

PARKING STRATEGY WORKING PARTY held at 6.30 pm at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN on 8 MAY 2000

Present:- Councillor M A Hibbs - Chairman.
Councillors Mrs D Cornell, R J Copping, R A Merrion and R J O'Neill.

Officers in attendance:- M R Dellow, Mrs T Halford, Mrs S McLagan, M T Purkiss, A Stewart and C Stoneham (Essex County Council).

PS45 APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs M A Caton, A R Row and G Sell.

Councillor R J Copping drew attention to his interest insofar as he was a member of the Dunmow Town Strategy Group and Great Dunmow Town Council and Councillors Mrs D Cornell and M A Hibbs declared their respective interests insofar as they were members of Saffron Walden Town Council.

PS46 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2000 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

PS47 BUSINESS ARISING

(i) Minute PS38 - Highway signage

Mr Stoneham reported that the new contractor would be commencing on 1 June 2000. He gave an assurance that the new contractor would honour the quotation already provided and might be able to achieve some reductions in cost.

(ii) Minute PS39 - Correspondence

Members reported that the new sign at the Fairycroft car park did not make it clear that it was a short term car park and it was agreed that officers would investigate this matter. Members also asked when the change machine at this car park would be replaced and it was reported that a new machine had been ordered. It was also reported that the machine had been damaged on a regular basis and Waitrose Ltd were being asked to improve security at this location and to consider the possibility of locating the machine within the store. Members expressed concern at the cost of replacing the machine and questioned whether it was necessary, given that no other car park had such a facility. Officers would also arrange for the damaged change machine to be removed. It was agreed to withdraw the order for a new machine until Waitrose's response was received when this matter would be considered further.

(iii) Minute PS41 - Non-Resident On-Street Parking

At the request of the Chairman of the Working Party, officers agreed to include part of East Street within the review being undertaken of the potential for non-resident usage.

(iv) Minute PS42 - Resident Parking Scheme - Lining

Mr Stoneham reported that the problem concerning the painting of the white lines in Resident Parking Scheme areas would be rectified shortly.

PS48 FUTURE OF THE WORKING PARTY

Members noted that there was a proposal to be considered at the Annual Council Meeting on 9 May to redesignate the Working Party as the Decriminalisation Task Group, which would be time limited.

Members were concerned at this proposal as there were a number of issues to be finalised and a Parking Policy still needed to be produced. Members considered that the Working Party should be retained for the time being.

PS49 CAR PARK SIGNAGE

The Working Party received copies of a schedule containing details of the design, wording and size of the proposed new car park signs for highways in Great Dunmow, Saffron Walden, Stansted and Thaxted, together with plans showing the proposed location of the signs.

The Working Party suggested a number of revisions and Mr Stoneham agreed to incorporate these where possible. If there were any problems that could not be resolved with officers, the matter would be discussed with the Chairman or reported to the next meeting of the Working Party.

PS50 DECRIMINALISATION

Members received a copy of a letter from Essex County Council setting out the current position on the countywide decriminalisation of parking contract. The letter appeared to reinforce the view that the County Council favoured a countywide decriminalisation policy. However, there had been a view expressed at the last meeting of the East Anglian Parking Forum that proposals for each district to proceed at its own pace would be supported.

It was understood that the consultant would prepare financial models showing alternatives for both districts wishing and not wishing to be part of the phased implementation and officers would seek to ensure that copies of these were available for Members of the Working Party as soon as possible.

The County Council, as part of the consultation process, had invited all district councils to a meeting at County Hall on 24 May 2000. Up to three Members could attend and it was agreed that Councillors Hibbs and O'Neill would attend and that Councillors Mrs Caton, Row and Sell would be asked whether one of them wished to be included within the Council's delegation.

The meeting ended at 8.10 pm.