

## **Environmental Services Committee – 7 June 2005**

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Environmental Services Committee** held on **7 June 2005** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr M G B Starke  
Vice-Chairman: Cllr Mrs L Hungate

Cllr R A Amner  
Cllr Mrs R Brown  
Cllr Mrs T J Capon  
Cllr T G Cutmore  
Cllr K J Gordon

Cllr C J Lumley  
Cllr C G Seagers  
Cllr Mrs M S Vince  
Cllr Mrs M J Webster

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr P R Robinson.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

R Crofts - Corporate Director (Finance and External Services)  
S Scrutton - Head of Planning Services  
S Worthington - Committee Administrator

### **COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICERS PRESENT**

L Harvey - District Engineer, County Highways

### **219 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 April 2005 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **220 DOWNHALL ROAD, RAYLEIGH PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF PEDESTRIAN CROSSING**

The Committee considered the report of the Area Manager, Transportation and Operational Services asking Members to consider objections received to the proposal to introduce a zebra crossing on the above road.

Members noted that a letter had been received late in the office from a resident supporting the proposal.

During debate, it was observed that, in addition to children from the Glebe schools crossing Downhall Road, children also crossed it on the way to Sweyne Park School. There were also two walking buses that had to cross the road at that point. There was a general consensus that a pedestrian crossing was very much needed in that location.

### **Resolved**

That the zebra crossing be installed in the location as shown on Appendix A

to the report. (County Highways)

### **221 CHANGES TO THE DEVELOPMENT CONTROL SYSTEM – SECOND CONSULTATION PAPER**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services seeking Members' views on further proposed changes to the development control system. Responses to the paper were required by 28 June 2005.

Members were pleased to see that the proposals advocated the inclusion of more detailed information with respect to outline applications.

Responding to a Member enquiry relating to timescales associated with Local Development Orders (LDO), officers advised that it would be for the Local Planning Authority to determine the need for an expiry date for an LDO, once granted.

In response to a further Member query concerning permitted development rights, officers confirmed that LDOs would not change the national permitted development rights arrangements, but could, taking account of circumstances, provide additional local rights.

Concluding the debate, Members concurred that extreme caution should be exercised with respect to the principle of Local Development Orders as these could, potentially, decrease the current level of control employed by Members to determine planning applications.

On a Motion moved by Cllr Mrs M J Webster and seconded by Cllr T G Cutmore it was:-

#### **Resolved**

That, subject to the following amendments, this report forms the basis of the Council's response to the Second Consultation Paper on Changes to the Development Control System:

- Delete the first two sentences of paragraph 3.4.
- Paragraph 3.8 to be re-worded, as follows:-  
"There would need to be extreme caution exercised with respect to the principle of LDOs, and their use would need to be carefully considered as an option during the preparation of Development Plan Documents." (HPS)

### **222 FORMATION OF A GROUNDWORK TRUST FOR THE THAMES GATEWAY SOUTH EAST AREA**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) asking Members to determine whether or not the Council should become formally involved in the formation of a Groundwork Trust.

**(Note:** Cllr Mrs M J Webster declared a personal interest in this item by virtue

of membership of the Essex Wildlife Trust).

In response to a Member enquiry relating to representation from the voluntary sector, officers advised that a representative from the Essex Wildlife Trust had been involved in discussions on the business plan. The proposed governance arrangements of the Trust also provided for a representative of the voluntary sector to be a Board Member. In addition, care had been taken to ensure that any work by the Trust should be complementary to that of the voluntary sector as a whole.

Responding to a further query relating to the Council's proposed contribution to the Trust being index linked, officers confirmed that the contribution would be index linked to the RPI so that the contribution would remain at the level of £10,000 per annum in real terms.

Officers advised that the Council's contribution could be made in cash or in kind, although it was difficult at this stage to quantify how the Council could make a contribution in non cash terms. It was possible that the donation of staff time with respect to project planning and the management of projects could be considered as a non cash contribution.

There was a general consensus that the recommendation should be amended to incorporate the intention that the contribution could be made in cash or kind.

On a Motion moved by Cllr T G Cutmore and seconded by Cllr C G Seagers it was:-

### **Resolved**

That the creation of a Groundwork Trust for the Thames Gateway South Essex Area be supported and that this Council contributes up to £10,000 per annum, either in cash or kind, from 2006/7, index linked for a period of six years. (CD(F&ES))

The meeting closed at 8.12 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....