

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE held at 7.00 pm at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN on 27 JUNE 2000

Present:- Councillor A R Row - Chairman.
Councillors E C Abrahams, Mrs C A Bayley, Mrs D Cornell, Mrs C M Dean, R C Dean, Mrs S Flack, D W Gregory, M A Hibbs, A J Ketteridge, Mrs J I Loughlin, Mrs J E Menell, D M Miller, D J Morson and G W Powers.

Also present at the invitation of the Chairman:- Councillors Mrs C A Cant,
Mrs J F Cheetham, M A Gayler and R C Smith.

Officers in attendance:- Mrs G Bradley, T Greenwood, Mrs S McLagan, B D Perkins, Mrs J Postings, M T Purkiss, Mrs C Roberts and R Secker.

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PRESENTATION BY ESSEX AMBULANCE SERVICE NHS TRUST

The Committee received a presentation by members of the Management of the Essex Ambulance Service on possible ways of modernising delivery of pre hospital emergency care. It was emphasised that no decision had been made and that the exercise was about saving more lives and not saving money. The Ambulance Service was looking at providing dynamic cover and it was stated that it was the location of vehicles and crews, rather than of ambulance stations, which determined the speed of response. Twenty seven key strategic locations had been identified which would enable faster activation. A balance needed to be struck between crew comfort and patient need. Many existing ambulance stations were in the wrong locations and tied up money that could be used for patient care.

The options being considered were:

- 1 to continue to respond to emergency calls, as was done now, maintaining all existing stations.
- 2 to implement the key strategic locations but keep all existing stations.
- 3 to retain the key strategic locations (11) and sell off the remainder.
- 4 to implement a system of mobilising crews from key strategic locations whilst retaining additional stations to those identified.

There then followed a question and answer session and those presenting the scheme explained that the options were not connected with the Government's demand for realisation of 75% Capital Assets.

The Chairman of the Committee thanked the Essex Ambulance Service representatives for their presentation and assured them that a response would be prepared.

35 **REPRESENTATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

The Committee received representations from Mr and Mrs B C Dearing and Mr G P Taylor about an application for a large scale Grant for safety netting at High Easter cricket ground, and from Mr R B Smylie about residents' parking areas in Saffron Walden. Notes of the representations made are attached to these Minutes at Annex A.

36 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor A C Streeter.

Councillor Abrahams declared an interest in the item relating to a Large Scale Grant to Clavering Parish Council; Councillor Mrs Cant declared an interest in relation to the grant applications by Stebbing Parish Council; Councillor Mrs Cornell declared a pecuniary interest in relation to concessionary fares; Councillor Gregory declared an interest in matters relating to taxi and private hire licensing; Councillor Powers declared an interest in rural transport issues and Councillor Mrs Flack declared interests in relation to Uttlesford Community Transport and grant applications in High Easter and Barnston.

37 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 April 2000 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

38 **DISTRICT GRANTS ADVISORY PANEL**

The Committee received the Minutes of the meeting of the District Grants Advisory Panel held on 13 June 2000.

Minute DG5 - Large Scale Grant

The Head of Community and Leisure informed the meeting that application LSG002 made by Elsenham Parish Council had now been

withdrawn. She also confirmed that in relation to application LSG016 by Clavering Parish Council, the full grant was required.

The Committee considered further the application for a grant by High Easter Parish Council (LSG010) for provision of a retractable netting barrier to protect nearby houses from cricket balls. Councillor R C Smith spoke in favour of making an award.

In answer to a question, the Head of Legal Services explained that the proximity of the cricket field was not a planning consideration and that no responsibility or legal liability arose regarding the Council's actions in granting planning permission. It was noted that the developer had offered to meet 50% of the cost of the netting. Members were advised that the application should be considered solely on its merits, not on the basis of any purported moral or legal obligations.

RESOLVED that a grant in the sum of £2754 be made to the High Easter Cricket Club for the purpose of providing retractable nets to protect the relevant houses in Vicarage Close, and that recommendation No 2 of Minute DG5 be amended by the removal of the reference to the High Easter application.

Minute DG6 - Organisation Support Grant

A Member expressed the view that in considering the element of matched funding by a Town or Parish Council the question of whether or not that Council was raising an average parish precept should be taken into account.

RESOLVED that Officers report on this possibility to a future meeting of the Committee.

Minute DG7 - Saffron Walden Town Football Club

The Head of Legal Services advised that it would be appropriate for the Committee to delegate authority to officers to carry forward the grant subject to being satisfied that the legal position arising from the club's status permitted this to be done.

RESOLVED that officers be authorised accordingly.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the District Grants Advisory Panel held on 13 June 2000 be approved and adopted including the recommendations contained in Minutes DG4, DG5, DG6 and DG7, and subject to the amendment of Minute DG5 referred to above.

39 **COMMUNITY TRANSPORT IN UTTLESFORD**

Members considered a report which suggested that in order to be in an informed position about how best to utilise the Community Transport budget of £60,000, the Council should either employ a consultant now to advise as to its options, or await the outcome of a proposal in the draft Uttlesford Transport Strategy for a proposed County Council funded study into public transport provision in 2000/01. However, Members considered that a consultant's report could not be justified.

RESOLVED that

- 1 no consultant be appointed using the Community Transport budget,
- 2 with the proviso that the Essex County Council confirms the legality of these transactions, £7,500 be granted to Uttlesford Community Travel (UCT) to provide a pilot hospital service in the current financial year, a report be made on the effectiveness of the service and £1000 of the Community Transport budget be used this year to help UCT promote its existing services,
- 3 Uttlesford District Council formally recognises the role of the Essex Rural Transport Partnership in promoting, supporting and funding rural and community transport projects within Essex and in particular within Uttlesford (UTC),
- 4 the Council undertakes to consult the Partnership in the course of undertaking any research or consultation exercise into the scope and efficiency of rural and community transport provision in the District.

40 **RESPONSE TO ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL'S STUDY ON DECRIMINALISATION**

The Committee received a study report on decriminalisation produced by consultants on behalf of Essex County Council. It was noted that the Parking Strategy Working Party would be meeting representatives of Essex County Council on 13 July 2000 and all Members were invited to attend.

RESOLVED that the Parking Strategy Working Party consider and comment on the study and that officers be authorised to make a response to Essex County Council in consultation with the Chairmen of the Working Party and Community Services Committee by 18 August 2000.

41 **ESSEX AMBULANCE SERVICE NHS - RESPONSE**

Following the presentation earlier in the meeting Members considered the Council's response to the options being considered by the Essex Ambulance Service.

It was generally considered that a laudable attempt had been made to address the situation. However, it was felt that the views of the Community Health Council needed to be taken into account and other issues including the inter-relationship with other agencies needed to be addressed. Members felt that data and targets were needed on the Uttlesford Primary Care Group (PCG) area before any decisions were made and that improvements should be for all residents of Essex, not just the urban areas. It was also suggested that the issue of non-urgent cases needed to be clarified, that due regard should be had to traffic accidents and other emergencies, that growth in population had to be taken into account and that any monies saved should be considered for use to support the Air Ambulance Service.

The Committee felt that Option 2 should be supported, but only after a pilot study had been carried out and baseline data was available.

RESOLVED that the Essex Ambulance Service be advised of the above comments and that

- 1 Great Dunmow should be a Key Strategic Location,
- 2 Ambulance cover should ensure that there was no reduction in response times within the District and particularly the Great Dunmow area,
- 3 Targets should be set and monitored by PCG area and not merely south and north Essex.

42 **REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Committee received written reports by Councillor Powers on an Essex County Records Office workshop session and on recent developments at the Rural Community Council of Essex.

Councillor Mrs Menell reported that the Uttlesford Council for Voluntary Service had changed its name to The Council for Voluntary Service - Uttlesford.

43 **STATE PENSIONS REPLY FROM SECRETARY OF STATE**

Following the Notice of Motion referred from the meeting of the Council on 18 January 2000, the Committee received the reply of the Minister of State for Social Security.

44 **CORPORATE PLAN 1999/2000 ANNUAL REPORT**

Members were advised of the achievements for the financial year 1999/2000 in relation to the action plans in the Corporate Plan summarised in the schedule attached to the report.

45 **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Services Sub-Committee held on 6 June 2000 be approved and adopted.

46 **AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Sub-Committee held on 8 June 2000 be approved and adopted.

47 **LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 19 June 2000 be approved and adopted.

48 **HOUSING SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Housing Services Sub-Committee held on 20 June 2000 be approved and adopted including the recommendations contained in Minute HSS7.

49 **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED that under Section 100 A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of Exempt Information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act.

50 TOURISM SERVICE RESTRUCTURE

The Head of Community and Leisure outlined proposals for restructuring which would establish a new staffing structure that continued to provide a high standard of tourism at no additional cost to the Council.

RESOLVED that the Internal Services Sub-Committee be asked to approve with immediate effect

- 1 the amended Tourism Service Structure as set out in the report.
- 2 new job descriptions for the Tourism Officer and two TIC Duty Managers.

The meeting ended at 9.38 pm.

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ANNEX A**REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT GRANT TO HIGH EASTER CRICKET CLUB**

Mr B C Dearling made representations to the effect that the Committee should make a grant for provision of netting to protect houses in Vicarage Close, High Easter, from cricket balls. He described the number and velocity of balls which had arrived in his garden and explained that if netting could not be provided the village would probably lose its cricket club. The applicants had made efforts to obtain part funding for the netting and had negotiated the price down by about £1,800.

Mrs Dearling addressed the Committee explaining that there was a section of the house which could not be used on Saturday and Sunday afternoons because of the risk from cricket balls.

Mr G P Taylor, Chairman of the High Easter Parish Council, endorsed these comments and added that the Cricket Club had no funds available, having concentrated its efforts on provision of the pavilion and other expenses for the club.

REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED REGARDING RESIDENTS' ZONE PARKING IN SAFFRON WALDEN

Representations were received from Mr R B Smylie about problems caused by shortage of car parking spaces during the day as a result of residents' zone parking. He asked that

- 1 All current car parking residents' spaces should be made available to members of the public during the day up to, say, 6.00 pm for a maximum period of, say, two hours.
- 2 These parking spaces should be free of charge.
- 3 Consideration should be given to reducing the parking fee in Swan Meadow to its original level.

The Chairman of the Community Services Committee then invited Mr and Mrs Dearling and Mr Taylor to stay for the discussion regarding the High Easter grant application which would be discussed shortly by the Committee. He explained to Mr Smylie that the District Council would shortly meet the Essex County Council to discuss the matter of residents' parking zones and assured him that his observations would then be taken into consideration.

