

West Area Committee – 22 March 2011

Minutes of the meeting of the **West Area Committee** held on **22 March 2011** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr S P Smith
Vice-Chairman: Cllr Mrs J A Mockford

Cllr Mrs P Aves	Cllr D Merrick
Cllr A J Humphries	Cllr R A Oatham
Cllr C J Lumley	Cllr Mrs M J Webster
Cllr Mrs J R Lumley	

ALSO PRESENT

Cllr A Matthews	-	Rawreth Parish Council
Cllr Mrs M Spencer	-	Rayleigh Town Council
Ms N Szpigelman	-	Essex County Council
Ms M McCutcheon	-	Essex County Council

OFFICERS PRESENT

S Fowler	-	Head of Information and Customer Services
S Scrutton	-	Head of Planning and Transportation
M Power	-	Committee Administrator

86 AREA COMMITTEE – INITIAL BUSINESS

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from District Cllrs C I Black, Mrs J Dillnutt, J E Grey, T Livings, A C Priest and P F A Webster, and Cllr Mrs L Hopkins (Rawreth Parish Council).

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

87 SPOTLIGHT ISSUE

The Committee welcomed Ms N Szpigelman and Ms M McCutcheon to the meeting to provide an update on highways matters in Rawreth and Rayleigh.

Ms McCutcheon advised that following the severe weather experienced during the winter many of the Highways maintenance resources have been targeted at dealing with pot holes. Since the beginning of January 'seek and fix gangs' have been working across the District responding to key areas identified via inspection routes and reports from members of the public, Councillors, Town/Parish Clerks, staff, etc.

The seek and fix gangs target specific areas and the programme for the next two weeks will be covering the following areas in Rayleigh: Leslie Road, Eastwood Road, Poplar Road, Victoria Road and Little Wheatley Road, as well as Sutton Road in Rochford.

These dedicated gangs are a cost effective way of dealing with pot holes, as works are paid for on a day rate rather than on a pot hole by pot hole basis, which has resulted in a saving of approximately £6,000 per week.

In response to questions the following was noted:-

- The practice of using orange paint to mark pot holes that have been identified as needing repair was no longer undertaken.
- When a report of a pot hole is received an inspection takes place and details of the pot hole are put on the County Highways' system. The pot holes are then prioritised according to their designated intervention levels, with Category One defects repaired first.
- A pot hole in the underpass at the Fairglen Interchange that had been reported would be inspected and repaired according to the appropriate intervention level it met.
- Pot holes in Barfield Way, Rayleigh would be added to the list for inspection by Highways officers.

A question received from a Rayleigh resident, Mr Childs, about parking issues in Lakeside, Rayleigh and the response from County Highways is appended to these Minutes.

Mr Childs explained his concerns about health and safety and congestion issues in the road as a result of the many parked cars. Parking restrictions in neighbouring roads in Rayleigh had exacerbated the parking problems in Lakeside and photographs showing congestion in the road last summer were handed to Ms Szpigelman. It was explained that 'congestion' in Highways terms refer to backlogs of traffic that hold up major routes and that health and safety issues would be of concern in respect of cars parked inappropriately in busy roads. Although Lakeside did not meet these intervention levels and, as a result, was not considered to be high priority, the road could be added to the list of Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) requests for the District. It was noted that Lakeside had been included in the list of requests for TRO's compiled by the Town Council under the Localism agenda.

Rayleigh Town Council would forward in writing to the District Council's Head of Planning and Transportation requests of various locations in the town that they would like to be considered for inclusion in the Localism list for 2011/12.

In response to a Member question, it was noted that the pedestrian crossing at the top of Downhall Park Way would be brought into operation following the installation of two new lamp columns. The Council's Head of Planning and

Transportation would notify the Member direct about the timetable for these works.

88 COMMUNITY FORUM

In response to a question asking whether a TRO would be considered for Preston Gardens, Rayleigh due to the building of flats on the corner of Downhall Road and Preston Gardens, it was advised that this location could be added to the list of possible sites for TRO's in the District. However, a co-ordinated approach towards parking would be needed, which would include consideration of the wider issue of parking around the station.

The Committee reconvened into formal session.

89 WEST AREA UPDATE

The Committee received the West Area update.

38/09 Advertisements on the A1245 on land adjacent to the Fairglen Interchange

The matter of vehicles with displayed advertisements in this location would be referred to the District Council's Portfolio Holder for Planning & Transportation.

07/10 Possible inclusion of the site of the junction of Downhall Road and Hambro Hill, Rayleigh in the programme of Police speed check operations

This matter would be forwarded to the Police for continued monitoring.

15/10 Emergency Services Bollards at Swallow Close, Rayleigh

The results of an inspection by County Highways of the damage were not yet available. The matter would be passed to the District Council's Portfolio Holder for Planning & Transportation.

01/11 White van parking opposite the Dawlish Crescent/Exmouth Drive junction

This issue would be passed to Police for action.

02/11 Possibility of a seat being placed in John Fisher field, Rayleigh

Installation of the bench was being progressed; the cost would be met by Rochford District Council.

H12/10 Proposed waiting restrictions in Danbury Road/Langdon Road, Rayleigh

The completion of these works would be undertaken by County Highways.

West Area Committee – 22 March 2011

The meeting closed at 8 pm.

Chairman

Date

If you would like these minutes in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 318111.

Question

Response

Mr T Childs, Rayleigh

What measures can be taken to stop Lakeside in Rayleigh continuing to be used as a dumping ground for their vehicles, by both commuters and residents of Downhall Road?

There are no parking restrictions in Lakeside and as long as cars are taxed they can park there legally.

It would be possible to use limited waiting restrictions to control parking, though restrictions are usually only considered if there is a health and safety issue or congestion in a street. It is considered unlikely that Lakeside would be considered as a priority ahead of many other requests waiting consideration.