

**COMMUNITY AND LEISURE COMMITTEE held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 7.30 pm on 5 MARCH 2002**

Present:- Councillor A R Row – Chairman.
Councillors E C Abrahams, Mrs C A Bayley, R J Copping,
Mrs D Cornell, R C Dean, D W Gregory, Mrs J E Menell,
D M Miller and G Sell.

Also present:- N B Newman (Museum Society).

Officers in attendance:- Mrs S McLagan, B D Perkins and
Mrs C Roberts.

CL24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Cornell declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Member of the Community Achievement Panel as did Councillor Mrs Menell. Councillor R J Copping declared an interest in anything relating to the Great Dunmow Museum, the Maltings Preservation Trust and Dunmow Town Strategy Group.

CL25 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2002 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

CL26 MATTERS ARISING

(i) Minute CL17 – Charitable Status of the Museum

The Head of Community and Leisure Services informed the meeting that information and advice was being obtained on this matter from others in a similar situation. Mr N B Newman informed the meeting that the Museum Society was already a Charity. He felt it would be wise to inform the Society of any proposed framework for charitable status of the Museum. It was noted that the question of charitable status would form a part of investigations under the Best Value Review.

(ii) Minute CL19 – Use of Day Centre Kitchens by WRVS

In answer to a question from Councillor D W Gregory, the Head of Community and Leisure Services confirmed that a satisfactory agreement had been reached with the WRVS.

(iii) Minute CL21 – Thaxted Community Information Centre

In answer to a question, the Head of Community and Leisure Services informed the meeting that no conclusion had been reached on the question of provision of financial services at Thaxted, but that this was being pursued.

(iv) Minute CL20 – Best Value Review of Community Safety and Emergency Planning

In answer to a question the Head of Community and Leisure Services informed Members that interviews were shortly to take place for the appointment of a Community and Emergency Planning Officer.

(v) CL18 – Community Achievement Panel

The Chairman and Members extended their compliments to the organisers of the Community Achievement event, which had been an excellent evening.

CL27

MUSEUM MANAGEMENT JOINT WORKING PARTY

The Committee considered the Minutes of the meeting of the Museum Management Joint Working Party held on 7 February 2002 and in particular the recommendation on Minute MM20 – Corporate Entertainment. In connection with Minute MM20, the Head of Community and Leisure Services explained that one successful trial of this suggestion had been carried out and risks had been assessed for insurance purposes. The numbers would be limited to 40.

RESOLVED that the recommendation contained in Minute MM20 be approved, namely that the Museum be offered for corporate entertainment events, subject to the appropriate conditions of hire and subject to a review in 12 months time.

CL28

UTTLESFORD COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2002-2005

Members considered the Uttlesford Community Safety Strategy with an accompanying report. The report recommended that the Committee approve the Strategy and forward it to full Council for agreement, recommending also to Council the introduction of bi-annual reports to the Scrutiny Committee on progress towards achieving the strategy objectives.

Councillor R J Copping drew Members attention to the decision of the Council at its last meeting, on which action was needed, to express profound concern about the standard of community policing and law enforcement. He asserted that Neighbourhood Watch did not appear to be working. Members felt that the strategy needed to reflect the Council's concern about the standard of community policing and law enforcement and that the current spate of burglaries and vandalism showed that Aim 3 of the Community Safety Action Plan, (reducing car burglaries), was neither adequate nor in fact being achieved. In particular Members wanted actions, not just statistics, and Councillor A R Row asked that this be made plain to Chief Superintendent Harrison.

Discussion also took place about CCTV which Members considered was most important in other towns in the District as well as in Saffron Walden. Councillor R Dean enquired whether it had been decided that Road Safety

Minutes should not generally be reported to a policy committee as a matter of routine. The Head of Community and Leisure Services referred to the Road Safety Working Group which had some Officers in common with the Road Safety Local Advisory Committees. She added that issues from the Advisory Committees could be picked up by the Environment and Transport Committee. In answer to Councillor Dean's further question she informed the meeting that the matter would be passed to the Constitution Task Group. Councillor G Sell asked why the Minutes could not be passed to the Environment and Transport Committee and the Director of Community Services undertook to investigate the matter.

Councillor D Miller asked what was being done to tackle drug and alcohol related harm. He thought this was not apparent from the report. The Head of Community and Leisure Services explained that the Strategy set out aims for the future to be carried out following consultation. A report would be brought back to show whether the objectives had been achieved. The actual work was set out in the current action plan.

Councillor Mrs J E Menell informed the meeting that she had found it very frustrating to be a Member of the CSAT Working Groups which seemed to take little action, to be hampered by a series of changes of Chairmen and only recently to have data swapping protocols. Members felt generally that burglary was the aspect which most affected the community and a Member suggested that the Committee should hear from the Chairs of the Reference Groups. The Head of Community and Leisure Services explained that whilst work needed to be done, the survey results upon which the reports were based were facts and that it was necessary to have a strategy in place by the end of September 2002.

RESOLVED that

- 1 the Council be informed that whilst the Strategy generally has laudable objectives, the Committee cannot support it in its present form for the following reasons:
 - (i) It is generalised, gives limited indication as to what it is aiming to achieve and does not reassure the Uttlesford community that it will bring real benefit in terms of community safety.
 - (ii) Aim 3 in the strategy relates to reducing criminal activity in Saffron Walden. This suggests a focus on Saffron Walden to the exclusion of elsewhere in the District, which is unsatisfactory as problems exist elsewhere.
 - (iii) There is considerable concern that there are inadequate police resources to address the concerns of the Uttlesford community.
 - (iv) It is vital that there is evidence of what is being achieved to show that the partnership is delivering what the community requires.
- 2 A bi-annual report is presented to the Scrutiny Committee 1 on the progress of work towards achieving the Strategy objectives.

CL29 LEISURE AND CULTURAL SERVICES BEST VALUE REVIEW 2002/03

The Committee received proposed Terms of Reference for the Leisure and Cultural Services Best Value Review for 2002/03.

RECOMMENDED that the Terms of Reference for this review be approved by the Scrutiny Committee 1.

CL30 CHILD PROTECTION GUIDELINES FOR EMPLOYEES

The Committee considered Child Protection Guidelines for Community and Leisure employees designed to safeguard and protect the interest of the children, staff and the Council.

RESOLVED that the Child Protection Guidelines for Community and Leisure employees be approved and adopted and that a Personnel Policy Note be prepared.

CL31 PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR ESSEX

The Committee considered a report giving details of the new physical education and sports development for Essex which was being submitted to the County Council's Leisure/Education Committee. The Head of Community and Leisure Services explained that the Sports Development Officer had participated in the steering group responsible for developing the strategy.

RESOLVED that the new Physical Education and Sports Development Strategy be approved.

CL32 COMMUNITY PROJECT GRANT SCHEME – DEADLINES FOR COMPLETING PROJECTS

The Committee received a report seeking delegated authority to be given to the Head of Community and Leisure Services in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee to extend, where merited, the deadlines for completing Community Project Grant Schemes. Members stressed the importance of having a fixed end date to such periods and not an indefinite period of extension.

RECOMMENDED that delegated authority be given to the Head of Community and Leisure Services in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee to extend, where merited, the deadlines for completing Community Project Grant Schemes to specified new dates.

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm.