

## **East Area Committee – 4 September 2008**

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Minutes of the meeting of the **East Area Committee** held on **4 September 2008**  
when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr T E Goodwin  
Vice-Chairman: Cllr K J Gordon

Cllr J P Cottis	Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr T G Cutmore	Cllr M J Steptoe
Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill	Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

### **ALSO PRESENT**

Cllr Mrs I Knight	-	Barling Magna Parish Council
Cllr V Newby	-	Canewdon Parish Council
Cllr M Osher	-	Great Wakering Parish Council
Cllr Mrs P Shaw	-	Ashingdon Parish Council
Cllr Mrs M S Vince	-	Rochford Parish Council
M Hathaway	-	South East Essex Primary Care Trust
I Stidston	-	South East Essex Primary Care Trust
L Harvey	-	County Highways
N Janes	-	Rochford Market Administrator
T Day	-	Rochford Market Superintendent
C Turner	-	Rochford Market Representative
A Prophet	-	Essex Police

### **VISITING MEMBER**

County Cllr R A Pearson

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

Y Woodward	-	Head of Finance, Audit & Performance Management
J Bourne	-	Head of Community Services
M Power	-	Committee Administrator

## **255 AREA COMMITTEE – INITIAL BUSINESS**

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs T J Capon, Cllrs P A Capon (Stambridge Parish Council), Cllr D Whittingham (Paglesham Parish Council) and B Summerfield (Sutton Parish Council).

### **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill declared a prejudicial interest in item 4(3) of the agenda by virtue of owning a retail business in Rochford town centre and left the meeting during discussion of that item.

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

### **256 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.

### **257 SPOTLIGHT ISSUES**

#### **(1) Update by South East Essex Primary Care Trust (PCT) on Future Primary Care/GP Provision Within the East of the District.**

Margaret Hathaway, Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT) Project Director, outlined plans for estates development in the South East Essex area and how they would impact on GP and other health care services. The PCT's aim was to upgrade premises and the range of services provided and thus improve access to health. A series of primary care centres was being developed, which would deliver a range of health care services under one roof and enable outpatient treatment to be provided alongside GP practices.

The PCT recognised that the Great Wakering Health Centre delivered good patient services and that the premises complied with Health Authority health care guidelines. There were therefore no plans for premises development here. It was stated that as GP practices are independent of the PCT, it would be the GP's decision whether or not it was right for their practice and their patients to move into any proposed primary care centre. The PCT's aim was not to close GP practices.

Ian Stidston, Deputy Director of Commissioning and Contracting (Primary Care), advised that the PCT's aim was to improve primary care in the community in the following ways:-

- Improve access
- Offer a choice of GP practices to patients
- Deliver high quality standards in updated buildings
- Integrate services offered – providing a seamless service for patients
- Deliver more services from a primary care setting.

The PCT was working with GP practices to achieve these aims and welcomed dialogue with Councillors and members of the public.

In response to questions, the following was noted:-

- The PCT would consult fully with the local population on its plans for the area and prior to the commencement of the re-design of new centres. Location would be taken into account when deciding where to site new premises, particularly in relation to fears that access would be reduced because of increased travelling distances by residents living in the more remote areas of the District that did not have a good bus service.
- The decision to close Shoebury House Health Clinic was due to the inadequate facilities and extremely poor condition of the premises. There were no longer many services operating from Shoebury House. It was anticipated that Shoebury House would be closing at least a year before the proposed new Shoebury Health Centre facility in Gunners Park opened. In the interim period Shoebury House services would be relocated elsewhere.
- A significant number of services that could be delivered effectively in the community that were previously available only at the hospital would be operating from the new Shoebury Health Centre when it opened.
- The PCT would contact Great Wakering Health Centre to ascertain whether an application had been made for the facility to perform certain minor operations. The PCT would report back to County Cllr R A Pearson and Cllr T E Goodwin. As a general rule, the PCT was happy to commission services if the health centre in question had adequate facilities and staff in place.
- In response to a request that provision of blood services be extended, the PCT advised that it would be undertaking a phlebotomy review as a matter of priority with a view to developing the service across the local community. It was requested that the facilities available for blood testing be accessible and well advertised.
- It was requested that patients be advised of the availability of the District Council's taxi voucher scheme for qualifying residents.
- The PCT recognised that partnership working with local planning authorities was vital to ensure access to the best development sites.

### **(2) Highways Matters Within the East Area**

Lyn Harvey advised that a basic maintenance service existed whereby residents can ring County Highways to report minor problems that occur. She further advised that the surface dressing service provided by the County Council was a cost-effective way of prolonging the life of a road. It was also reported that Shopland Road had been surface dressed at the end of July and that Dalys Road, Rochford is currently being surfaced. The works at Dalys Road were on a rolling programme so traffic would not be unduly affected.

Footpath slurry sealing on Weir Pond Road would be commencing shortly. County Highways was waiting for the Contractor to schedule the crossings that are being installed in the vicinity of Canewdon High Road in accordance with the Canewdon Locally Determined Plan. Works to widen the footpath in Stambridge Road from Stambridge Primary School to the football ground were programmed to commence later in the year. County Highways was awaiting feedback from Great Wakering Parish Council in respect of works in New Road, Great Wakering,

In response to questions raised, the following was noted:-

- The Sutton Ford Bridge scheme was a County Hall scheme and did not come under the South Area Office. Ad-hoc repairs and maintenance, including work on lighting issues, would be dealt with by the maintenance team. County Cllr R A Pearson would contact County Cllr Hume regarding this matter.
- Although the Sutton Road drains had recently been inspected, following reports of continuing flooding, the drains would be re-inspected. The two pot holes in the road surface would also be inspected.
- The 30mph speed limit in Purdeys Way, Rochford could not be lowered. However, details would be provided of the recent speed check undertaken in this area.
- Regarding the reports of speeding traffic along the Barling Road from Stonebridge to Barling, it was requested that a repeater sign be erected to remind drivers of the 30mph limit. The issue would be referred to the County Traffic Management Team. Mr D Lawrence (County Highways) would meet County Cllr R A Pearson in the village.
- Following complaints about the bad state of repair of the footpaths in Little Wakering, a visit would be arranged to inspect the area. Mr B Summerfield (Sutton Parish Council) would be asked to provide Highways officers with a copy of the Parish Council survey.
- The bus stop outside Great Wakering Community Centre will be investigated with a view to siting it elsewhere.
- In respect of a proposal to install a footpath in Barling Road from the 'Rose Inn' public house along Barling Road, a consultation with residents was underway but not all responses had yet been received.
- Works in Star Lane, Great Wakering involving the provision of two bus stops, surfacing and drainage work up to the roundabout at the junction of Star Lane and Southend Road will be monitored by the County Highways Clerk of Works.

### **(3) Rochford Market**

The Committee received an update by Nick Janes, Market Administrator, on the issues raised by the East Area Committee relating to Rochford Market. It was confirmed that all the issues raised in the letter received from the Head of Planning & Transportation had been dealt with. The Committee was advised that Trevor Day, Market Superintendent, was present at the market each week to deal with any issues that arose during the day and Nick Janes was contactable on his mobile phone. Any complaints could also be directed to the Police or PCSOs who often were present in the square on market day. Andy Prophet assured the Committee that the Police would treat seriously any reports made.

A blind resident detailed the problems she had experienced when attempting to negotiate her way around the market due to certain stalls encroaching onto the walkway and obstacles that were in her way. Nick Janes advised that checks were constantly being made to ensure the County Council's rule that there was at least a six-foot clearance between the stalls and shop fronts was observed. Photos indicating breaches of this rule were passed around the meeting. It was stated that these breaches had been rectified and it was requested that further photos be taken in a few weeks' time.

The market representatives had been made aware of two specific locations that were an issue, namely the double-glazing stall where the display windows were freestanding on the pavement and the greengrocery stall where the tarpaulin was often not adequately restrained.

It was the responsibility of Rochford District Council's parking enforcement team to investigate the matter of cars parking in the square during market day.

### **258 EAST AREA UPDATE**

The Committee received the East Area update.

#### **Additional Car Parking – 6 Silchester Corner, Great Wakering (19/08)**

The Chairman advised that item 19/08 stated in error that the possibility of providing off-road parking outside houses 1-6 Silchester Corner, Great Wakering was included on the Great Wakering Parish 'wish list'. In fact, this item had been referred by a resident to a District Councillor.

#### **Obstruction of the Public Footpath Through the Boatyard, Paglesham (11/07)**

The owner of the boatyard had contacted the Enforcement Officer; the deadline to put a diversion in place had subsequently been extended to the end of September.

**Street Lighting in Sutton Road (26/07)**

It was requested that the lighting from the Anne Boleyn pub to the start of the proposed Sutton Ford Bridge scheme be included on the Parish Council 'wish list'.

**Possibility of Extending Footpath in Canewdon (26/08)**

In addition to the footway link from Forge Stores to Canewdon School, the introduction of traffic calming measures could be included in the Parish 'wish list' for 2009/10.

**Flooding in Pointers Lane, Great Wakering (28/08)**

Following a report of severe flooding on the corner of Crouchmans Avenue and High Street and outside The Mallards and the High Street, Great Wakering it was agreed that the ECC Drainage Engineer would revisit the sites following heavy rain.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

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

**Appendix**

**Question**

Essex Flood Forum

Would it be possible to ask the Great Wakering Parish Council to include questions and answers from the public within their Council Minutes?

D Billington, Great Wakering

Why cannot the speed limit be reduced along Southend Road, without waiting for a serious accident to occur. As I walk my dog along the 12inch width overgrown footpath I do not want it to be me who is the statistic. I have my dog trained to walk directly in front of me. It is impossible for a mother and child to walk along it with cars speeding by often well in excess of 60miles an hour. Also to come out of my drive you have to poke the bonnet out, much to the annoyance of any speeding car. The slow sign does NOT have any effect.

M J Lucas, Rochford

The filthy state of Rochford Market Square and surrounding roads of Saturday and Sunday mornings. No cleaning takes place until at least 11 am. Rubbish bins are overflowing and the square cannot be cleaned properly at this time due to parked cars.

**Response**

It is the decision of the Parish Council as to how they formulate their Minutes. The question should be asked directly of the Parish Council.

An update will be provided at the next meeting.

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