
RECOMMENDATIONS AND REFERENCES FROM THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON 27 MARCH 2001

1 MINUTE 131 – PETITION – RECYCLING BINS AT ST JOHN FISHER PLAYING FIELD

1.1 Minute 131 reads as follows:-

1.2 PETITION – RECYCLING BINS AT ST JOHN FISHER PLAYING FIELDS, RAYLEIGH

Pursuant to Standing Order 11, the Committee received a petition from Mr C J Lumley and Mrs A Lacey containing 526 signatures and protesting against the removal of the recycling bins at St John Fisher Playing Fields, Little Wheatleys Chase, Rayleigh.

In presenting the petition, Mr Lumley made the following supporting statement:-

“This petition is for the return of recycling bins to the Grange Ward. It is signed by 526 signatories and reflects the recycling habit that has developed in the area, largely brought about by the threat of an incinerator on our borders. Many of the people who signed are elderly and walk to the recycling bins, others are mothers with young children on the way to the local school.

The main recycling centre is the tip at Castle Road, which is not easily accessible from West Rayleigh, and indeed if all of Rayleigh descended on the place (and for most of us that work it would have to be at weekends) the place would become congested and inadequate for peoples’ needs. There is another facility by the café near the Spur roundabout. I walked down to it on Saturday with my dog, there is only a narrow pavement on the opposite side of the road and because this is a fast part of the road cars brush past you at 60 miles per hour. The dog was terrified. It would be highly dangerous to encourage residents to approach that facility on foot let alone try to cross at that point.

This issue has aroused deep emotions in the ward, set residents against residents, and for some of us in public office, angry arguments, and even abuse. People close to the site complained for years about noise and vandalism, and in the end the only answer that Rochford District Council could come up with was to remove the bins completely. This annoyed a large group of residents who had been educated and encouraged by Rochford to recycle their rubbish. Suddenly they found the bins had been removed without consultation.

The organisers and many who signed the petition are very aware and have sympathy with residents living close to the site at John Fisher. If you read our petition carefully the wording is "We demand the immediate return of this vital amenity". We have deliberately not said where. Obviously for many the John Fisher playfields is still the ideal site. However at the other end of the Ward we have a single bottlebank in the Travellers Joy car park. Although we have complaints about noise (simply because bottle banks are the noisiest) I have not seen much evidence of vandalism. Perhaps a single recycling bin does not offer such excitement to a vandal.

If this idea was adopted suitable sites in the Ward could be, one at John Fisher, one on the grass verge beside the service road at the Grange shopping parade, and another at a similar site at the Newsbox parade of shops. It would solve the problem of accessibility to the community and although it would not satisfy people who want to do all their recycling at one go, we feel that a compromise has to be achieved somehow.

The alternative would have to be a vandal proof site that was locked after dark, or household collection of recycled rubbish. Of course all this involves a higher cost, but we think that Rochford District Council should be honest with us and not just pay lip service to recycling. The public should be told what the cost of recycling would be and then be able to make the choice of paying higher Council Tax or risk the threat of incinerators in South East Essex.

As we have said we do not want to impose a recycling centre on somebody's doorstep, but we feel that the current decision was made in haste and without considering all reasonable alternatives".

Members recognised that, whilst the Council had previously given detailed consideration to recycling bin location, the petition raised a number of points worthy of further consideration.

On a Motion moved by Councillor D R Helson and seconded by Councillor Mrs H L A Glynn it was:-

Resolved

That this matter be referred to Full Council with a full report from Officers on the matters raised by the petitioners and associated options. (HHHCC)

The Officer's report is attached as Item 8.3(1)

2 MINUTE 132 (2) (Minute 99) – LEISURE CONNECTION MANAGEMENT REPORT

2.1 Minute 132 (2) (Minute 99) reads as follows:-

2.2 132 MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES

The Committee considered the Minutes of the following Sub-Committees and the Recommendations contained therein.

(1) Leisure Sub-Committee – 14 February 2001

(2) Leisure Sub-Committee – 13 March 2001

Minute 99-Leisure Connection Management Report

The Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) confirmed that a consultant had been appointed to investigate the ongoing problems being experienced with the showers at the Clements Hall Leisure Centre.

Resolved

That a report be submitted to the next Meeting of Full Council on how the video projection equipment in Mill Hall will be operated, including the following aspects:-

- Who will be able to use the equipment.
- Arrangements for hiring to groups.
- Regular children film shows.
- Charging policy, including additional for weddings, conferences.
- When will first public showing be
- Policy in respect of the new Leisure Contract
- Marketing/Promotion. (CD(F& ES))

The Officer's report is attached as Item 8.3(2)

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