

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

Present:- Councillor A R Row – Chairman
Councillors 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:- N B Newman (Museum Society) and Councillor G W Powers.

Officers in attendance:- Miss E Anderson, M Dellow, Mrs S McLagan and
B D Perkins.

CL18 PUBLIC SPEAKING

David Wolfe, Vice-Chairman of Great Dunmow Malting Preservation Trust, made a statement about grants for the Maltings and Great Dunmow Museum. A copy of the statement is attached to these minutes.

CL19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E C Abrahams and M L Foley.

CL20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members declared their respective interests as detailed below and did not take part in the discussion of or voting on the items concerned.

Councillor Mrs D Cornell – As a member of Saffron Walden Day Centre Management Committee.

Councillor Mrs J E Menell – As a member of the Buffy Bus Association and Hearing Help for Uttlesford, both voluntary organisations.

Councillor G W Powers – As a trustee of Great Dunmow Museum.

Councillor G Sell – As the Secretary of Stansted Day Centre Management Committee.

Councillor R J Copping confirmed that he was no longer a Director of the Maltings, Great Dunmow, and had no interest to declare.

CL21 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2002 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

CL22

GRANT SCHEMES – REFERRAL FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2002

The Head of Community and Leisure Services informed the Committee that recommendations contained in the final report of the Best Value Review of Leisure and Cultural Services relating to Grants needed to be discussed in order to make an informed decision on grant schemes. The Best Value Review would be presented to Scrutiny Committee 1 on 20 November and therefore it was

RESOLVED that decisions on the Grant Schemes be deferred until the next meeting of the Community and Leisure Committee on 7 January 2003.

CL23

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT PANEL MEETING HELD ON 31 OCTOBER 2002

The Committee considered the recommendations of the Community Achievement Panel discussed at its meeting on 31 October 2002.

(i) Sports Club/Individual Grant Awards

It was suggested that the Community Achievement and Sports Awards ceremonies be held together in the future in an effort to keep costs down and it was

RESOLVED that the Community Achievement and Sports Awards ceremonies take place jointly in future years.

(ii) Nominations for Community Achievement Awards

The Committee was asked to accept the list of nominations put forward for Community Achievement Awards. Members were disappointed that there were no nominations for the Youth Initiative Category for young people aged 15-18 and discussed possible ways of promoting and encouraging nominations for this category. It was suggested that Parish Councils and local youth groups could help to raise awareness. Councillor Copping asked if Officers could make recommendations for this category and the Head of Community and Leisure Services agreed to pursue the matter.

RESOLVED that the list of nominations be accepted and put forward for the award ceremony on 13 February 2003.

CL24

BUDGET UPDATE AND STRATEGY

The Chief Accountant presented a report on the draft revised estimates of direct costs and income for 2002/03 and estimates for 2003/04 as a basis to prepare next year's service plans and figures in full. The Committee was informed that the £120,000 savings target proposed for this Committee had been based on joint work with Town and Parish Councils, grants including

administration and the results of the current Best Value Review. Consideration of other items including Saffron Walden Museum was bound up with the guidance of the Best Value Review, due to be reported to Scrutiny Committee 1 on 20 November. Sponsorship savings anticipated last year for Community Safety were now considered probably unrealistic.

The projections for this Committee as well as revised estimates for 2002/03 and 2003/04 were outlined. Members were informed that the original projections were prepared before the loss of funding for Bridge End Gardens was known. A small amount of lost income from meals on wheels had not been identified in the original estimates. Figures had not been built into the estimates in regard to grants for the Maltings project and the Great Dunmow Museum, which required Member decisions.

Councillor Powers commented that a £120,000 savings target was a lot to ask of this Committee and he would be happy with a standstill budget. He felt that the Community and Leisure Committee had been given an unfair share of the cut backs and that modest projects would be affected by these savings. Councillor Powers believed that the whole District benefits from the Great Dunmow Museum and funding should not be entirely left to the town and parish councils. If Uttlesford District Council stopped its grant the Museum would have to close, causing a knock on effect to the Maltings Building due to loss of rent income.

Councillor Copping commented that the interests of the community should be the Council's priority and good services should continue to be provided. He also commented that in comparison to the £250,000 required to run the Saffron Walden Museum a grant of £3,250 for the Dunmow Museum was a small amount to be asking for.

Councillor Sell raised concerns about the discontinuation of grants and how it would have a serious effect upon the community and the quality of life of people in Uttlesford. He also agreed that Members were asking for a small amount of funding for the Great Dunmow Museum for that part of the District compared to funding for Saffron Walden Museum.

Concerns were raised about how £30,000 income could be raised in sponsorship.

It was suggested that the current usage of day centres needed to be looked at to maximise income for the Council. Councillor Row mentioned the large subsidy provided by Uttlesford to Day Centres and suggested charging visitors to attend. The Head of Leisure and Community Services commented that the policy would need changing to enable increased flexibility in charging all users of the facilities.

Councillor Mrs Menell also felt that £120,000 as the savings target for this Committee was an unrealistic figure. She suggested looking at partnerships for the distribution of grants. Currently, a lot of voluntary organisations claimed grants from more than one source so it was suggested that Uttlesford could form a partnership with the Social Services and the Primary Care Trust so that voluntary organisations could make a single claim. This way all of the funds would be pooled together to help the same projects.

The general consensus of the Committee was that it was unhappy with some of the savings possibilities and, in particular, felt that by cutting grants a huge amount of people would be affected. Members felt that it was hard to make a decision with only half the information available on a budget with relatively small sums, without seeing the Best Value report on Leisure and Cultural Services.

RESOLVED that

- 1 the Committee notes that its target had not yet been met.
- 2 the possible savings set out in Appendix BS09 be approved with the exception of grants. In addition it was agreed that annual grants totalling £3,250 be available, as requested, for a further 3 years for Great Dunmow Museum and the Maltings Preservation Trust and that the £30,000 sponsorship savings being built into projections should be reduced to £10,000.
- 3 In the light of these decisions, service plans for 2003/04 and full budgets be prepared by officers for consideration at the next cycle of meetings.
- 4 the feasibility of partnership arrangements with Social Services and the Primary Care Trust as well as other proposals for changes to the various grants schemes be considered by Scrutiny Committee in March 2003 and any recommendations be made to this Committee.

CL25

ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

(i) Museum Association's Model Code of Ethics

Members were asked to consider the recommendation that the Museum Management Joint Working Party endorses the Museum Association's Model Code of Ethics discussed at the meeting of the working party on 31 October 2002 and it was

RESOLVED that the Museum Association's Model Code of Ethics be adopted by the Museum Management Joint Working Party.

The meeting ended at 8.50 pm.

**STATEMENT TO COMMUNITY AND LEISURE COMMITTEE - 5
NOVEMBER 2002**

DAVID WOLFE – GREAT DUNMOW MALTINGS PRESERVATION TRUST

Mr David Wolfe addressed the Committee asking for the continuation of grants for the Maltings and Great Dunmow Museum. He wanted the Committee to recognise the importance of the Great Dunmow Maltings/Museum and the benefits it gave to the local community. Mr Wolfe went on to say that the Maltings/Museum is a valuable tourist attraction for Great Dunmow and has won numerous awards. Although it is run with the help of fundraising events and entirely by volunteers, further funding is needed for the maintenance and repairs of a Grade II Listed building. The Current budget for costs is in the region of £10,500. The Maltings/Museum has relied on the extra help from Uttlesford District Council in the past and needs the funding to support it in the future.