

East Area Committee – 17 March 2010

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

Chairman: Cllr C G Seagers
Vice-Chairman: Cllr M J Steptoe

Cllr Mrs T J Capon
Cllr J P Cottis
Cllr T G Cutmore

Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill
Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

ALSO PRESENT

Cllr Mrs P Shaw	-	Ashingdon Parish Council
Mr B Summerfield	-	Barling Magna/Sutton Parish Councils
Cllr N Wallace	-	Canewdon Parish Council
Cllr K Perring	-	Great Wakering Parish Council
Cllr P A Capon	-	Stambridge Parish Council
Cl G Westley	-	Essex Police
M Hughes	-	Essex County Integrated Youth Service
C Taylor	-	Rochford District Youth Council

OFFICERS PRESENT

J Bourne	-	Head of Community Services
S Scrutton	-	Head of Planning & Transportation
M Power	-	Committee Administrator

78 AREA COMMITTEE – INITIAL BUSINESS

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from District Cllrs K J Gordon and T E Goodwin and Cllr J Bond (Rochford Parish Council).

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, with the following amendments:-

The first bullet point on page 5 of the Minutes should read, 'the Parish Clerk to arrange to meet a representative of Great Wakering Parish Council'.

The fourth item on the list of Localism schemes recommended to Essex County Council for delivery during 2010/11 should be amended to state that the existing footway in Stambridge Road, Great Stambridge from the school towards Rochford should be resurfaced, not widened as stated in the Minutes.

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

79 COMMUNITY FORUM

Questions raised during the Community Forum are set out in the appendix to these Minutes.

In respect of the question from a resident about street lighting in Hall Road, Rochford (attached in the Appendix) it was noted that the responsibility for the lighting in Hall Road is divided between Essex County Highways and Rochford Parish Council.

A Paglesham Parish Councillor raised the issue of enforcement of planning notices served on three houseboats being used as residences on the River Roach in Paglesham. Although the notices required the houseboats to move from their current position by July 2009, none of the three boats had done so. It was noted that licences issued to houseboats by the Harbour Authority gave no rights of residence.

Officers would provide an update on what measures the Council could take to enforce the planning notices direct to the Paglesham Parish Councillor.

At this point the Committee reconvened into formal session.

80 SPOTLIGHT ISSUES

(1) Essex County Council Integrated Youth Service and the Rochford District Youth Council

Mr Hughes advised the meeting that the County Youth Service merged with Connexions in September 2008 to become the Integrated Youth Service. There were currently personal advisers in every school and college, providing a range of support to youngsters on issues relating to GCSE options, post-16 and further education and careers guidance.

There are also targeted personal advisers who work with young people with barriers to education or employment, including problems at home or alcohol or drug dependencies. The Connexions team provides one-on-one assistance and works with a number of agencies to help people progress through these problems and assists in developing young people's confidence and self esteem. There is a Connexions drop-in centre in Rayleigh where young people can receive further advice and support. The team engages in various programmes, including youth centres and a mobile team that can be deployed anywhere around the area. There are also programmes such as complementary education, supporting young people having difficulties with the mainstream curriculum in schools and helping to re-engage them in the learning process.

There are outreach projects run by the Connexions Service to identify young people in the Rochford town area who may be interested in the service offered. Connexion Outreach workers engage with young people by text message or by knocking on their doors. Youth Workers develop life skills and

increase the confidence and self esteem of young people. Young people are encouraged to take on responsibility and make decisions. Facilities include youth centres at Rayleigh and Hullbridge and the teen café in Rochford.

The Youth Service also delivers a Youth Action Agenda; the Young Essex Assembly has elected Members working closely with the County Council elected Members. The Area's Youth Bank Team receives funding from the Government via Go-East to award to private initiatives for local young people. The Youth Bank receives funding applications and identifies successful bids and allocates awards.

There are Youth Councils in every district and borough across the Area. Rochford District Youth Council began about five years ago, but really took off in 2008 when its members were given the opportunity to attend a two week training course. The course covered organising meetings, roles of various Youth Council representatives and ended in a 2-day residential element that helped the youngsters to work together as a team. The Youth Council's objective is to try to improve the lives of young people in the community and encourage them to have their say on issues that affect them.

The Youth Council held a Rochford Youth Conference, to determine the most important topics for young people in the area. As a result of this conference three working groups were established to look at health, publicity and the environment. A second Youth Conference has taken place around the theme of health, and links have been made with other groups in the area in order to improve its work. Rochford District Council has been very supportive of the work and development of the Youth Council in Rochford.

In response to questions, the following was noted:-

- The work around health includes issues of sexual health and drugs awareness. However, young people have to be willing to be engaged for progress to be made. One of the main issues faced is that of engaging young people who have problems but who are not interested in receiving help. The Youth Council works with a wide spectrum of young people and it was found that mobile teams and detached workers were useful for the more challenging young people and those involved in anti-social behaviour.
- The Youth Council is run by young people of ages ranging from 11 to 19.
- In respect of funding to set up youth clubs, Youth Bank funding has helped set up various youth provisions, including the teen café.
- A request was made to consider reinstating the youth club in Canewdon village hall. The young people in Canewdon suffer from a lack of facilities due to the rural isolation of where they live and the lack of public transport.

(2) Update on Crime and Disorder in Rawreth and Rayleigh

Chief Inspector Glen Westley provided a verbal update on crime and disorder in the east of the District. In general, Rochford enjoys low crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) levels. In respect of the issues raised at the last meeting relating to Rochford town centre, operation 'Ditty' had provided for additional policing resources to be deployed in Rochford Market Square on Friday and Saturday nights. The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 granted the Police powers to issue dispersal orders, under which Police can take youths home to their parents and prevent them returning to a specified area. These orders can be used in instances where, although youngsters may not be committing a crime, residents feel intimidated or distressed by their presence or behaviour. The Police were working in partnership with the Council's Community Safety Team and it was hoped to implement this scheme within the next few weeks.

The District was on course to exceed the 5% target of reducing crime in the area. Although instances of ASB had increased in the last few months, this may be due, in part, to an increase in reporting levels. The District had a 30% detection rate, which compared favourably with similar Districts in the country. Targets for 2010/11 under the new Chief Constable in Essex would lead to change in the way the area is policed, with serious violent crime, including robbery and burglary of people's homes, seen as a top priority. However, although auto crime is not perceived as a top Essex Police target, it is considered as a number one priority for the Rochford District in the coming year. Other priorities for the forthcoming year are domestic violence and anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of Rochford Market Square.

In response to questions, Chief Inspector Westley advised that:-

- The Rochford Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) had adopted the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) system to deal with instances of reoffending in cases of domestic violence. Under the IOM two or more agencies work together to deal with an offender; the CDRP will liaise with other relevant agencies, such as the Drug and Alcohol Reference Group (DARG) and employment agencies, etc, with the aim of helping offenders get their lives back on track.
- As a measure to combat the issue of underage drinking, it was hoped to introduce a system where licensed premises in the area use numbered or marked bags, which can be traced back to where the alcohol was purchased.
- In respect of reported instances of noise disturbances in the Wedgewood Estate, Ashingdon, Ashingdon Parish Council should email full details direct to Chief Inspector Westley.
- In respect of the complaints received by Rochford Ward Councillors regarding vehicles parking on verges on the Anne Boleyn estate, Rochford, enforcement was dealt with by Rochford District Council. Exact

location details should be passed to the Council's Transportation officers to deal with.

- Public perception of anti-social behaviour in Rochford Market Square should be improved with the introduction of the dispersal order system.

A request was made that a Police representative attend the Ashingdon Parish Council meeting, which would discuss the problem of under-age drinking in Ashingdon, next Saturday at 2pm in the Ashingdon Memorial Hall, as PC Tween, the Neighbourhood Specialist Officer, was unable to attend the meeting.

(3) Verbal report on an outstanding item under Highways Localism.

The Committee received a verbal report from Shaun Scrutton, Head of Planning and Transportation asking Members to assign a priority rating under Localism 2010/11 to a scheme to provide a footway between The Lawns and the Cemetery in Hall Road, Hawkwell.

It was noted that Rochford Ward Councillors felt there was no need for a path in this location and requested that the scheme be removed from the Localism list completely. It was agreed, therefore, that the scheme be removed from the List and Members were asked to decide which of the schemes on the Localism list currently rated as a 2 or a 3 should be promoted to a level 1 to replace the above scheme.

During discussion, the following options were noted:-

- High Street, Great Wakering – pedestrian crossing: it was requested that this be promoted (the scheme that had the full support of the Governors of Great Wakering Primary School).
- High Street, Canewdon – footway to link village school and shop: at present there was no footway, which presented a potential traffic danger to children and parents walking to school. However, although the scheme had been identified as a priority it could not be progressed until the compulsory purchase of identified required land had been completed. This was likely to be during 2010/11, at which point it could be identified as a scheme on the Localism list. It was noted that the Parish Council had begun informal conversations with the owners of the land to explain the reasons why the Parish Council wanted the footpath. It was confirmed that if walls in front of the properties were to be removed they would be rebuilt.
- With reference to discussion at the last meeting of the East Area Committee, a view had been taken that the possibility of constructing a mini roundabout at the junction of Shopland Road and Sutton Road, Rochford should not be pursued until the Sutton Ford bridge scheme is finalised.

- Footpath scheme at Poynters Lane, Great Waking from Waking Road to Cupids Corner: a decision regarding CIF funding was expected by the end of March. If CIF funding was not available there may be an opportunity to reassess the priority of the proposed scheme on the Localism List, bearing in mind budget constraints.

Having given consideration to the above discussion, it was:-

Resolved

That the 'High Street, Great Waking – pedestrian crossing' scheme be given a new rating of 1 on the prioritised list of Localism schemes recommended to Essex County Council for delivery during 1010/11.

81 EAST AREA UPDATE

The Committee received the East Area Update.

H8/09 Cagefield Road, Stambridge

A meeting had taken place on site between County Highways and Parish Council representatives to consider options and it was anticipated that the issue would be resolved in the near future.

H32/08 Funding for Sutton Ford bridge scheme

The scheme would be in the 2010/11 capital programme and work would commence in 2010/11.

H16/09 Footpaths in Canewdon

The Parish Council would contact the Head of Planning and Transportation with exact locations.

H23/09 Footway in the vicinity of the Co-op/estate agent/dress shop, Great Waking

There were potholes between White Hall Road and High Street, Great Waking.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Chairman

Date

Appendix

Question

Response

J Smith, Canewdon
J Rolph, Canewdon

An update will be provided at the next Area Committee meeting.

(a) Whether a bus stop can be moved from opposite Pylon Cottages, Canewdon to outside the Village Hall, Canewdon for the benefit of pensioners living in Althorne Way.

(b) Are we getting a replacement bus shelter to replace the one removed?

(c) When will the actual bus stop pole be removed and new bus stop installed?

K Stranks, Rochford

An update will be provided at the next Area Committee meeting.

Please explain clearly the reasons why the lights along Hall Road are to be turned off and what safety precautions and risks that have been considered. Are there serious repairs required or is it just two lamps out?

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