

Committee: **Scrutiny Committee**
Date: **16 March 2005**
Agenda Item No: **6**
Title: **ROLE OF MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES**
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Summary

- 1 This report reminds Members of the previous decisions about Council representation on Outside Bodies, of which there are 64. It attaches the annual short reports kindly provided by Members on their respective Outside Bodies and summarises the effect of them.

Background

- 2 In 2004 following a questionnaire it was agreed that each Member representative on any outside body should produce an annual short report on the work of that organization by April in each year.
- 3 Members felt that the value of representation on these organisations should be reviewed regularly and that more information on what each organisation did would be helpful. They were concerned to establish how useful were the contacts with outside bodies and how much representing the Council on outside bodies actually cost.
- 4 They decided that the connection between particular outside bodies and their relevant Committees ought to be re-established by placing the reports routinely before the relevant Scrutiny Committee for evaluation.
- 5 Reports received so far for Scrutiny Committee 1

Reports have been received from the Member representatives on the following outside bodies, and are attached at Annex 1:-

British Red Cross	(Councillor V J T Lelliott)
Eastern Orchestral Board	(Councillor V J T Lelliott)
ResCU	(Councillor F E Silver)
Supporting People	(Councillor C Bayley)
Turpins Bowling Club	(Councillor C Bayley and Councillor S C Jones)
Uttlesford Community Sports Forum	(Councillor S V Schneider)
Uttlesford Community Support Group	(Councillor J E Menell)
Youth Initiative Working Group	(Councillor S V Schneider)
Youth Strategy Group	(Councillor S V Schneider)

- 6 Most of the reports give a favourable account of the usefulness of Council involvement with the particular outside body. The report on the British Red Cross Group questions the usefulness of Council involvement and Members may therefore wish to review representation on this outside body.
- 7 Any further reports received will be circulated at the meeting.

Background Papers: None

BRITISH RED CROSS GROUP

Report by Cllr V J T Lelliott
February 2005

Dear Alan,

I am presently representing the Council on two outside bodies. They concur with my view that the more local the body, the more useful the representation. The two bodies are not local and my general maxim is met.

British Red Cross

I get no communication from this body. I volunteered to do this because I am a registered first aider with the British Red Cross and I thought that I could make a useful contribution. However, I have only been invited to one AGM of the Essex branch where I felt a real outsider. I did not feel that I could be of any help to them unless I was to devote inordinate amounts of time to the task. I do not know whether we contribute money to this group, but I fail to see what benefit the Council gets from this relationship.

EASTERN ORCHESTRAL BOARD

Report by Cllr V J T Lelliott
February 2005

Eastern Orchestral Board

This is a much more communicative body with a mandate that can affect the funding of musical events in Uttlesford. Their AGM was very interesting and I felt that I could make a difference as a UDC representative. Their approach to funding across East Anglia seemed fair and equitable and the quality of their written output was very high. I think the contribution we make is more than repaid by the ability I have to influence funding and by the funding that comes into the District to subsidise musical events.

ResCU

Report by Cllr F E Silver
February 2005

As requested I am setting out quite briefly my involvement/comments in respect of this organisation as follows.

- 1 Since joining this group due to personal circumstances I have not attended many meetings, but have kept closely in touch with this organisation by phone/email and personal attendance.
- 2 The group which has now an office in UDC offices at Dunmow are very well organised with meetings arranged on a regular basis which has an excellent attendance with lively discussions which generally result in planning future activities/events for the benefits for the very many families who belong to the group.
- 3 Recently I received a substantial donation from Friends School who had raised this by the various efforts of the school to assist with either Projects of Running Costs for the group.
- 4 Currently there are negotiations taking place with an organisation at Harlow to join the groups together which it is felt will prove to be very beneficial to ALL parties.
- 5 Finally I will of course attend as many meeting/activities as things allow me to do, although I must say that at this moment in time there are some 50% of my family who have health problems.

I trust that this information is what you require and please call me if there is anything that you wish to discuss.

SUPPORTING PEOPLE

By Cllr C Bayley

Representative on Outside body report.

1st March 2005.

I have been a member of the Supporting People Commissioning Body since being elected as Uttlesford District Councils representative in May 2003.

The Commissioning Body is a group of elected members from all councils in Essex plus members from P.C.T's and other services. The meetings take place at Essex County Council on a quarterly basis.

Supporting People is there for the support of the residents who need care to do the day-to-day things like shopping. It is not there to deal with the Social Care element.

Being Uttlesford's representative means that I can speak up for the needs of our residents in Sheltered accommodation, those with learning difficulties and the many other needs identified in the Supporting People programme.

Being on Supporting People is vital in relation to the Health and Housing Committee as these often go hand in hand with the values of this programme.

Supporting People Programme deals with various issues including drug and domestic violence and homelessness. Working together we can put the needs of our residents in bids for more financial support where it is needed most.

The programme is looking at the needs of Extra Care for our ever-increasing elderly population and our Housing Department is working in partnership to identify the need for these facilities within Uttlesford.

The Supporting People programme is vital to our residents by providing support and much needed funding so that people can stay in their own homes longer with that extra bit of care.

TURPINS BOWLING CLUB

SAFFRON WALDEN.

Cllr C Bayley,

Outside Representative of Turpins.

1st March 2005.

I am a joint representative of the above organisation along with Cllr Jones.

Turpins Bowling Club was built at the Lord Butler Leisure Centre and is home to local people who enjoy playing indoor bowling.

They play matches all over Essex and have teams for both ladies and gentlemen.

They teach their skills to those of us who cannot even throw a ball straight.

Both Cllr Jones and I are also directors as Turpins is a commercial company.

Uttlesford District Council was part of the successful Lottery bid to build Turpins and we retain maintenance of the structure as part of our duty.

Being a representative on Turpins is a two way process as they can bring their concerns to us i.e vandalism and we can keep them in touch with local issues.

Turpins has recently been concerned about the proposed Skateboard Park and their concerns were taken up with the support group.

The Club meets once a month and I must admit to not being able to attend many meetings although I do try and get there as often as I can.

UTTLESFORD COMMUNITY SPORTS FORUM

Report by Cllr S V Schneider

February 2005

UCSF, formerly the Uttlesford Sports Association, was formed in 2001 when it was felt that the Association needed to be re-launched. The Forum continued to receive

a grant from UDC and its brief and aim is to promote and support Sport in the Community by helping young people primarily to enjoy sport.

Grants to a maximum of £100 are given to young people towards the cost of equipment or courses to improve both their skills and enjoyment of a particular sport. Grants up to the same amount are also given to adults who wish to take coaching qualifications to enable them to work with and train young people in a given sport.

The Forum encourages a representative from every sports club in the District; unfortunately, in practise this is not happening. We have a core of enthusiastic people representing one or two clubs and two District Councillor representatives, along with Officers. I have been Chairman of the Forum since its launch.

As well as the grants we give an Annual Award of money and a certificate to the Club and the Individual who has contributed most to Sport in the Community over the previous year. Again, unfortunately, we receive very few nominations despite it being advertised district-wide.

The Awards are presented on the evening of the Community Achievement Awards. The District Council's invitation to join the evening, along with the annual grant, is appreciated by the Forum.

At present, however, I must report that the future of UCSF is being discussed with what outcome, I am unsure.

UTTLESFORD COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

Report by Cllr J E Menell
February 2005

This committee has struggled for several years to deal with an unwieldy committee of membership. Originally it was well attended by members from many outside bodies. It produced an excellent information pack, plastic (credit card), info list which are widely disseminated throughout the community.

A further problem arose with lack of continuity from representative members. It has endeavoured to deal with issues of domestic violence, hate crime etc by supporting the domestic violence week.

Reports have been disseminated by police, housing, probation, victim support etc. Organisations such as Homestart have participated and on one occasion following a plea from their representative, action was taken through our housing department. Input into the community safety strategy has been statutory requirement. It has been evident that cross partnership working, housing/CAB/police etc, improved.

It has become increasingly evident that the committee was struggling to find real direction. Discussion did not result in real strategic aims. To this end the Chairman and Rachel Hutchinson/Alex Stewart decided in December 04 to set up Case Specific Meetings (CSM).

CSM

An independent chair will discuss victims of domestic violence and hate crimes with this group. The members will come from Police, Social Services, PCT, UDC Housing/Education/Asbo officer/Victim Support/CAB/Probation/Home Start/Gay and Lesbian Switchboard reps.

These meetings will take place every 8 weeks. No councillor will be present.

Community Support Group

The remaining members of the Community Support Group will now meet quarterly. They will act as a strategic group necessary apparently for audit purposes, best practice, direct resources to hot spots of trouble and produce action plans.

It is to be hoped that these new arrangements will drive the agenda forward in a way that has been lacking to date.

YOUTH INITIATIVE WORKING GROUP

Report by Cllr S V Schneider
February 2005

The YIWG is made up of representatives of a number of organisations - ECC Youth Service, Fire Service, Essex Police, Essex Association of Boys' Clubs, UDC, Social Services and RPS Rainer. The Group's Action Plan is drawn up using the objectives set by the Community Safety Action Team and minutes of its meetings feed back to the Team. The Action Plan is reviewed at every meeting and progress noted.

Every year the Group supports Essex Experience, a team-building camp run by Essex Scouts and the camp on the Isle of Wight run by Rev Duncan Green or St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden. These two camps are highly successful and allow children who would otherwise not get the opportunity the fun of a holiday combined with education and friendship.

Each representative gives a report on behalf of their organisation on its work with young people and an Officer gives a report on the Local Strategy Group, of which I am also a Member.

ECC Youth Service continues to run the Information Bus and local Youth Clubs. The Youth Forum is gaining momentum and young people are able to have a say in local facilities and issues through this forum. A recent questionnaire completed by young people showed surprisingly enough that their top concern was the lack of cleanliness in the county's schools, in particular the toilets. A letter has been written to the County Councillor responsible for education on behalf of the young people. Let's hope it is taken on board!

Essex Police School's Liaison Officer is involved with local schools educating young people and we receive reports on Motorwise and Crucial Crew, both of which are invaluable events.

Essex Fire Service run a Young Fire-Fighters course one evening a week and this has proved very successful.

Occasionally, the Chairman invites guest speakers to come along at the start of the meeting and talk to us on a subject relevant to the work of the Group. At the meeting in October 2004 Pippa Ecclestone, a local Magistrate gave an address on the regional government initiative on prolific offenders and the issues to be aware of.

This is a hard-working, very important Group of representatives with a full programme of work on the Action Plan. Each organisation represented is constant in the work with and for young people and the representatives give good feedback at each meeting.

YOUTH STRATEGY GROUP

Report by Cllr Mrs S V Schneider
February 2005

The YSG meets on a regular basis with representatives from ECC Youth Service, Connexions, County Councillor, Essex Police, District Councillors and Officers. The Group is chaired by Cllr Mike Hibbs.

The Group receives reports from the representatives of the various organisations. Mostly these reports are from County, which enables the District Councillors, and Officer to monitor/be informed on what work they are doing with the young people of the district.

The lengthiest report is from Ann Jones, Uttlesford Locality Team Leader, however this is now posted to each member so that it can be read before the meeting and then, if appropriate, questions asked when we meet.

An important issue during this last year has been the future of the Youth Clubs at Takeley and Newport and, in fact, Members of the respective Parish Councils have been present when the matter was discussed. The future of the buildings where the Youth Clubs meet is in question. They are both very old buildings and totally unsuitable for young people to meet there. The County Councillor responsible for the Youth Service is giving consideration as to what can be done about this situation. If it is decided that the buildings should be sold the Youth Service have given an assurance that the money will come back into the community to support the Youth Clubs continuing in another venue, eg Village Hall, Community Centre. There has been discussion concerning a mobile Youth Service in the interim period. It has been very necessary for the representatives of the respective Parish Councils to attend and be involved in the discussions and at times it has been very heated!! This is still ongoing.

The Connexions representative gives a report at each meeting. Connexions have been successful in opening up 'one-stop shops' throughout the county for young people to obtain information on all aspects of their lives, eg drugs abuse, contraception, sexual health, jobs and careers. The hope is that a 'one-stop shop'

will be opened in the district; however, the location of these information centres is crucial inasmuch as they should be attractive to young people and accessible.

The UDC Officer reports on the work of this Group at the YIWG. It is an important Committee to enable the District Council to monitor the work being carried out by the Youth Service with our young people throughout the district.