

## **Environmental Services Committee – 5 April 2006**

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Environmental Services Committee** held on **5 April 2006** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr M G B Starke  
Vice-Chairman: Cllr Mrs L Hungate

Cllr R A Amner  
Cllr Mrs R Brown  
Cllr Mrs T J Capon  
Cllr T G Cutmore  
Cllr K J Gordon

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

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs J A Mockford and P R Robinson.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

S Scrutton                - Head of Planning and Transportation Services  
J Bourne                 - Leisure and Contracts Manager  
S Worthington          - Committee Administrator

### **120 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to replacing the final sentence of the second bullet point of Minute 40/06 with the following:-

"The use of 'flashing signs' was being investigated."

### **121 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr C J Lumley declared a personal interest in item 11 on the Rayleigh Conservation Area and item 12 on the Rochford Environment Characterisation Project by virtue of membership of Rayleigh Town Council and the National Trust Rayleigh Mount Local Committee.

Cllr Mrs M J Webster also declared a personal interest in the same items by virtue of being Vice-Chairman of the National Trust Rayleigh Mount Local Committee.

### **122 PROGRESS ON DECISIONS**

The Committee received the Schedule relating to Progress on Decisions and in response to Member questions the following was noted:-

### **Air Quality – (Second) Review and Assessment Follow-Up Report (Minute 374/05)**

It was noted that the County Council had not yet determined the planning application for the construction of a canopy at the waste transfer station on the industrial estate. Members would be updated on progress.

### **123 REPORT OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT & RECYCLING SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Committee considered the report of the Waste Management and Recycling Sub-Committee recommending a Waste and Recycling Forward Plan to 2008.

Officers advised that the Plan was produced following the environmental inspection in January which highlighted that the area for improvement was in relation to performance management of waste management and recycling. The Forward Plan was sent to the inspectors and had resulted in a more favourable outcome to the inspection, particularly with respect to prospects for improvement.

During debate, Members concurred that the forward plan should be monitored every three months, or at short notice, if circumstances indicated a need for urgent review. It was further noted that an alternative strategy should be urgently developed for interim waste collection arrangements in the event of the timetable slipping for the Essex joint procurement process.

There was a general consensus that it was important that more effort went into education with respect to recycling, particularly in light of the fact that around one third of residents within the District were not currently electing to participate in the kerbside recycling scheme.

In response to a Member enquiry relating to the Saturday morning green waste collections, officers advised that an item would be placed in the Members' Bulletin confirming the schedule for these and that they would work with Greens to improve the publicity for these collections.

Responding to further Member queries relating to the kerbside recycling scheme, officers confirmed that there would be a phased roll out of kerbside recycling to flatted accommodation and caravan sites commencing in June 2006.

Officers further advised that work was being developed on co-ordinating recycling visits to local schools, with merchandise being developed that the children could take home with them to help promote awareness.

### **Resolved**

That the content of Appendix A to the officer's report form the basis of the

Council's Waste and Recycling Forward Plan up to 2008, subject to inclusion of the Saturday morning collections of green waste by lorry in areas not covered by the green waste scheme. (CD(ES))

### **124 RAYLEIGH – CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL AND MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning and Transportation Services providing details of the first Conservation Area Appraisal prepared for Rayleigh and seeking Members' agreement to arrangements for public consultation prior to final publication.

Members concurred that this was a very useful document for the Authority. Some Members had been pleasantly surprised by the number of buildings within Rayleigh that were of historical significance and felt that this would be helpful in developing tourism within the District.

During debate of the document, the following points were noted:-

#### **Page 4**

A future Committee meeting should consider whether the list of local buildings of architectural or historic importance should be included in future Local Development Framework documents.

It would not be possible to amend the sections of the Replacement Local Plan dealing with policies BC1-4, as it was now at the adoption stage.

#### **Page 10**

It was noted that the typo in the first sentence of paragraph 7.6 should be corrected.

#### **Page 15**

There should be reference to Rayleigh Town Council's involvement in the enhancement scheme in Rayleigh High Street including new paving and street furniture.

#### **Page 27**

The reference to the Council in paragraph 10.20 should be amended to Rayleigh Urban District Council.

#### **Page 29**

It should be noted that the seating around the trees, referred to in paragraph 10.29 was organised by the Rayleigh Town Council in order to prevent skateboarders causing damage to the plants.

### **Page 36**

The reference to the Council in paragraph 10.55 should be amended to Rayleigh Urban District Council.

### **Page 37**

There should also be reference to an oriel window in paragraph 10.60.

### **Page 38**

The figure for a Thames Gateway grant for the Windmill quoted in paragraph 10.64 should be checked.

### **Page 40**

In paragraph 10.72, the timeframe should be amended to the 1960s.

### **Page 42**

The references to Bullwood Road in paragraphs 10.79 and 10.80 should be replaced with Bull Lane.

### **Page 46**

Paragraph 13.2 should be amended to reflect the fact that the King George's Field had been handed over to the National Playing Fields Association in order to protect it in the future.

### **Page 50**

It was noted that the gates asphalt track referred to in paragraph 13.19, was owned by the church and was used for occasional, additional car parking.

Members concurred that Ward Members, the National Trust and Rayleigh Civic Society should be included in the consultation. It was also noted that a copy of the document should also be sent to Mary Spence.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the Rayleigh Conservation Area Appraisal Management Plan be approved for consultation.
- (2) That the results of the consultation be reported back in July 2006.
- (3) That an Article 4(1) direction be prepared, as explained in the report.
- (4) That consideration be given to the framework of policies to protect the

historic environment and the issues associated with the list of local buildings of historic importance during the preparation of the Rochford Core Strategy Development Plan Document and other Development Plan documents dealing more specifically with design and conservation. (HPTS)

### **125 ROCHFORD ENVIRONMENT CHARACTERISATION PROJECT**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning and Transportation Services providing details of a recent study to analyse the historic environment within the District, which will inform the preparation of Development Plan documents, particularly the Rochford Core Strategy, currently being prepared.

During debate Members concurred that this document would prove useful in developing tourism within the District.

In response to a Member enquiry relating to costs associated with the study, officers confirmed that costs had been met from the planning delivery grant.

Responding to a further Member query relating to planning appeals, officers advised that the document could be used as supporting evidence given to planning inspectors.

Officers confirmed, in response to a Member enquiry relating to Parish Councils, that the Parish Councils were key stakeholders and would thus automatically receive the document.

In concluding the debate, there was a general consensus that there would be merit in sending the document to Mary Spence and in adding the Rochford Hundred Amenities Association to the list of key stakeholders.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That the Rochford Historic Characterisation Project be published as a technical document to inform the preparation of the Local Development Framework.
- (2) That a press release be issued and notification sent to key stakeholders involved in the historic environment. (HPTS)

### **126 LOOKING BACK MOVING FORWARD – ASSESSING THE HOUSING NEEDS OF GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS IN ESSEX**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning and Transportation Services bringing to Members' attention the results of an extensive study carried out by the Salford Housing and Urban Studies Unit on behalf of the Essex Planning Officers' Association, into the housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers.

During debate Members remarked that, with respect to the stated gypsy/traveller aspirations for accommodation, there were many young people who were residents within the District who would also like to have 'appropriate bricks and mortar' housing, but who were unable to afford it.

Members felt it was interesting to note that participants in the study were generally reluctant to discuss both income obtained via employment or welfare.

Members noted in particular the disproportionately high number of unauthorised encampments within Essex compared to the rest of the East of England region.

Members commented that there could be merit in considering small authorised encampments, rather than larger ones, although it was noted that the Crays Hill had started out as a small encampment.

### **Resolved**

That the report "Looking Back, Moving Forward" be noted. (HPTS)

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....