

## **Environmental Services Committee - 2 October 2002**

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Environmental Services Committee** held on **2 October 2002** when there were present:

Cllr Mrs L Hungate (Chairman)  
Cllr J E Grey (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr T J Capon  
Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn  
Cllr C R Morgan

Cllr M G B Starke  
Cllr Mrs M J Webster

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R G S Choppen, T E Goodwin, A J Humphries and G A Mockford.

### **SUBSTITUTES**

Cllr T G Cutmore.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

R Crofts	Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
S Scrutton	Head of Planning Services
G Woolhouse	Head of Housing Health & Community Care
N McCullagh	Area Manager, County Highways (representing Essex County Council)
J Bostock	Principal Committee Administrator

### **463 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2002 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **464 NOTICE OF MOTION FROM COUNCILLORS MRS H L A GLYNN AND R S ALLEN**

The Proper Officer reported that, pursuant to Council Procedure Rule12, the following motion had been received from the above named Councillors:-

"The instances of inconsiderate car parking in Rochford Town Centre, particularly in North Street by the Post Office, are increasing and causing disruption to pedestrians and motorists alike.

As the Essex-wide programme for Decriminalised Parking Enforcement is not due to be introduced in Rochford until October 2004, measures must be taken now to improve this situation.

Essex Police should be requested to provide appropriate traffic warden cover to Rochford Town Centre to deal with this situation, and should be invited to a meeting with Members to discuss their proposals."

In response to Member questions, Officers advised that:-

- The Area Manager, County Highways, was in close consultation with the Police with a view to addressing the need for replacement waiting restriction signage and appropriate road markings as soon as possible.
- There would be a report to a future meeting on the Traffic Regulation Order.

During debate, the Committee endorsed the observations of a Member on the value of the County inputting as much resource as possible to address issues. The Committee also concurred with the suggestion of a Member that it would be appropriate to request additional Police presence.

The motion was moved by Councillor Mrs H L A Glynn and seconded by Councillor T G Cutmore. An additional motion on the sending of a letter to the Police was moved by Councillor Mrs H L A Glynn and seconded by Councillor M G B Starke and it was:-

### **Resolved**

- (1) That Essex Police be requested to provide appropriate traffic warden cover to Rochford Town Centre to deal with the inconsiderate car parking situation, and invited to a meeting of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee to discuss their proposals.
- (2) That, given their increased officer resource and the fact that decriminalised parking enforcement is not due to be introduced in Rochford until October 2004, a letter be sent to Essex Police requesting that additional police presence be introduced at

Rochford Town Centre to help address parking problems.  
(HRHM)

### **465 OUTSTANDING ISSUES**

The Committee received the schedule relating to previous decisions.

#### **Rochford Town Centre Enhancement Further Issues - Taxi Rank and Horse Trough (Minute 21/02)**

Responding to Member questions, Officers advised that:-

- A number of items were still outstanding, including street lighting work.
- It was intended to introduce a finger post to the area outside the pizza restaurant to prevent vehicular access onto the pavement.
- The problems associated with ponding in the area of the platform across from the WI Hall would be addressed.
- Officers would give consideration to addressing the problem of vehicles parking in the area reserved for motor cycles.

#### **Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works - Progress Report (Minute 141/02)**

Responding to Member questions, the Head of Health, Housing & Community Care advised that:-

- The timing of noise attenuation work by Anglian Water would be dependant on the outcome of the decision of the Court on the company's appeal against the Abatement Notice.
- The Council had previously registered a strong protest at Anglian Water's performance in addressing problems at the Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works.

The Committee concurred with the observation of a Member that Anglian Water had continued to fail to respond effectively to problems associated with the site and it was:-

#### **Resolved**

That this Committee wishes to place on record its extreme displeasure at the way Anglian Water responds to problems associated with the Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works. (HHHCC)

### **Junction at High Street/Websters Way, Rayleigh (Minute 144/02)**

The Area Manager, County Highways, advised that he would be consulting the District Council's Head of Planning Services to arrange a presentation on the Consultant's finding for all interested Members. The suggestion of a Member that yellow banding could be introduced to assist in keeping the area clear would be taken into account.

Outstanding Issues would be carried forward.

### **466 CONTAMINATED LAND - UPDATE**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health and Community Care which provided an update on the implementation of the Council's Statutory Contaminated Land Strategy.

Responding to Member questions, the Head of Housing, Health and Community Care advised That:-

- Whilst the Strategy did not make specific provision for addressing situations whereby householders may have dumped asbestos material in their gardens, such activity was likely to be covered by other waste disposal regulations and controls. There was a substantial amount of information available to persons wishing to dispose of asbestos.
- On the majority of occasions, budget underspends were returned to the 'corporate pot'. In the case of monies for the employment of a Research Assistant and the payment of research and information costs, it was intended that the sum of £30,000 be included in the core draft estimates for 2003/04.

### **Resolved**

That the progress of implementation of the Contaminated Land Strategy and the funding proposals be noted. (HHHCC)

### **467 HISTORIC SETTLEMENT ASSESSMENT REPORTS**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services on the value of preparing assessment reports of historic settlements in the District.

During debate, Members recognised that historic settlement reports provided valuable and positive information about the District which was worthy of publicity. Reference was made to a recent observation of the

Chief Executive of the Thames Gateway Project relating to the cultural/heritage worth of the District. Particular reference was made to the historical significance of Ashingdon.

Responding to Member questions, the Head of Planning Services advised that, should the commissioning of reports be agreed, Officers would look at publicising work as widely as possible, including within Rochford District Matters.

The Committee agreed a motion on the inclusion of Ashingdon in proposals, moved by Councillor T G Cutmore and seconded by Councillor Mrs H L A Glynn, and it was:-

### **Resolved**

That the preparation of Historic Settlement Assessment Reports for Ashingdon (the historic core around the church), Great Wakering and Paglesham, as outlined in the report of the Head of Planning Services, be commissioned. (HPS)

#### **468 TRAVEL ACCESSIBILITY AND DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services on a new approach to the calculation of developer contributions towards transport improvements arising from planning applications.

### **Resolved**

That the approach prepared by the Essex Planning Officers Association for dealing with Travel Accessibility and Developer Contributions merits support and that further consideration be given to adopting the methodology as Supplementary Planning Guidance when the results of the consultation exercise have been analysed and reported back. (HPS)

#### **469 TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENT SCHEMES – FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services on a proposal from Essex County Council Highways to re-allocate traffic management funds currently earmarked for schemes in Rochford Town Centre to assist the completion of the enhancement schemes in Hockley and Hullbridge.

Responding to Member questions, the Area Manager, County Highways, advised that:-

- The County Council was aware that there was disappointment on the lack of progress and high costings associated with Town Centre schemes. The Schemes had been included within the County Council's Contract 2000, which had seen some teething problems both locally and Countywide. The contract was subject to full audit checks. An investigation of concerns associated with Contract 2000 was under way.
- The Public Utility, 24 Seven, was responsible for electrical connections and are outside the overall control of the County Council. County Officers would continue to work with the company on outstanding electrical matters, including the zebra crossing beacons at Hullbridge. County Officer's were also addressing some snagging work at Hullbridge and liaising with District Officers on planting.
- Notwithstanding further investigation of a land aspect, there was a clear indication that progress could be made on work to create a new access to the Rochford Back Lane Car Park.

During debate, Members referred to specific examples of concern on the timing/costings associated with the Town Centre Schemes. Reference was also made to contributions that had been made in good faith by the Business Community. It was observed that overspend concerns had been raised over a long period of time, including by the Council's former Town Centre Working Groups.

Following a motion relating to budget re-allocation and the provision of information on current investigations, moved by Councillor T G Cutmore and seconded by Councillor J E Grey, it was:-

### **Resolved**

- (1) That £15,000 of the £100,000 made available for the enhancement of Rochford Town Centre be allocated to the creation of a new access (in-only) to the Rochford Back Lane car Park at the end of Locks Hill, with the existing entrance becoming an exit only into Back Lane.
- (2) That the remaining £85,000, together with any underspend from Rochford, be re-allocated to the enhancement schemes in Hullbridge and Hockley, with up to £25,000 being used to construct phase 2 of the Hullbridge scheme and £60,000, plus any unused funds from Hullbridge, being utilised for the Hockley scheme.

- (3) That the Area Manager, County Highways, report back to this Council on the outcome of the current investigation into the various concerns associated with Contract 2000 as they relate to the Town Centre Enhancement Schemes within the District. (County Highways/HPS)

The meeting closed at 8.57pm.

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_