

## **Community Services Committee – 30 September 2003**

---

Minutes of the meeting of the **Community Services Committee** held on **30 September 2003** when there were present:-

Cllr K A Gibbs (Chairman)  
Cllr T E Goodwin (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Mrs R Brown  
Cllr Mrs S A Harper  
Cllr Mrs L Hungate  
Cllr C C Langlands  
Cllr Mrs J R Lumley

Cllr J R F Mason  
Cllr C R Morgan  
Cllr Mrs M J Webster  
Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr R A Amner

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

R Crofts	-	Corporate Director, Finance & External Services
G Woolhouse	-	Head of Housing, Health & Community Care
J Bourne	-	Leisure & Contracts Manager
P McKenna	-	Woodlands & Environmental Officer
M Martin	-	Committee Administrator

### **ALSO ATTENDING**

Dr M Gogarty	-	Director of Public Health and Modernisation for Castle Point and Rochford Primary Care Trust
--------------	---	--

### **424 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2003 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **425 ISSUES ARISING FROM COMMUNITY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 11 SEPTEMBER 2003**

#### **Holmes Place Progress Report**

Members noted that this item of business had been referred by the Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 11 September 2003 with the recommendation that the Crèche facility at The Mill, Rayleigh be closed. A copy of the relevant part of the Holmes Place report had been appended.

#### **Resolved**

That the Crèche facility at The Mill Hall, Rayleigh be closed, due to lack of demand and that the room be utilised for a range of other uses and bookings. (CD(F&ES))

### 426 PROGRESS ON DECISIONS

In response to Member questions, the following was noted:-

#### **Caravan Site Licensing**

Officers had been advised that prosecution proceedings could not be taken and that residents were happy with the work that had been done on the repairs to roads and footpaths.

#### **CCTV Cameras – Rochford Town Centre**

The majority of the funding for this project had come from a Rochford Chamber of Trade bid, with the extra coming from the Community Safety budget.

#### **Proposed Designation of Public Places in Terms of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 and Local Authorities (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations 2002**

The Police had indicated that they would have preferred to wait until new legislation was available which would allow them to seize alcohol. However, despite this, the proposals would be advertised for 28 days after which the controls would be put in place. It was anticipated that this would be prior to Christmas.

Members expressed concern over the handling of this by the Police, in particular the time that it had taken to reach a satisfactory conclusion and that it appeared that residents had not been consulted.

On a Motion moved by the Chairman, it was:-

#### **Resolved**

That a report be brought back to this Committee detailing the Police view of Orders and identifying why there has been such a delay in the process. (CE)

### 427 DEVELOPING HEALTHCARE SERVICES IN SOUTH EAST ESSEX

The Chairman welcomed Dr M Gogarty to the meeting. The Head of Service wished to pass on to him thanks from the Council for all his support for health care within the District and wished him success in his new post.

Dr Gogarty outlined to Members the main points around the current proposals for healthcare development in South East Essex, in particular the provision of a new Diagnostic and Treatment Centre (DTC), as follows:-

- Two possible sites had been identified; one at Fossets Farm in Southend and one within this District at the Cherry Orchard Brickworks site, Rochford.
- Neither of these potential sites were currently well served by public transport and this would need to be improved.
- Despite press reports to the contrary, no decision as to where the DTC would be sited had yet been taken.
- Public meetings and roadshows had been arranged and leaflets circulated although not to individual households.
- Population changes over the years had meant that Southend Hospital needed to further develop and bring up to date its current health service provision to meet expectations and Government targets
- The DTC would provide a similar range of services to those provided in the Outpatient Centres, together with specialised facilities such as scanning and planned day case and short stay surgery.
- The aim was to reduce waiting times, attract the best doctors and nurses, provided more operating theatres, and more modern facilities in out patient services.
- To expand the roles of nurses and doctors within GP surgeries to allow more treatment to be offered closer to home and provide better community services, enabling patients to remain in their homes or get back home more quickly after treatment.
- The redevelopment of Southend Hospital would take place once some of the services have transferred to the DTC, but it would continue to provide care for patients who need emergency and/or more complex inpatient care.
- To continue the development of Outpatient Centres at satellite centres; there are two currently operating at Canvey and Benfleet and a third would be sited in a location complementary to the chosen site of the DTC.
- The Government are keen to see health services and the private sector working together, and this can be used as a way of securing funding quickly.
- The aim would be to get the DTC up and running by 2006 and then to work on the existing hospital site between 2006 and 2010

Members were disappointed to note that the response to the public consultation to date had been poor and considered that more should have been done to draw the attention of the public to the consultation. A Member made the suggestion that doctors' surgeries might be a further outlet to be explored.

Members further noted that the final decision on the site would be taken jointly by the boards of the Southend Acute Hospital Trust, the Southend Primary Care Trust and the Castle Point and Rochford Primary Care Trust.

Members of the Committee wished it to be recorded that they welcomed this initiative wholeheartedly, supporting in particular the Cherry Orchard brickworks site. Should the site within the District be chosen, the improved public transport links would greatly benefit the District and could also lead to a reduction in car traffic.

### **Resolved**

That officers send an appropriate letter in response to the consultation, outlining the Council's support for:-

- (a) the provision of a new Diagnostic and Treatment Centre away from the Southend Hospital site.
- (b) the preferred site of the Centre to be at the former Cherry Orchard Brick Works, one of the two identified options. (HHHCC)

### **428 WOODLANDS STRATEGY RESOURCES**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services), which provided Members with details of the initiatives currently being considered in relation to the development of the Council's Woodlands and also identified the additional resources that would be required to undertake these projects.

In response to a Member question about land at Lower Wyburns Farm, it was confirmed that 9 acres had been transferred to the Woodlands Trust and the balance had been transferred to Rayleigh Town Council for allotments. Officers were asked to confirm to Members that none of the land transferred to the Town Council included any of the wood areas.

Members congratulated the officers present together with their team for the excellent work that had been carried out recently in developing the Council's Woodlands and on the fact that the proposals before Members would only involve an additional increase in the budget of £6,500.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That an Environmental Liaison Officer scale 4 be appointed, pending a successful grant application to English Nature.
- (2) That a Woodlands Assistant scale 3 be appointed for Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park.
- (3) That an Arboricultural Officer scale 5/6 be appointed.

- (4) That an annual subscription be approved for a period of five years to the Farming and Wildlife Group, in order to achieve a significant grant under the countryside stewardship scheme.
- (5) That a Press Release be issued identifying the fact that grant funding will enable the above to be almost self financing and congratulating officers on the work which has been undertaken. (CD(F&ES))

**429 OLD SHIP LANE TOILETS – FIRST RESOLUTION – APPROVAL TO DEMOLISH AND DEVELOP CAR PARK**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) which sought Members' agreement to apply for planning permission to demolish the toilets at Old Ship Lane and redevelop the site for additional car parking.

**Resolved**

That first resolution approval be agreed, to enable officers to apply for Conservation Area Consent to demolish the public conveniences in Old Ship Lane and planning consent to redevelop the site for additional car parking. (CD(F&ES))

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....