

## **East Area Committee – 17 November 2010**

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Minutes of the meeting of the **East Area Committee** held on **17 November 2010** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill

Vice-Chairman: Cllr J P Cottis

Cllr Mrs T J Capon

Cllr T G Cutmore

Cllr T E Goodwin

Cllr C G Seagers

Cllr M J Steptoe

Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

### **ALSO PRESENT**

Cllr Mrs P Shaw - Ashingdon Parish Council

Cllr N Wallace - Canewdon Parish Council

Cllr D Whittingham - Paglesham Parish Council

Cllr P A Capon - Stambridge Parish Council

J Hull - Essex Trading Standards

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

J Bourne - Head of Community Services

S Hollingworth - Team Leader (Planning Policy)

M Power - Committee Administrator

## **293 AREA COMMITTEE – INITIAL BUSINESS**

### **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from District Cllr K J Gordon, Cllr Mrs K Perring (Great Wakering Parish Council) and Mr B Summerfield (Barling Magna Parish Council and Sutton Parish Council).

### **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, with the following amendment:-

In respect of the Update item, H8/09, tree planting had been suggested for Cagefield Road, Stambridge by Essex County Highways as an alternative to bollards and Cllr P A Capon was seeking clarification as to precisely where these trees would be planted.

Cllr P A Capon, on behalf of Stambridge Parish Council, wished to congratulate Essex County Highways for the excellent work that had been undertaken in Stambridge during the past three weeks.

## **294 COMMUNITY FORUM**

There were no questions raised during the Community Forum.

### 295 SPOTLIGHT ISSUES

The Committee was pleased to welcome John Hull of Essex County Council Trading Standards. Mr Hull delivered a presentation on the service provided by Trading Standards and the main areas covered by its work, as follows:-

- Doorstep trading/cold calling (the problem/what can be done/who to contact). Cold calling will often be targeted at the elderly and vulnerable members of the community. If there is a problem in a particular area a No Cold Calls zone can be established, with the agreement of all residents in the area, and currently there are approximately 50 such zones in Essex. Residents can contact Consumer Direct on 08454 040506 or [www.consumerdirect.gov.uk](http://www.consumerdirect.gov.uk) with any issues.
- Age restricted goods (what they are/the problems/what can be done). Age restricted goods include fireworks, cigarettes, alcohol solvents, knives, petrol and spray paints. Trading Standards can advise businesses of the relevant legislation in this area and provide training. If Trading Standards receives information that age restricted goods such as alcohol are being sold to minors in a particular location test purchasing can be arranged.
- Buy with confidence – trader approved scheme (why an approved scheme/benefits to consumers/benefits to businesses/the nature of trading standards approval).

Responding to questions, Mr Hull advised that:-

- The young volunteers who are involved in test purchasing are dressed in a way that would be typical for a 16 year old. Because the volunteers are minors Trading Standards are particularly mindful of their safety. Although underage volunteers will not carry any form of ID, businesses are encouraged by the Trading Standards always to ask for ID where there is any likelihood that the customer is under age.
- Tyre pressure gauges are not covered under weights and measures legislation as this area comes under purchasing a service. If requested, Trading Standards can check the accuracy of garage tyre pressure gauges.
- Trading Standards will follow up complaints relating to Internet trading if the business is in Essex or if the advertisement is seen in Essex.
- Businesses pay a fee to join the Trading Standards Buy with Confidence scheme, which has to be self-financing. Trading Standards will provide advice or help new businesses with legislation.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hull for his contribution.

### 296 EAST AREA UPDATE

The Committee received the East Area update.

#### **H32/08 Funding for Sutton Ford bridge scheme**

County Highways advised that the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) is being dealt with by the Department for Transport North East. However, due to Central Government reorganisation of its regional offices all CPO's, including the CPO land matters relating to Sutton Ford Bridge scheme, are on hold.

#### **H21/09 Footpath scheme at Poynters Lane, Great Wakering**

Clarification was requested from County Highways as to the proposed location for situating the footpath.

#### **H22/09 Hole in the middle of the road in Brays Lane, in the vicinity of the Old Rectory**

It was reported that the newly resurfaced area towards the kerb on the west bound side of the carriageway was breaking up as a result of use by heavy lorries.

#### **H24/09 Car parking blocking access in Althorne Way, Canewdon**

This was an issue of insufficient parking for residents at weekends because of the users of the playing field. It was requested that County Highways supply the dates and times that inspections have taken place and whether inspections have taken place at weekends.

#### **H1/10 Vehicles travelling the wrong way up West Street, Rochford and worn out road markings in this area**

It was reported by a resident that vehicles continue to travel the wrong way up West Street. When work around the new Sainsbury's supermarket at the bottom of West Street has been completed, the Chairman will raise this issue again with County Highways.

#### **H3/10 Cars heading towards Southend cutting too close to cars waiting to turn into Poynters Lane, Great Wakering**

It was reported that the issue persisted and it was suggested that the corner should be widened. In addition, it was requested that lighting at this junction be reinstated to avoid danger.

### **H4/10 Blocked drains in Ashingdon Road along the stretch from Dalys Road to St Teresa's Primary School**

It was reported that the drains directly outside the main gates at St Teresa's school were still overflowing after the recent heavy rain and strong winds. It was requested that County Highways provides dates that the area will be inspected.

### **7/10 Rubbish at Rochford Station**

The area had been inspected by a Rochford District Council Contract Monitoring Officer who reported that the litter in this area seemed to be less than it had been previously. The area will continue to be monitored.

(Note: Cllr C G Seagers declared a personal interest in this item by virtue of his membership of the Crouch Harbour Authority.)

Mr R Bessey, a resident, requested that an update be provided on the ongoing issues around enforcement of planning notices served on houseboats on the River Roach in Paglesham. The situation has been closely monitored and the Council's Head of Planning and Transportation has been in communication with Mr Bessey. It was requested that the issue be raised again with the Council's Head of Planning and Transportation and a further update be provided to Mr Bessey. It was noted that the Crouch Harbour no longer licenses any boats specifically as house boats.

Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins advised the meeting of a fatality that had occurred in the passage way at the side of the Co-operative in Great Wakering. A resident had apparently tripped, fallen over and died. Given that the matter of potholes in this passage way had been raised previously by the Committee, it was hoped now that action would be taken by the owners to repair these potholes.

The meeting closed at 9 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

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