

East Area Committee – 12 February 2009

Minutes of the meeting of the **East Area Committee** held on **12 February 2009** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr T E Goodwin
Vice-Chairman: Cllr K J Gordon

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

Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill
Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

ALSO PRESENT

Cllr Mrs P Shaw	-	Ashingdon Parish Council
Cllr V Newby	-	Canewdon Parish Council
Cllr D Whittingham	-	Paglesham Parish Council
Cllr Mrs M S Vince	-	Rochford Parish Council
Cllr P A Capon	-	Stambridge Parish Council
L Harvey	-	Essex County Council

OFFICERS PRESENT

J Bourne	-	Head of Community Services
D Byrne	-	Waste Management Officer
M Power	-	Committee Administrator

29 AREA COMMITTEE – INITIAL BUSINESS

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr R A Pearson, District Cllr M J Steptoe and B Summerfield (Sutton Parish Council).

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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

30 COMMUNITY FORUM

A request for information, which had been received in advance of the meeting, is appended.

31 SPOTLIGHT ISSUES

(1) Recycling

The Council's Waste Management Officer advised that recycling rates in the District were expected to reach 45% or more in the current financial year, exceeding the Council's target of 35%. It was added that home composting was a priority for the forthcoming year.

In response to questions, the following was noted:-

- The success of the new recycling scheme was due largely to the efforts of residents.
- Home composting would result in a reduction in the Council's recycling rate, as waste arisings were calculated as a percentage of the total waste collected; a greater volume of home composting meant less waste collected. Compostables constituted 24% of the total waste collected.
- Paper collected is sent to Sweden and Madrid; plastic is sent to China.
- Instances of recycled and compostable waste being cross-contaminated during the collection process had been resolved.
- Rochford District Council is responsible for disposing of the recyclables it collects to a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), which is currently in Tilbury. Once the waste is accepted by the MRF, the MRF has responsibility for finding a buyer for the waste, although the Council was interested in where the waste was sent. The current financial crisis might affect the viability of MRF's accepting the existing volume of waste from local authorities.

(2) Highways Matters within the East Area

Lyn Harvey reported on highways works programmed within the East of the District.

- Lyn advised that drainage works were scheduled to take place in Sutton Road (starting at the Anne Boleyn pub) ready for a surfacing scheme to be completed by the end of March. There was additional funding from Essex County Council for these works. The Sutton Ford Bridge scheme is in the programme for Spring 2010 and confirmation that funding would be 'ring fenced' for this scheme was requested.
- Cllr J P Cottis will be provided directly with a list of maintenance schemes recently undertaken by the County Council.

- A resurfacing and drainage scheme on the footway and bus stops in Star Lane, Great Wakering would take place during the nights of 19 and 20 February.

Making Potholes History Scheme

County Cllr N Hume has allocated a specific budget for the County Council's Making Potholes History scheme, aimed at delivering a better quality road surface by conducting pothole repairs before they become too large. The County Council's 'pothole gang' would focus on specific areas in the District and would make permanent rather than temporary repairs to potholes of every depth. Work would start in March 2009 in the Rochford area, commencing at the Anne Boleyn housing estate. Lyn requested that County Highways be notified of any roads requiring specific attention.

Highways Localism

The new financial year sees the introduction of the Highways Localism initiative, which is aimed at empowering the local community to best direct funds of up to £1million on highways within the District; this far exceeds funds previously allocated under the locally determined budget. The County Council will offer professional advice and help in prioritising schemes put forward. Letters have been sent out to Parish and District Councillors inviting them to provide details of highways schemes for consideration as part of the initiative for 2009/10. To complement schemes undertaken under the Localism initiative, a rangers gang will be out and about in the District undertaking minor, low priority repairs.

In response to a question asking whether the sum of £1 million was likely to be increased in forthcoming years, the Committee was advised that the County Council Portfolio Holder should be lobbied in this respect.

The following was noted, in response to questions raised:-

- Essex County Council would not adopt the street lights in Hall Road, Rochford, which were the responsibility of the Parish Council. Lyn added that an experimental scheme in Uttlesford and Maldon, where street lights were turned off at night, had enjoyed a measure of success and might, as a result, be rolled out to other parts of the County. The issue of using LED lighting in the County's highway lighting systems could be raised with County Highways.
- A report of flooding outside Moons Farm on the Canewdon Road, which causes traffic problems and is potentially dangerous, was noted. Lyn would investigate the issue and talk with residents affected.
- Lyn was thanked for the work undertaken on the Stambridge footpath from the school.

- The issue of flooding on the Stambridge Road (entering Stambridge, between Ash Tree Court and the bridge) would be investigated.
- In common with many other counties, Essex had had insufficient rock salt for gritting the roads during the recent heavy snow falls. As a result, gritting just the major routes in the County was seen as a possible option in the future.
- Ditches in the District did not fall under the County Council's responsibility. The only course of action open to the County Council was to write to the riparian land owner requesting the clearance of ditches of weeds, etc.
- The high volume of traffic on Sutton road entering and leaving Rochford was noted.
- Temporary flashing warning lights could become permanent if a request was made under the new Highways Localism initiative.

It was agreed that an invitation should be extended to the County Council Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation to attend a meeting of the East Area Committee to explain in more detail some of the forthcoming highways initiatives.

32 EAST AREA UPDATE

The Committee received the East Area update.

Obstruction of the Public Footpath through the Boatyard, Paglesham (11/07)

The right of way issue has been resolved and a way through the boatyard has been established. Waymarkers would be erected at appropriate locations to denote the route through the boatyard and would include directions from the top of the sea wall.

Flooding in specific areas in Great Wakering (28/08)

A working list of remedial measures had been prepared and work would commence during 2009/10 to address the drainage issues in Great Wakering.

It was reported that resurfacing work had adversely affected drainage at Silchester Corner, Great Wakering.

Speed limit in Purdeys Way (33/08)

It was proposed by County Highways that no speed check be undertaken in this area due to the fact that it is an industrial area and not regarded as a priority, when compared to residential areas or areas outside schools, for example. The Police is the enforcement authority in respect of speeding issues and should be contacted if issues arise.

Speeding traffic along Barling Road (34/08)

Lyn would respond direct to the Committee's Barling Magna Parish Council representative and details of the outcome would be reported to the Committee.

Creeksea Road, Wallasea

Trial holes will be taken to determine the structure of the road and provide information for a design to be undertaken. Post meeting note – the survey was carried out 17-19 February.

Lyn provided Members and officers with ECC Highways and Transportation Fault Reporting cards.

The meeting closed at 8.41 pm.

Chairman

Date

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

Appendix

Question

C D Coyte, Great Waking

With a view, and taking into consideration the Westminster Council ruling in respect of Dame Shirley Porter's (Chairman) £12.3 million settlement, I would like to know which Councillors will be held responsible if lives and property are lost or endangered due to excess flooding?

Will the Council be making grants available for essential emergency products?

Response

An update will be provided at the next meeting.