

## West Area Committee – 30 June 2010

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Minutes of the meeting of the **West Area Committee** held on **30 June 2010** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr S P Smith

Cllr Mrs P Aves  
Cllr C I Black  
Cllr K A Gibbs  
Cllr J E Grey  
Cllr T Livings  
Cllr C J Lumley

Cllr Mrs J R Lumley  
Cllr D Merrick  
Cllr Mrs J A Mockford  
Cllr R A Oatham  
Cllr Mrs M J Webster  
Cllr P F A Webster

### **ALSO PRESENT**

Cllr Mrs L Hopkins - Rawreth Parish Council  
Cllr Mrs M Spencer - Rayleigh Town Council  
P Bennett - Essex Fire and Rescue Service

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

S Fowler - Head of Information and Customer Services  
S Scrutton - Head of Planning and Transportation  
S Worthington - Committee Administrator

### **180 AREA COMMITTEE – INITIAL BUSINESS**

The Committee paid tribute to Cllr J M Pullen, Chairman of this Committee for 3 years and a governor at Grove Wood Primary School where the meeting was held, with a few minutes' silence.

#### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs J Dillnutt and A J Humphries.

#### **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **Appointment of Vice-Chairman**

Cllr Mrs J A Mockford was appointed Vice-Chairman.

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

### 181 COMMUNITY FORUM

Questions raised during the Community Forum and the responses given are summarised in the appendix to the Minutes.

In response to a question raised by Mr B Smart relating to the possibility of a dropped kerb being installed in Hullbridge Road, opposite the Lubbarbs Farm facilities, the Chairman advised that a representative from County Highways would attend the next meeting of the Committee, thus a more detailed response would be provided at that time.

In response to a Member observation that different options for this location were already included on the Highways Localism list, officers confirmed that this would be followed up with County Highways and that Mr Smart would be informed of the outcome outside the meeting.

Responding to a resident's question relating to advertisements displayed on trailers along the A1245, officers advised that advertising on trailers did not fall within the remit of the advertising regulations. This was a nationwide problem. It was accordingly challenging for the District and County Councils to take action against such advertisers, as those advertising, when asked to move from one site, often simply moved to another one. The Local Authorities were working together to try to find a solution to this problem. Advertisements stuck on lamp posts were unauthorised and the District and County Councils would take action to arrange removal of such advertisements.

In response to a question from Town Councillor Mrs Spencer about asking questions during the Community Forum officers advised that members of the community could ask questions.

Officers asked, in response to a request from Mr Stanley that trees in Alexandra Road, Rayleigh be cut back before spring, that he confirm the exact location with the Council's Head of Planning and Transportation.

At this point the Committee reconvened into formal session.

### 182 SPOTLIGHT ISSUES

#### **Update on Fire Cover within the Rochford District**

An update on fire cover within the Rochford District was provided by Station Officer Peter Bennett, Retained Group manager for Essex Fire and Rescue Service, Southend and Rochford Community Command.

It was noted that all residents were eligible for a free Home Fire Safety visit, which would be carried out by a Home Fire Safety technician. The visit would

cover the necessary fire requirements specific to the house and would include, if required, free fitting of up to two smoke alarms in the house. Residents could call 01702 614433 to make an appointment for a visit.

Mr Bennett circulated statistical information to the Committee and advised that false alarm statistics included sheltered housing accommodation (where alarms are very sensitive) and instances of malicious calls. There had been a significant reduction in malicious calls since the Fire Service's partnership with mobile phone companies.

It was further noted that fire statistics covered a variety of premises, including warehouses. The figures could be broken down further, as appropriate.

In response to questions, the following was noted:-

- The number of calls for the new Rayleigh Weir station appeared high because it covered a wider area, including that previously covered by the former Hadleigh fire station.
- Over the next 5 – 6 months a major review of fire cover for the whole of Essex was being undertaken and although it was unlikely that the new fire station at Rayleigh Weir would be closed, all possible savings options would be considered during the review.
- Response times from the Rayleigh Weir were faster than those of the former retained fire station at Castle Road. This was due in part to the fact that retained personnel at Castle Road previously had to be able to arrive at the fire station within five minutes of being called, whereas there was permanent cover at the Rayleigh Weir station.
- Hadleigh fire station had been vacated and sold, but the retained station at Castle Road, although vacated, was currently being used for storage.
- Retained fire stations were cheaper to operate than permanently manned ones, as providing cover 24 hours a day, seven days per week, together with appropriate training, was very expensive.
- It was unlikely, from a service perspective, that, during the review of fire cover for Essex, retained stations would be kept open, rather than permanently manned stations. It was more likely that shift patterns, for example, would be re-configured.
- It was always the case that 2 fire appliances would respond to a call relating to a house fire.

### 183 WEST AREA UPDATE

The Committee received the West Area update.

**07/09 – Rawreth Car Park (Minute 28/09)**

Officers noted a request from Rawreth Parish Council that they be notified of the opening date of the extension to the car park.

**01/10 – Flooding of Sweyne Park Car Park (Minute 55/10)**

There had been monitoring of the car park since this matter was raised at the last meeting. Officers were requested to report back following concerns raised by the Parish Council that this area continued to suffer from flooding.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

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

**Appendix**

**Question**

**Response**

Mr Stanley, Rayleigh

Could a speed sign be put in place at Hambro Hill?

A County Highways representative will attend the next meeting of this Committee and will provide a response.

Mrs Dawson, Rayleigh

Who has responsibility for dead animals on roads?

Dead animals on roads should be reported to Customer Services at the District Council on 01702 546366.

The Council's contractor, SITA, removes any dead animals from roads and takes them to the Council's depot where the animals can be checked for chips to identify their owners, who are able to collect them, if they wish.

Mrs Dawson, Rayleigh

Can a seat be sited on the field at Rayleigh Grange Community Centre?

This will be followed up by officers and a response provided at the next meeting.

Mr Oliver, Rayleigh

With recent developments, are we likely to see a reduction in Police cover?

A Police representative will attend the next meeting of this Committee and will provide a response at that time.