

Central Area Committee – 22 January 2008

Minutes of the meeting of the **Central Area Committee** held on **22 January 2008** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr D G Stansby
Vice-Chairman: Cllr Mrs C A Weston

Cllr Mrs R Brown	Cllr K H Hudson
Cllr P A Capon	Cllr J R F Mason
Cllr M R Carter	Cllr M G B Starke
Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn	Cllr J Thomass

ALSO PRESENT

Cllr Mrs M A Weir	-	Hawkwell Parish Council
Cllr B Hazelwood	-	Hockley Parish Council
Cllr Miss A Marriott	-	Hullbridge Parish Council
L Harvey	-	District Engineer, County Highways

OFFICERS PRESENT

A Bugeja	-	Head of Legal Services
R Evans	-	Head of Environmental Services
J Bostock	-	Committee Services Manager

25 AREA COMMITTEE – INITIAL BUSINESS

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillors Mrs L A Butcher, Mrs L M Cox and P R Robinson.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 4 December 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Declarations of Interest

District Councillor Mrs H L A Glynn declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Hawkwell Parish area by virtue of being a Hawkwell Parish Councillor.

Councillor Mrs C A Weston declared a personal interest in the item on Clements Hall horse riding facilities by virtue of her daughter riding horses on some bridleways.

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

26 COMMUNITY FORUM

No requests for information had been received in advance of the meeting. A question had been received at the meeting from S Van Devyver of Hawkwell on concern at cars parked on the grass verges between Doric Avenue and Mansted Gardens, which obscured the view of the road.

Reference was made to the success that could be associated with a bollard solution introduced at the corner of Doric Avenue/Ashingdon Road. Councillor P A Capon offered to be available to meet and discuss the issue with a Highways Inspector as appropriate. It could be recognised that issues may arise at any time of the day.

Lyn Harvey confirmed that this matter would be investigated with a view to the introduction of appropriate solutions.

A question had also been received from K Iloty of Hockley on whether there are any plans to provide better and more wheelchair friendly footpaths and disabled parking spaces in the Hockley countryside. For example, at Hockley, Betts or Marylands Woods.

The Head of Legal Services confirmed that the Council was always keeping disabled parking spaces under review, particularly in relation to access to open spaces. Legislation required that disabled persons should be able to access facilities and, where there are particular issues or difficulties, the Council would look into them to identify how solutions might be reached.

At this point the Committee reconvened into formal session.

27 SPOTLIGHT ISSUES

(1) Update on Highway Matters within the Central Area

Lyn Harvey advised that a Traffic Management Engineer was to meet with Councillor J Thomass in the near future on the possibility of extending the white lines introduced near Bullwood Hall to Fountain Lane.

The County had now utilised most of the budget for the current financial year. Night time work was to be undertaken on the resurfacing of Coventry Hill between the 6 to the 8 February (the footpaths of this location having already been completed).

Watery Lane/Beeches Road Traffic Issues

Lyn Harvey advised that the County Council had recognised that issues relating to Watery Lane/Beeches Road were similar to those in other parts of the County and that specific proposals were being introduced.

The Watery Lane/Beeches Road traffic issues were in the 'environmental' category and were directly akin to problems being experienced in parts of the Braintree District and other locations in the Rochford District (Stambridge/Hall

Road/the road to Canewdon). County Trading Standards had agreed to fund enforcement action over a two-year period.

Two County officers and a vehicle would have a presence within the Rochford District on one day per week and the County Council had powers to commence proceedings against any infringement of signed weight restrictions. For the first offence, there would be a written letter. If this was ignored and there was a further offence, then legal proceedings would be likely to take place. The County was introducing additional signage to indicate this activity. From current evidence the issues at Watery Lane/Beeches Road appear to be caused by local drivers.

The Committee agreed that, in view of the activity now being undertaken, it would be appropriate to hold in abeyance referral of this matter to the Executive Board.

During discussion of this item Members expressed particular concern that, notwithstanding previous consideration by the District Council/County Highways, there had been significant traffic issues at White Hart Lane (particularly involving heavy lorries and use of the Lane as a 'rat run'). Lyn Harvey confirmed that she would investigate previous work undertaken to address issues at this location and the possibilities for addressing current issues.

(2) Update on the opening of a route for horses on the western side of Clements Hall

Albert Bugeja provided an update on the possibility of opening a route for horses on the western side of Clements Hall to come out at Hawkwell Park Drive and join the bridleway to Park Gardens.

The design and feasibility work was programmed to be undertaken in January with a full report to the Area Committee in March 2008. The design work was progressing but the site constraints presented particular difficulties in accommodating access for the various users. The challenge was to design a solution that allowed access to the bridleway from Hawkwell Park Drive, but still prevented access by small motorcycles which caused the original problem. The bridleway would also co-incide with the pedestrian access and so there would be a need to find a solution that was safe for everyone to use and access to the recreation ground was restricted to pedestrians and people with disabilities only. The various options were being explored and a full report would be brought to the next meeting of this Committee.

28 CENTRAL AREA UPDATE

The Committee received the Central Area update.

Replacement of length of footpath adjacent to Brandy Hole on the River Crouch (11/07)

It was noted that this item related to footpaths 8 and 9, not footpath 12.

**Siting of Community Shelter on the Clements Hall Recreation Field
(14/07)**

It was noted that further consideration of the precise siting of the shelter would be appropriate following the consultation that was being undertaken through the Parish Council.

**Encouraging Bus Service over Coventry Hill to Connect with Other
Routes (15/07)**

Reference was made to the value that could be associated with the decision of the bus companies that services 7 and 8 go to the hospital.

The Making Up of Unadopted Roads in Hullbridge (16/07)

It was agreed that it would be appropriate for a report back date to be identified.

**Reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour Orders in Hockley Town Centre
(04/08)**

Whilst it was pleasing to note that evidence was suggested that the bowling alley had had a positive impact on the number of reports of anti-social behaviour, it was agreed that it would be appropriate to hear from the Police on this item prior to considering communication with the bowling alley.

Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park – Bridleways (05/08)

It was recognised that it would not be practicable to enforce any division in bridleways that accommodates both walkers and horse-riders. It was also recognised that, whilst bridleway surfaces can be dressed, they can be churned up.

The meeting closed at 8.37 pm.

Chairman

Date

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