

**COMMUNITY AND LEISURE COMMITTEE held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 7.30 pm on 28 MAY 2002**

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

Also present at the invitation of the Chairman:- Councillor G W Powers.

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

CL1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

An apology was received from Mr N B Newman (Museum Society).

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Mrs J I Loughlin, a new Member of the Committee, and Councillor G W Powers.

Members declared their respective interests as detailed below and did not vote on the items concerned:-

Councillor R J Copping – as a Member of the Dunmow Museum, as regards the Minutes of the meeting of District Grants Advisory Panel
Councillor Mrs D Cornell – as a Member of Saffron Walden Town Council, as regards the Voluntary Sector Compact
Councillor G W Powers – as a Trustee of the Rural Community Council of Essex as regards the Voluntary Sector Compact
Councillor Mrs J E Menell as a Member of the BUFFY Bus Association, the Uttlesford Primary Care Trust and the Community Safety Action Team, as regards the Voluntary Sector Compact.

CL2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 5 March 2002 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

CL3 MATTERS ARISING

(i) Minute CL26 (i) - Charitable Status of the Museum

The Head of Community and Leisure Services confirmed that in the course of the Best Value Review, charitable status would be examined and information obtained from other charitable museums outside the local government sector.

(ii) Minutes

In the general context of minutes, the Director of Community Services explained that the Minutes of the Local Road Safety Advisory Committees would go to the Environment and Transport Committee when they contained

recommendations and to all Councillors for information when they had no recommendation.

CL4

DISTRICT GRANTS ADVISORY PANEL

The Committee considered the Minutes of the meeting of the District Grants Advisory Panel. Councillor D M Miller, the Chairman of the Panel, explained that the Members of the Panel had been adamant that town and parish councils should not be grant aided from this Council's precepts.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Clerks of Wimbish, Littlebury and Debden and Ashdon Parish Councils about the recent change in the Panel's policy regarding grants to town and parish councils.

The Head of Community and Leisure Services read the current grant application form which showed that grants were open to applications from town and parish councils. Councillor Miller confirmed that on this occasion all town and parish council applications had been excluded on the basis that they were from local councils.

Members were advised that any policy change was for the Community and Leisure Committee. The Committee supported the principle of withholding grants from larger town and parish councils but considered that some form of notice should be given to them of any changes.

RESOLVED that

- 1 recommendation 2 be not approved and that since the parish council applications were not considered on 21 May 2002, the Panel at an early meeting consider them and make recommendations to this Committee,
- 2 in view of the date of the next meeting of this Committee, authority be delegated to the Head of Community and Leisure to approve the Panel's recommendations following consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee,
- 3 next year, applications from parish and town councils be no longer accepted where the parish or town has more than 1,000 inhabitants,
- 4 that the Minutes of the meeting of the District Grants Advisory Panel be, in all other respects, approved and adopted including the remaining two recommendations in Minute DG4 and the three recommendations in Minute DG5.

CL5

UTTLESFORD COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY

The Committee considered a revised Community Safety Strategy for 2002-05. The Head of Community and Leisure explained that amendments had been made to Aims 3 and 6 to take into consideration the comments made by Members at the meeting of the Committee on 5 March 2002. It was noted that a letter had been sent to all town and parish councils from the Chief Executive asking them to inform the District Council of their policing concerns

so that these could be included in the dialogue between the Community Safety Action Team and the police.

Councillor Copping felt that the revised strategy, though expressively worded, still did not meet the concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour suffered by the whole District. Action to achieve aims seemed unclear and it was noted that the Drop-in Centre in Saffron Walden had in fact ceased to exist.

The Chairman commented that any increase in the number of police officers would benefit only areas where there were very high levels of crime such as Thurrock.

Councillor G W Powers stressed that the Audit Commission required adequately resourced achievable aims.

Councillor Mrs J Menell said, in the context of Aim 6, that the new Chairman of the Community Support Group was emphasising defined action but that the perception of crime seemed to be greater than the reality.

RESOLVED that to support partnership arrangements to reduce crime and the fear of crime in Uttlesford, the Committee recommends the full Council to endorse this strategy.

(Councillors R J Copping and Mrs J I Loughlin voted against this resolution).

C6 UTTLESFORD COMMUNITY SPORTS FORUM – CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Councillor Mrs S V Schneider – the Chairman of the Uttlesford Community Sports Forum had submitted a written report on the annual general meeting of this forum, formerly the Uttlesford Sports Association. Members received and considered the report.

C7 VOLUNTARY SECTOR COMPACT

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Community and Leisure Services on the Voluntary Sector Compact, comprising partnership arrangements between the statutory and voluntary sectors to enable a consistent approach to relationships between them and to fulfil a government request to formalise existing arrangements. The report referred to a conference called recently about this matter and set out principles underlying the Compact affecting the Council and the voluntary sector. Councillor G W Powers stressed the importance of emphasis on healthy communities and the role that the Rural Community Council of Essex could play. Councillor R C Dean expressed concern that compacts seemed to be overlapping.

RESOLVED that the Compact be approved to confirm partnership arrangements between the Council and the Voluntary Sector.

C8 **APPLICATION FOR AD-HOC GRANTS**

The Committee considered an application by the Fry Art Gallery for a grant of £500 towards the advertising costs associated with mounting a centenary exhibition of work by Edward Bawden and Eric Ravilious.

RESOLVED that a grant in the sum of £500 be awarded to the Fry Art Gallery.

C9 **BRIDGE END GARDENS – SPECIAL PROJECTS BUDGET**

The Committee considered a recommendation contained in Minute BEG149 (iv) of the Minutes of the Bridge End Gardens held on 20 May 2002.

RESOLVED that the residual amount in the 2001/02 special projects budget for the Bridge End Gardens be rolled forward to the 2002/03 budget pursuant to Minute BEG149.

The meeting ended at 8.50 pm.