

**DECRIMINALISATION OF PARKING ENFORCEMENT TASK GROUP held  
at COUNCIL OFFICES SAFFRON WALDEN at 4.00 pm on  
22 SEPTEMBER 2004**

Present: - Councillors J F Cheetham, R M Lemon, J P Murphy and  
A M Wattebot.

Officers in attendance: - V Borges, T Halford, S Mclagan, M Purkiss,  
L Scott, and A Stewart.

Also in attendance: - Adam Pipe, Allan Playle and Sergeant A Seymour  
(Essex Police).

**DPE20 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors M A Hibbs and C M Dean.

**DPE21 CHAIRMAN**

In the absence of the Chairman it was

RESOLVED that Councillor J F Cheetham be appointed Chairman for  
this meeting.

**DPE22 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2004 were received, confirmed  
and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**DPE23 BUSINESS ARISING**

**(i) Minute DPE15 Liaison with Town and Parish Councils**

Officers confirmed that four evening meetings had been arranged for the 6, 7,  
11 and 12 October 2004 and that letters had been sent to all town and parish  
councils informing them of these arrangements.

**DPE24 LIAISON WITH POLICE**

The Senior Traffic Management Officer emphasised strongly the need for  
communication between the police and the local authority. From experience  
he noted that the lack of communication had lead to confusion about each  
parties responsibilities. He clarified that the local authorities enforced no  
waiting restrictions such as yellow lines and also zigzag areas outside  
schools. However he explained that the police would still deal with issues  
concerning obstruction. He clarified that obstruction was where there was no  
way of any public passing through on a path or where there was parking on

the zigzag lines over or on a pedestrian crossing. The police would also handle clearway orders on dual carriageways such as the M11 and the A120.

The police believed the Parking Attendants [PA's] would be their eyes and ears and could work alongside the community police officers to report illegal parking and any incidents. The Chairman asked about communication links between the police and PA's and it was noted that PA's would be issued with mobile phones and would be given a dedicated contact number. However if it was urgent they should use the 999 route. The PA's asked if they could meet with the police and community police officers, which was agreed and a date and time would be arranged by officers.

An issue identified that needed further consideration was that the police did not take over the parking enforcement once the PA's had gone home. There was a need therefore to assess whether there were any problems occurring outside the PA's normal hours of work.

A local parking issue was raised regarding parking on pavements in Thaxted where the road had double yellow lines and the police confirmed this was a ticketable offence. On market days the pedestrian areas of Saffron Walden town centre including King Street and the Market Square was an area, which was not enforceable due to the Order not being renewed by Essex County Council. However the County Council was addressing this problem.

It was also noted that the Department of Transport had forgotten to include in the legislation provision to deal with events, which required no waiting cones. This was an important issue, which could have cost implications for the Council and needed further investigation by the officers.

DPE25

### **PRESS BRIEFING**

A press briefing had taken place on 21 September where the officers had gone through the briefing pack and emphasised the positive approach that would be taken by the Council. The Parking Enforcement Manager (PEM) had also participated in a live broadcast with BBC Essex, which had gone well. It was hoped that there would also be good coverage in the local press.

The importance of good communications and public relations was reiterated. However the police said that the same rules would apply, the only difference was that there would now be the staffing capability to enforce them. Therefore they believed that enough had been done already.

DPE26

### **PROGRESS TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION**

All PA posts had now been filled. Interviews would be held on 27 September to fill a vacancy for an administrator. All staff had received training and new staff would be attending courses shortly. The software provider would be present in the offices to deal with any software problems that might arise in the short term.

The PEM showed the Task Group what he referred to as the parking attendants 'personal weapon', which stored street details and produces the parking tickets.

The PEM confirmed that everything was on target and commended the efficiency and support of Essex County Council.

Councillor Murphy asked that the group be kept informed of feedback from the parking attendants on how they were progressing and being treated by the Uttlesford community.

**DPE27      REVIEW OF DECRIMINALISATION**

It was noted that town and parish councils would be encouraged to give feedback from their area and this would form part of the review process.

It was considered that the Task Group would need to carry out a review of the scheme at six monthly intervals during the first year of operation and it was

RECOMMENDED that the Task Group be kept in place for a further year and that the chairman of the Transport and Highways Committee be included in the membership.

**DPE28      DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held within the next three months on a date to be agreed with the Chairman.

The meeting ended at 5:00pm.