing the issue of ensuring there are sufficient midwives to achieve the an increased midwife-led service.
- The issues of patients failing to attend appointments (Did Not Attends or DNA's) could be addressed by a public education programme.

(2) Update on Highways Localism

The Committee considered the report of the Area Highways Manager South on the progress of schemes under the Localism programme for 2009/10 and asked Members to prioritise schemes to be progressed during 2010/11. The report also included an update of issues raised at previous meetings of the East Area Committee.

In presenting the report, Lyn Harvey confirmed that, in addition to monies for Localism, County Highways had a budget for highways maintenance schemes. The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation, together with the Chairmen of Area Committees, would make the final decision of which schemes to progress, based on the priorities identified by each Area Committee.

During discussion, the following was noted:-

- The works to reconstruct the carriageway in Creeksea Road in the vicinity of Lion Wharf would commence on 22 February for one week and it was likely that some disruption to the movement of traffic in this area would result. There are on-going maintenance issues in respect of this section of the road.
- In respect of the request for junction protection/waiting restrictions in Stambridge Road/Stewards Elm Farm Lane, Stambridge, a formal consultation was now underway.
- The Police were not in support of a part-time traffic restriction in Church Road, Canewdon; County Highways would not want to close the road as it is a public highway leading to the Church.

- The Safety Audit of the pedestrian facility between the Hairdressers and the Fish and Chip Shop in North Street, Rochford had concluded that a 'build-out' to reduce the width of the road would be the most appropriate facility in this location to slow traffic and make it safer for pedestrians to cross. It was anticipated that construction would commence before the end of March. In response to concerns, Lyn Harvey advised that no speeding issues in North Street had been recorded and that at a later date Members would have the opportunity of considering an alternative facility, such as a pedestrian crossing, if the build-out proved inadequate. If the Parish Council was to apply for Community Initiative Fund (CIF) funding, County Highways would provide an engineering point of view on the technical acceptability of a crossing in this location.
- The first phase of the footway works in Barling Road from Clay Street to Southend Road, Great Wakering would commence imminently. Further phases have been put on hold, however. County Highways would address the issue of verge obstruction on various frontages that had been incorporated into the front gardens of some of the houses. The areas would then be surfaced with grass or hardstanding as appropriate.
- Regarding the rolling programme of erection of vehicle activated speed signs at sites throughout the District, there was a request for New Road, Great Wakering to be added for consideration. In response to a question, Lyn Harvey confirmed that there was very little price difference between the proposed warning signs (on which a variety of legends can be used) and those that showed the actual speed.
- The issue surrounding the junction protection at Malting Villas Road, The Drive, Rochford had been resolved and would be removed from the list of schemes.
- Following a request for introduction of 20mph zones in Rochford town centre, it was advised that it would be sensible to delay making a decision regarding this as an option until the Rochford Area Action Plan had been finalised. Concern was expressed about the arrangements for traffic entering and leaving Market Square, Rochford, but again it would be sensible to consider options through the emerging Area Action Plan.
- It was noted that as there is likely to be very little usage of a zebra crossing in Barling Road by the school, than at school times, a school crossing patrol was considered appropriate. A survey to rank the scheme would be undertaken and the results given direct to the ward Councillor, Cllr M J Steptoe.

- In respect of the pedestrian crossing at High Street, Great Waking, County Highways would contact the Parish Clerk to arrange to meet a representative of Ashingdon Parish Council on site.
- It was considered that the problem of an accumulation of vegetation on the path opposite Stambridge School in Stambridge Road, Great Stambridge could be resolved by levelling and resurfacing the area.
- County Highways would move forward the scheme to provide a footway to link Canewdon Village School to the shop by ascertaining costs and investigating possible designs.
- The CIF Panel would be meeting next month to consider the bid for funding to provide a footway at Poynters Lane, Great Waking, from Cupid's Chase to Waking Road.
- The scheme to provide parking at Barling Magna Community Primary School in Little Waking Road, Barling would be removed from the list pending further options being explored.
- A request had been received from Sutton and Barling Parish Councils to consider providing a mini roundabout at the junction of Sutton Road and Shopland Road for reasons of safety. It was suggested that a feasibility study be undertaken by County Highways.
- Remedial work to the road surface in Sutton Road would be undertaken in February/March, and a request was received for repairs to a large pothole in Purdey's Way, Rochford. It was confirmed that minor repairs to roads would fall under the maintenance or revenue budget, whereas large resurfacing schemes would come out of the capital budget. Any re-surfacing issues in the District should be notified to County Highways.

H8/09 Car Parking in Cagefield Road, Stambridge.

County Highways would contact the Stambridge Parish Clerk to arrange a site visit.

H22/09 Depression in the road in Brays Lane, past Hydewood Lane, in the vicinity of the Old Rectory.

Signs would be erected shortly. The issue could be re-considered in 2010/11.

Resolved

That the following prioritised list of Localism schemes be recommended to Essex County Council for delivery during 2010/11:-

Scheme/Description	Estimated Cost	Order of preference 1-4 where 1 is highest priority
Barling Road, Barling (in the vicinity of the school) – pedestrian crossing	£15,000	1
High Street, Great Wakering – pedestrian crossing	£15,000	3
Canewdon Road, Ashingdon – provide footway		3
Stambridge Road, Great Stambridge – widen existing footway from school towards Rochford	Not costed but would be over £50,000	1
High Street, Canewdon – footway to link village school and shop	£7,500 plus cost of land (unknown at present)	2
Poynters Lane, Great Wakering – provide footway from Cupids Chase to Wakering Road	CIF bid has been made, yet to be determined	2
Twyford Avenue, Great Wakering – protection of verge to prevent parking abuse	£3,000 - £10,000	2

35 EAST AREA UPDATE

The Committee received the East Area update.

5/09 Speeding motorcycles through Great Stambridge village

It was requested that the Police be contacted to request that the speed device detector (SDR) be installed late March/early April to coincide with anticipated increase in motorcycle traffic over the Easter break.

The Committee was made aware of a public consultation document, 'Delivering Modern Community Health Services', which sought views on proposals to create a new community provider organisation for mid and south east Essex. The closure date was 1 March 2010.

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The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Chairman

Date

If you would like these minutes in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 546366.

Appendix

Question

**Residents of Coachman's Court,
Rochford**

There are three large tree stumps that obstruct the view of traffic on the Ashingdon Road when leaving Coachman's Court and turning into the Ashingdon Road. Would it be possible to remove these tree stumps to ensure that there is a clear view for motorists leaving the site?

Mr Kaye, Rochford

What is being done about abusive youths, cleaning to square, support to local residents in dispute with management agency, damage to private vehicles, graffiti, low police levels, total feeling of abandonment from the Authority?

Response

In light of the concerns expressed by residents, an order has been placed with the County Highways' contractor for a section of the bank closest to the exit from Ironwell Lane to be regraded. This work will be completed before the end of the financial year.

An update will be provided at the next meeting.