

## **Environmental Services Committee – 2 October 2003**

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Environmental Services Committee** held on **2 October 2003** when there were present:-

Cllr J E Grey (Chairman)  
Cllr R G S Choppen (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr R A Amner  
Cllr Mrs T J Capon  
Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn  
Cllr Mrs S A Harper  
Cllr Mrs L Hungate

Cllr J M Pullen  
Cllr C G Seagers  
Cllr Mrs M S Vince  
Cllr Mrs M J Webster

### **VISITING MEMBER**

Cllrs C I Black and M G B Starke.

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs A J Humphries and R A Oatham.

### **SUBSTITUTES**

Cllr Mrs M A Starke.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

S Scrutton                - Head of Planning Services  
S Worthington           - Committee Administrator

### **COUNTY OFFICERS PRESENT**

P Lord                    - Senior Highways Engineer

### **441 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2003 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **442 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn declared a personal interest in item 14 by virtue of boating on the Roach and Crouch.

### 443 PROGRESS ON DECISIONS

The Committee received the Schedule relating to progress on decisions.

#### **Various Roads Hawkwell and Hockley – Proposed Variation to Existing Waiting Restrictions and On-Street Parking Bays (Minute 23/01)**

The County Officer advised Members that, by law, permits could not be issued to care workers. If, however, residents' parking areas were created within the District, residents' parking permits could subsequently be issued to care workers.

It was further confirmed to Members that the issue of residents' parking schemes would be addressed as part of decriminalised parking enforcement.

#### **Town Centre Enhancement Schemes – Funding Arrangements (Minute 469/02)**

After some initial problems, the new entrance to the Back Lane car park was working well.

#### **Twice Yearly Update from Essex County Council (Minute 106(1)/03)**

The County Officer confirmed that the list of roads to be included in the salting routers was currently being finalised and would include, in addition to principal routes in the County, important local routes for specific districts. Once finalised, the list would be sent to the County Area Managers for discussion with the districts.

#### **Community Transport – Future Development (Minute 252/03)**

Members requested that information be made available to residents on how they might be able to gain access to the service; a concern was raised that residents in outlying areas should be able to use the service.

#### **Magnolia Road, Hawkwell – Report on Current Situation (Minute 318(01/03)**

The County Officer noted a request that the potholes in Magnolia Road be filled with scalpings.

#### **Back Lane Car Park, Rochford – Arrangements for New Entrance from Locks Hill (Minute 324/03)**

The County Officer confirmed that County Highways would ensure that the no entry signs and road markings were brought up to standard.

### **444 BRAMERTON ROAD, HOCKLEY: PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTION/ROSSLYN CLOSE – CUL-DE-SAC: PROPOSED REVOCATON OF EXISTING WAITING RESTRICTION**

The Committee considered the report of the Area Manager, County Highways asking Members to consider the responses received following formal consultation with the residents of the above roads on waiting restriction proposals.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That the waiting restriction, as outlined in the report, be introduced in Bramerton Road, Hockley.
- (2) That the existing Order covering the cul-de-sac section of Rosslyn Close, Hockley be revoked. (County Highways)

### **445 ESSEX SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN 2003 – 2008**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services seeking Members' comments on the draft Essex School Organisation Plan 2003 – 2008 and highlighting the implications for the Rochford District.

During debate, the following comments were noted:-

- It is vital that the projections in the Plan with respect to population totals be verified.
- It should be noted that primary school provision at the Park School site is not included in the Plan.
- There is some scepticism about the estimated deficit by 2008 provided for Rochford Primary School, given that the school was over subscribed each year.

#### **Resolved**

That, subject to the additional comments above, the comments in the report form the basis of a response to the Local Education Authority on the draft Essex School Organisation Plan 2003 – 2008. (HPS)

### **446 PROTECTING OUR HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT – CONSULTATION PAPER**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services seeking Members' views on a consultation paper entitled 'Protecting our historic environment: making the system work better', published by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Comments on the document were required by 31 October 2003.

During debate, the following comments were noted:-

- Q2.2: There should be fair and transparent selection of members to the independent committee that would take designation decisions for English Heritage; Members would seek reassurance that this committee could work truly independently.
- Q5.2: It is considered unlikely that the Government would provide funding for a programme of review.
- Q16: The reference to a sub-regional team gives cause for concern.
- The system should not be changed.

### **Resolved**

That, subject to the additional comments above, this report forms the basis of the Council's response to the consultation paper 'Protecting our Historic Environment'. (HPS)

#### **447 PROPOSED WETLAND CREATION AT WALLASEA ISLAND, ESSEX**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services seeking Members' views on a proposal by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to create a new area of managed retreat on Wallasea Island. The scheme tied in with the proposed management strategy for the Crouch and Roach being prepared by the Environment Agency.

Members made the following comment:-

- The entrance to the Roach from Wallasea Island should be properly dredged to facilitate safe passageway for vessels.

### **Resolved**

That, subject to the additional comment above, DEFRA be informed that this Council supports the proposal for the creation of a new wetland area on Wallasea Island. (HPS)

#### **448 ROACH & CROUCH FLOOD MANAGEMENT STRATEGY CONSULTATION**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services seeking Members' views on the Environment Agency's (EA) flood management proposals for the Roach and Crouch Estuaries. The deadline for comments was 14 November 2003.

The following comments were noted:-

- It is important to be aware of plans elsewhere in the UK and on the other side of the Channel and North Sea.
- The proposed new port at Shell Haven and possible dredging there is an issue of concern.

### **Resolved**

That, subject to the additional comments above, the Environment Agency be advised that the Council supports the principles of the flood management options outlined in the consultation document. (HPS)

#### **449 PROPOSED CHANGE TO PPG3 HOUSING – SUPPORTING THE DELIVERY OF NEW HOUSING**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services seeking Members' views on a Government proposal to change PPG3 to allow the re-allocation of employment and other land to housing. Comments were required by 31 October 2003.

### **Resolved**

That the Deputy Prime Minister be informed that this Council does not support the proposed change to PPG3. (HPS)

#### **450 PROPOSED CHANGE TO PPG3 HOUSING – INFLUENCING THE SIZE, TYPE AND AFFORDABILITY OF HOUSING**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services seeking Members' views on Government proposals to amend the Guidance in PPG3 on the size, type and affordability of housing.

### **Resolved**

That this item be referred to the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee. (HPS)

#### **451 HALL ROAD CYCLE LINK TO ROCHFORD TOWN CENTRE**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services seeking Members' views on the use of Council owned land in Rochford to allow the extension of the Hall Road cycleway to the Town Centre.

Mindful of Officers' recommendation to support the extension of the cycleway, Members nevertheless considered that the existing Hall Road cycleway was poorly used. It was additionally perceived that the residents of the cottages opposite the railway station in Bradley Way would lose privacy and that an area of green further along Bradley Way would be lost should the cycleway be extended, as proposed in the report.

On a motion moved by Cllr Mrs S A Harper and seconded by Cllr Mrs M A Starke, it was:-

**Resolved**

That the proposals for a cycleway in Bradley Way should not be supported.  
(HPS)

The meeting closed at 8.32 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....