

**COMMUNITY AND LEISURE COMMITTEE held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 7.30 pm on 3 JUNE 2003**

Present:- Councillor D J Morson – Chairman.
Councillors H D Baker, P Boland, V J T Lelliott, J I Loughlin,
J E Menell, J P Murphy, S V Schneider, G Sell and F E Silver.

Also present:- N B Newman and E A Watson (Museum Society).

Officers in attendance:- G Bradley, B D Perkins, S McLagan, C Roberts,
A Stewart and C Wingfield.

CL1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman extended a welcome to the Members of the Committee at the commencement of the new municipal year.

CL2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor E C Abrahams.

CL3 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 4 March 2003 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

CL4 NEW LEISURE AND CULTURAL STRATEGY FOR UTTLESFORD

(Councillor J E Menell declared an interest in this item in so far as she was a member of the Primary Care Trust).

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Community and Leisure Services on a revised Leisure and Cultural Strategy for Uttlesford. She asked for Members' suggestions for inclusion in the Strategy which would be presented to the meeting in September for approval.

Members then discussed the draft strategy. A broad range of issues were raised for further consideration. These included the promotion of cycling, access to the countryside generally, the need to find out what residents wanted from the services, the importance of grants advice and the general availability of information as to what is available. There was some concern about staffing levels in Community and Leisure Services which may need to be revisited later in the year.

Members of the Museum Society gave an account of the current situation at the Museum. A number of new ideas were being considered to make the Museum more attractive and popular with visitors.

The need for facilities for pre-school and school-aged children was also raised. Councillor Silver referred to three possible activity programmes which officers would consider further.

The Chairman emphasised the importance of having a practical strategy that could be implemented, which customers wanted and which they would recognise as an improvement in service. This would be debated further at the next meeting.

RESOLVED that:

- 1 the draft strategy submitted by officers be noted;
- 2 consultation takes place with key partners;
- 3 officers submit a prioritised resourced programme for the next meeting of the Committee.

CL5 **MID NORTH ESSEX COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC PLAN**

The Committee considered a report recommending adoption of the Mid North Essex Community Legal Service Partnership Strategic Plan.

RESOLVED that the Committee formally adopts the Mid North Essex Community Legal Service Partnership Strategic Plan.

CL6 **YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR FESTIVAL**

The Committee received a report detailing the background to the holding of this event in previous years and an update on the current financial position in relation to a possible event this year. Officers had not progressed the event as there was uncertainty as to sponsorship funding.

Councillor R P Chambers had informed the Chairman that he thought there would be sufficient sponsorship to enable the event to proceed later in the year. It was agreed that there was a need for a firm commitment.

RESOLVED that

- 1 if in the next two weeks the Council receives an unconditional written guarantee of £3,000 funding for this event, officers pursue the development of the Young Musician of the Year Festival;
- 2 if such funding is not forthcoming officers have authority in consultation with the Chairman to ensure that the £1000 already set aside by the Council for this event is appropriately spent in a way which supports activities for young persons in the District.