

East Area Committee – 2 July 2008

Minutes of the meeting of the **East Area Committee** held on **2 July 2008** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr T E Goodwin

Cllr J P Cottis

Cllr K J Gordon

Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill

Cllr C G Seagers

Cllr M J Steptoe

Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

ALSO PRESENT

Cllr Mrs P Shaw, Ashingdon Parish Council

Cllr D Whittingham, Paglesham Parish Council

Cllr Mrs M Vince, Rochford Parish Council

Cllr P A Capon, Stambridge Parish Council

A Prophet – Essex Police

VISITING MEMBER

Cllr K H Hudson

OFFICERS PRESENT

Y Woodward - Head of Finance, Audit & Performance Management

S Scrutton - Head of Planning & Transportation

C Honey - Trainee Solicitor

M Power - Committee Administrator

223 AREA COMMITTEE – INITIAL BUSINESS

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillors Mrs T J Capon, T G Cutmore and Councillors V Newby (Canewdon Parish Council) and M Osher (Great Wakering Parish Council).

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Declarations of Interest

Cllr J P Cottis declared a personal interest in item 4(2) of the agenda by virtue of being acquainted with both parties involved and also in item 3 by virtue of being a member of the The Rochford District Council Southend-on-Sea Borough Council London Southend Airport and Environs Action Plan Forum.

Cllr M J Steptoe declared a personal interest in item 4(2) of the agenda by virtue of the proximity of his property with footpath 13 in Barling.

Appointment of Vice-Chairman

Cllr K J Gordon 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.

224 COMMUNITY FORUM

Requests for information had been received in advance of the meeting and a document summarising these, together with further questions received, is appended.

225 SPOTLIGHT ISSUES

(1) Update on Crime and Disorder in the Central Area

Figures relating to reported crimes and anti-social behaviour (ASB) for the east area of the District had been circulated at the meeting.

District Commander Andy Prophet reported that in the past 3 years the District had seen a 33% reduction in recorded crime and a 25% decrease in incidents of ASB. During the last 2 months there were 4 reported crimes fewer across the east area of the District, compared with the previous year, although the same period had seen a small increase in the number of ASB incidents reported.

Localised incidents of underage or excessive drinking and alcohol-related crimes by young people were recognised by the police as an issue that required continued attention. Focus would be given to parental responsibility in this regard. By way of an example a recent incident was cited, which involved the confiscation of alcohol from 35 under-age individuals on their way to a party on a Friday night. Details were taken and the parents of each child would be written to, inviting them to explain how their children came to be in possession of alcohol. This initial letter would give parents the opportunity to respond. Should a second incident occur, parents would receive a more formal letter and a visit from a police officer. The third step in this process would result in more formal measures, including acceptable behaviour contracts. A primary aim was to involve the police, the District Council, schools and parents in the issue. The police were also engaging with schools in respect of knife crime and drug taking, which, although not serious issues locally, were being dealt with in terms of education and prevention. It is planned that knife arches and metal detectors will be taken into local schools and also to gathering points on Friday and Saturday nights to reinforce the message that carrying a knife is not acceptable under any circumstances. A continued emphasis was also placed on licensed premises employing door staff to monitor these issues. Andy Prophet advised that he was personally available to answer concerns and questions from the public.

In response to questions the following was noted:-

- The problem was raised of children from King Edmund school damaging the fences of neighbouring properties, accessing gardens and being abusive towards residents. Andy Prophet advised that he would contact the Head Teacher of the school in respect of incidents occurring during school hours. Regarding the reported failure of Police Community Officers to attend following the reporting of such incidents, Andy Prophet advised he would follow this up with the individual officers concerned.
- It was confirmed that police officers do enforce incidents of mobile phone use whilst driving, although the main focus of their work was naturally on crime and disorder issues within the District. Where it was known that a specific individual was offending, this would be targeted.
- Focused work would be carried out by the police on the issue of young people drinking and behaving badly to the side of the Co-op in Great Wakering. This would include knocking on residents' doors to ascertain the scale of the problem and establishing ways of addressing it. It was noted that the Co-op itself was diligent in not selling drink to underage people.
- Regarding the issue of young people causing trouble at the Ashingdon Memorial Hall and residents being reluctant to report incidents because of feared repercussions, Andy Prophet stated that a balance had to be sought between ensuring people behaved acceptably in public places and providing a range of activities for young people, especially on Friday and Saturday nights. He reassured the meeting that the identity of people reporting issues could remain anonymous. Ashingdon police were aware of issues in the area and the police would also be liaising with parents.
- In relation to the Chief Constable's desire to find an additional 600 officers in Essex within the next 3 years, it was estimated that this could mean up to 20 additional officers in the Rochford District, which would represent a significant increase in policing. In respect of a comment that there were insufficient police patrols in Rochford town, Andy Prophet advised he would speak with the local officers and discuss potential opportunities.

(2) Public Footpath 13, Barling – proposed footpath diversion

The Committee considered the report of the District Council's Head of Legal Services, which provided information on an application to divert a section of footpath 13 in Barling. In response to questions, the following was noted:-

- Part A of the proposed diversion routes the footpath along the outside of a recently dug drainage ditch and into the field. The proposed new route would assist with drainage problems and provide a safer walking area for the public.

- Part B of the proposed diversion would formalise the current accepted, but unofficial, route of the footpath.

Resolved

- (1) That the proposal to divert footpath 13 as shown on the plan attached to the report be approved.
- (2) That the Head of Legal Services be authorised to take all necessary steps to secure the making and confirmation of a Public Path Diversion Order under the terms of Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980. (HLS)

(3) London Southend Airport and Environs Joint Area Action Plan issues and options document

The Committee received a presentation by the District Council's Head of Planning & Transportation.

A handout showing the four potential scenarios contained within the issues and options document was distributed at the meeting. Details of the Consultation process were also provided.

In response to questions, the following was noted:-

- It had not been possible to establish an alternative route for the public footpath crossing the airport site; it may have to close because of safety issues.
- It was noted that an area of land to the east of the site proposed for the railway station was shown as green space in the Scenario 3 option, though this had previously been promoted for car parking and such use could adversely affect the lives of the residents of the Anne Boleyn Estate and other Rochford residents. This could be an issue raised during the consultation process.
- Most of the flood sites identified within the development area were not on the airfield itself, but flooding issues and options for mitigation may very well need to be considered depending on the preferred development options.
- Regarding the timescale, it was anticipated that the development would take place over a 10-15 year period but that the airport company wanted to see the railway station, new terminal and runway extension operational in time for the 2012 Olympics.

226 EAST AREA UPDATE

The Committee received the East Area update.

Obstruction of the public footpath through the boat yard, Paglesham East End (11/07)

It was requested that County Highways provide a completion date for carrying out the work to reinstate the public right of way.

New Somerfield development in Rochford (22/07)

It was confirmed that, beyond the bellmouth, the access road was likely to remain private as it was not to the standard required by County Highways to be considered for adoption. Purchasers of the properties would no doubt be notified through the purchase process that it was a private road and that they were responsible for keeping it clean.

Street lighting in Sutton Road (26/07)

It was requested that an update on progress be provided.

Rochford Sewage Treatment Works, Stambridge (33/07)

An update on the item was provided by the Head of Environmental Services, as follows:-

A revised Odour Management Plan has now been received from Anglian Water and contact with local residents indicates that conditions have been 'good' recently and no offensive odours have been experienced. Officers are committed to attend liaison meetings whenever this is possible. It was unfortunate that the date of the last meeting had to be changed a number of times. Officers were unfortunately unable to attend due to other commitments, on the date that was finally selected.

The Parish Councillor advised that there were still smells emanating from the sewage works, particularly during evenings and weekends. The strong odours from the site within the past 2 weeks could be attributed to problems with the pipework running across the fields between Rochford and Mill Lane, Stambridge. No response had been received from Anglian Water and it was requested that the situation continue to be monitored.

Replacement of the plastic banding on the bollards outside the White Hart in Great Wakering High Street (37/07)

In response to a question relating to the visibility of the banding on the bollards, the Chairman advised that he would contact Lyn Harvey direct in this regard.

Bus provision in Stambridge (4/08)

Regarding the possibility of having additional buses from Stambridge in the morning and evening, the Parish Councillor would liaise directly with the District Council's Head of Planning & Transportation.

Weight restriction sign along Apton Hall Lane, Canewdon (15/08)

The overgrown hedge still needed to be dealt with – it was located on the corner of Apton Hall Lane and Stambridge Road, on the right hand side.

Public Footpaths 1 and 3, Stambridge – proposed footpath diversions (16/08)

The Parish Councillor requested that an electronic copy of the public notice relating to footpaths 1 and 3 be sent to him so that he could distribute it.

Stalls at Rochford Market Square encroaching onto the footway (24/08)

Although it had been reported that the situation was being monitored, there continued to be complaints from residents regarding stalls encroaching on to the pavement and being too close to the shops. It was an issue that particularly affected the elderly and the blind.

Provision of off-road parking outside houses 1-6 Silchester Corner, Great Wakering (19/08)

A site visit had now taken place.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Chairman

Date

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

Appendix

Question

Mrs J Smith, Canewdon

Why has the damaged manhole cover still not been replaced at the crossroads, Larkhill Road with Scotts Hall Road? This has been broken over a year.

Also, bad potholes and a loose manhole cover between Cherry Tree Pub and Stambridge Church on the northern side.

Ms J Smith, Canewdon

Legislation regarding loose (not stray) dogs I understand responsibility has changed.

Why was recycled rubbish dumped in ordinary trucks – not separated out?

Mrs A Bedford, Canewdon

Are there any plans to extend the footpath in Canewdon from Forge Stores to the school entrance in Lambourne Hall Road to prevent primary school children having to walk in the road to and from school?

Mrs M Vince, Rochford

Firstly, when the green recycling van visits the neighbourhood to pick up the green bins collection of garden waste, it parks in Boswell Avenue to condense the contents.

Response

The job for repair at the corner of Larkhill Road/Scotts Hall Road was held back during 2007/8 due to funding issues but has now been put in the programme. Repair should be carried out very shortly.

Potholes and the loose manhole cover on the Stambridge Road have been addressed.

The Council is in the process of adopting the dog control orders; Information can be found on the Council's website, as follows:-

http://www.rochford.gov.uk/rdc/pdf/dog_control_notice_proposed_dog_control_orders.pdf

The Council is changing its collection method to make it easier for residents to recycle. The new system becomes operational in July. All recyclable materials can be mixed; they are sorted by machinery at a Materials Recovery Facility. The recyclable rubbish seen to be dumped in the refuse lorries is taken to this facility for sorting prior to being processed for re-use.

The request for a footway link from Forge Stores to Canewdon School has been made known to ECC via the Parish "wish list" for the Locally Determined Programme and has been included for consideration of a possible future year scheme. Currently there is no land available within the highway.

A response would be provided at the next meeting.

Question

Response

Unfortunately, this results in the spillage of liquid on to the road, which, apart from staining the road and verges, creates an extremely noxious odour in the vicinity.

Despite several residents contacting the recycling team and leaving messages of their concern, the phone calls have not been acknowledged and no action appears to have been taken.

There is a major concern from residents that when the food waste recycling commences, the problem could be exacerbated.

Secondly, It was also mentioned that the standard of street cleansing and litter bin emptying in the area is judged to be well below standard, particularly in view of the pedestrian traffic to and from King Edmund School. It would appear that the contractors are not yet familiar with the location of the waste bins, which often appear to be left overflowing.

Mrs Sherwin, Great Wakering

A response would be provided at the next meeting.

Why is it still flooding in Pointers Lane, near Cupid's Corner? The drain holes are more into the middle of the road and not to the side.