

Finance & Procedures Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 10 June 2003

Minutes of the meeting of the **Finance & Procedures Overview & Scrutiny Committee** held on **10 June 2003** when there were present:-

Cllr T G Cutmore (Chairman)
Cllr J Thomass (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr P A Capon
Cllr K A Gibbs
Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn

Cllr C C Langlands
Cllr T Livings
Cllr C R Morgan

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Mrs J R Lumley

DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICERS

S Whitehead	Solicitor
M Martin	Committee Administrator

COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICERS

K Bristow	District Manager, Transportation & Operational Services
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REPRESENTING RAYLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Cllr Mrs N Jaworski

REPRESENTING RAYLEIGH CHAMBER OF TRADE

E Byford
C Norton

REPRESENTING RAYLEIGH CHARTERED OUTDOOR MARKET

J Pilgrim	Joint Proprietor
J Brown	Joint Proprietor

REPRESENTING RAYLEIGH MARKET TRADERS

D Brown
D Finch
P Holdsworth Snr
P Holdsworth
K Kelly
S Lockwood
F Nash

255 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2003 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

256 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn declared a personal interest in the Rayleigh Market Review by virtue of being acquainted with many of the Rayleigh Market Traders.

All Members of the Committee declared a common personal interest by virtue of having shopped within Rayleigh.

257 RAYLEIGH MARKET REVIEW

Members noted that the Committee had been convened to consider the feasibility of relocating the market within the High Street and to receive representations from statutory authorities and consultees.

The County Officer reported that:

- such a move would result in increased pedestrian movements across a busy High Street.
- should the traffic flow be allowed to continue during the duration of a market, this would cause a greater potential for conflict on the highway.
- shutting a section of the High Street to house the market would also cause problems in term of restrictions to other traffic movements and would reduce the number of future options for traffic flow within the town centre.

Members noted that:-

- the Rayleigh Market was one of the oldest recorded Charter markets in the country, dating back to the 12th century.
- The Charter rights had been acquired by the Pilgrim family after the Second World War and they had managed the market since then.
- The District Council had bought Barringtons in 1953, part of which was now the Civic Suite, together with the adjoining land, which was subsequently offered to the District Council to use as a car park.
- The use of the car park to hold the market on that site had continued under license since that date.

The Proprietors and Market Trader representatives provided the following evidence/comments:-

- the market occupied more space than that shown on the plan.
- traders were required to have sole use of designated toilet facilities for environmental health reasons; this would be a problem should they be relocated within the High Street, with access only to public toilet facilities.

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- on the existing site where stalls are sited within close proximity to each other, stall holders were able to look after neighbouring stalls for brief periods of time.
- market traders needed to set up their stalls early in the morning; this could cause a nuisance to residents living above shops in the High Street.
- currently stall holders used stalls and site trailers supplied by the Proprietors; these were towed by an electric milk float.
- road going trailers would be required for use in the High Street, thereby incurring additional costs.
- currently all trailers could be housed within the site.
- new stalls would be needed to go on road going trailers.
- litter on market days was kept within a confined area, but relocating to the High Street could cause a problem.
- public liability insurance would be more difficult to obtain for a market held in a High Street.
- the number of stall holders had reduced over the years and needed to be subsidised in the winter months.
- stalls for groups such as charities could be offered free of charge; this type of service would be jeopardised.
- additional car parking spaces would attract more people to the market.
- the market serves the people of Rayleigh very well from its present venue and therefore a move would not be advised.

The representative from the Town Council reported that its Members were also not in favour of a move from the present location.

Representatives from the Rayleigh Lanes Indoor Market commented that they considered relocation to the High Street would not be feasible alongside existing traffic movements, together with the increased vehicles which would be associated with the setting up and clearing away of the market.

Representatives from the Chamber of Trade considered that it would be detrimental to the retailers in the High Street, should the market be relocated there, particularly as this could result in unfair competition.

The Committee adjourned for a short break. The Chairman thanked those who had attended to give evidence and invited them to stay if they wished.

The Committee resumed to determine how the matter should be taken forward.

During discussion of the evidence which had been received, the following Member comments were noted:-

- In response to a suggestion by one of the traders, the Rayleigh Traffic Study Sub-Committee could be requested to look at the issue of whether any additional parking spaces could be provided in Rayleigh, particularly on market days.

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- The Committee should gain further evidence from markets held in other high street situations, such as Sudbury, Suffolk and St Albans, Hertfordshire.
- There was a need to promote and improve the existing market.
- The current infrastructure in terms of traffic flow issues did not lend itself at present to relocation to the High Street.
- Concern that there had been no Police representation at the meeting.
- Public consultation could take place if it was finally demonstrated that there was feasibility in the relocation of the market.

Recommended to the Rayleigh Traffic Study Sub-Committee

That consideration be given to the provision of more car parking spaces in Rayleigh Town Centre. (Area Highways)

Resolved

That this items stands referred to the next meeting of the Finance and Procedures Overview & Scrutiny Committee to be held on 22 July 2003, in order that the following additional evidence be gathered, in respect of the feasibility of the relocation of the Rayleigh market within the High Street:-

- (1) the views of the police, fire and ambulance services be obtained and that representatives from the emergency services be invited to attend the meeting of this Committee.
- (2) recommendations from the recent traffic survey undertaken by the County Council.
- (3) details relating to how similar sized markets operate within High Street areas. (HLS/County Highways)

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Chairman

Date