

# Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 21 January 2004

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee** held on **21 January 2004** when there were present:-

Cllr P K Savill (Chairman)  
Cllr C A Hungate (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Mrs R Brown  
Cllr P A Capon

Cllr P F A Webster  
Cllr D A Weir

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs C I Black, T E Goodwin and K H Hudson.

## **SUBSTITUTES**

Cllrs T G Cutmore and Mrs M J Webster.

## **OFFICERS PRESENT**

R Crofts	- Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
S Fowler	- Head of Administrative & Member Services
S Scrutton	- Head of Planning Services
G Woolhouse	- Head of Housing, Health & Community Care
C Nicholson	- Solicitor
S Worthington	- Committee Administrator

## **COUNTY OFFICERS PRESENT**

K Bristow - District Manager, Transportation & Operational Services

## **35 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2003 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **36 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Mrs R Brown declared a personal interest in item 8 of the agenda by virtue of being a Member of Hullbridge Parish Council.

Cllr P A Capon declared a personal interest in item 9 of the agenda by virtue of being a resident of Stambridge and a Member of Stambridge Parish Council.

### 37 HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2003/2004.

The Committee considered the report of the Area Manager, Highways and Transportation informing Members of the revised allocation of funds for the maintenance of highways in the Rochford District for 2003/2004, together with details of the approved special maintenance budget and capital programme.

Details of known expenditure from 30 September to 8 January 2004 were circulated to Members.

Responding to an enquiry relating to variations in expenditure on items such as environmental maintenance and footway works, as detailed in paragraph 3 of the report, the County Council officer confirmed that the variations in expenditure did not provide a comparison with expenditure last year, but rather illustrated known expenditure up until 30 September 2003 compared to the allocated budget.

In response to a further enquiry about the omission of known footway works from the report, the County Council officer advised that the report did not include details of maintenance works to footways, but rather full scale schemes.

The County Council officer confirmed, in response to a Member enquiry relating to the Hall Road cycleway that the Central Government funding previously allocated for this scheme would be returned, as the decision had been taken not to proceed with the cycleway. Members were further advised that a study had been commissioned by the County Council of existing cycleways and exploring potential cycle networks.

In response to a Member concern relating to proper consultation with Parish Councils about carriageway and footway maintenance works, the officer advised that Parish Councillors were always consulted. In the case of Garderners Lane, Canewdon, however, the carriageway works, although not specifically requested by the Parish Council, were completed because the road was unlit, the surface was falling away and was in a dangerous state, and the County Council had a statutory duty to effect repairs.

The officer noted requests by Members that a gulley be provided for the bottom of Trinity Wood Road and that the carriageway and footway of Plumberow Avenue needed attention.

### 38 WEBSTERS WAY – ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT

**(Note:** Cllr Mrs M J Webster declared a personal interest in this item by virtue of being a member of the Essex County Council Highways & Transportation Policy Development Group.)

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services updating Members on proposals for environmental improvements to Websters

Way, Rayleigh.

Responding to a Member enquiry, officers confirmed that the County Council would give consideration to a joint venture scheme for environmental improvements to Websters Way, should funds be available. The County Council did not, however, have such funds in the current financial year.

On a Motion moved by Cllr P F A Webster, seconded by Cllr P A Capon, amended by Cllr P F A Webster and seconded by Cllr T G Cutmore it was:-

### **Recommended to Environmental Services Committee**

- (1) That no further action be taken on the proposals for the environmental enhancement of Websters Way, Rayleigh without financial support from Rayleigh Town Council and Essex County Council.
- (2) That a letter be sent to Rayleigh Town Council and Essex County Council, with a copy to County Cllr R Bass requesting that further consideration be given to funding for the environmental enhancement of Websters Way in the next financial year. (HPS)

## **39 HULLBRIDGE VILLAGE ENHANCEMENT SCHEME**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) on progress made to date by the Hullbridge Sub-Committee in overseeing Phase 2 of the Hullbridge Village Enhancement Scheme.

Officers advised that paragraph 4.1 of the report should include an additional bullet point relating to the provision of 2 litter bins.

Members commended Hullbridge Parish Council for its substantial contribution towards the costs of Phase 2 of the scheme. It was anticipated that works would commence in April. There would be proper monitoring of the works and it was hoped that the work would be completed within budget.

### **Resolved**

That progress on the scheme be noted. (CD(F&ES))

## **40 STAMBRIDGE SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care on a request by Stambridge Parish Council that this Authority supports the continuation of site visits by the Parish's representative.

Anglian Water had verbally advised officers that there was ongoing maintenance work at the site, but no major construction works.

Mindful of information received by Stambridge Parish Council from Anglian Water confirming that pumps were being updated at the site and new cables laid, Members nevertheless have received reports suggesting that, since the cessation of site visits, there were lorries on the site and a lot of noise emanating from there which seemed more appropriate for major construction works.

On a Motion moved by Cllr T G Cutmore, seconded by Cllr Mrs R Brown, amended by Cllr P K Savill and seconded by Cllr Mrs M J Webster it was:-

### **Recommended to Environmental Services Committee**

- (1) That a letter be sent to Anglian Water informing them that this Council supports the continuation of regular site visits by a representative of Stambridge Parish Council, and that a copy be sent to the County Councillor and local MP.
- (2) That a site visit be arranged as soon as possible for all Members of the Committee and Members of Stambridge Parish Council and that an invitation also be extended to the County Councillor and local MP.
- (3) That a press release be issued, to include a copy of the letter sent to Anglian Water. (HHHCC)

The meeting closed at 8.38 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....