

**EXTRAORDINARY EAST AREA PANEL held at FOAKES HALL GREAT DUNMOW at 7.00 pm on 26 APRIL 2006**

Present:- Councillors C A Cant, S Flack, M A Gayler, D W Gregory, E Gower, E W Hicks, M Miller, J P Murphy, F E Silver, A R Thawley and A M Wattebot.

Officers in attendance:- G Bradley, V Harvey, S Hayden, J Mitchell and R Pridham.

EP17

**TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES AT WOODLANDS PARK DRIVE**

Chris Stoneham from Essex County Council gave an overview of the possible traffic calming measures that could be implemented at Woodlands Park Drive. These would include such measures as speed tables and cushions. This process would be adopted as part of the Highways Network. An informal consultation process involving residents would start shortly and that would then be followed by a formal consultation process. He said any objections would delay the process.

Councillor Flack said that residents were happy with the parking restriction in place but did not think the time restrictions needed to be so long. Chris Stoneham said residents should voice these concerns during the informal consultation process.

John Trueman, a local resident asked what speed table and cushions were. He also asked if it was possible to insert two portable indicators to inform drivers of their speed. Chris Stoneham said a speed table would be a full width raised feature about 68 mm high and a speed cushion was a small pad inserted on the road which would cause no noise. He would look into placing portable indicators, however they were bulky.

Dominic Green, a resident on Woodlands Park Drive asked for details of the informal consultation process and asked why road humps had not been considered. He was told residents would have letters dropped through their doors within the next few weeks. Road humps were not an option as the road may be considered for a bus route in the future; road humps would also be problematic for emergency services.

Councillor Gayler asked how long the consultation would take. Chris Stoneham said the developer, Wickford Developers, wanted to implement the traffic calming measures during the summer holidays. The consultation would start soon and would be a 21 day period.

Another resident wanted to see a 20mph speed limit introduced; she was told this would involve a separate process and funding would have to be found.

Duncan McSherlock of Woodlands Park Drive urged the consultation process to start quickly and suggested no resident would object.

The Chairman thanked Chris Stoneham for attending the panel meeting.

EP18

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C D Down and M L Foley.

Councillor Flack declared a personal interest as a member of the Essex County Council.

EP19

## **CIVIC AMENITY SITE**

Tony Purkiss and Andrew Brown from Essex County Council made a presentation in conjunction with Peter Dilworth from Egniol consultants on the proposed civic amenity site at Great Dunmow.

Essex County Council in conjunction with Uttlesford District Council were seeking planning permission to develop 1.7 hectares of land forming the former depot for the A120(T) duelling.

The proposal and Environmental Impact Assessment prepared a waste management, engineering and environmental consultancy comprising of the following elements:

- A Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre for use by the general public.
- A Refuse Collection Vehicle parking area for use by Uttlesford District Council.
- Associated car-parking for Refuse Collection Vehicle (RCVs).
- A transfer/bulking station for the management of source separated and residual municipal waste.

The site would have space for the parking for 25 council vehicles, of which 80% would be HGV's, parking for 40 private cars (owned by Uttlesford District Council employees) and a vehicle wash-down area.

The site was designed for a through-put of approximately 45,000 tonnes per annum. All vehicles using the building would discharge their loads, or be re-loaded within the building. Noise, dust and odour management would be provided within the building. This would all be confined and the doors would only open to let HGVs in and out of the building.

This Civic amenity site would increase Uttlesford's recycling rate from the current 24% to the target 30%.

A noise survey to record background noise was undertaken. It was predicted that noise levels at three residential locations (Hoblong's Cottages/ Brook Cottage) would exceed those previously measured as background ambient levels by the order of 5dB during daytime if all elements were operational simultaneously.

As a result mitigation in relation to the properties was proposed in the form of a 2.4m high, wooden, acoustic barrier along those boundaries of Brook Cottage and Hoblong's Cottages closest to the access road and the transfer/bulking building.

The site would require planning permission from Essex County Council and a licence from the Environment Agency.

The panel and members of the public were then invited to ask questions.

Diane Billet asked how far Hoblong's cottages were from the site. She was told the site neighboured the properties and was approximately 30 metres away.

Councillor Gregory asked how many cars could be expected to use the site. He was told at peak times it was expected 500 cars a day would use the site.

Brian Hockley, a local resident asked if there were plans for a Highways depot to be located there also. He was told there was once an idea for this but planning applications were not submitted.

The Executive Manager (Development Services) spoke on behalf of Uttlesford District Council. He said this was a joint venture with Essex County Council and any application would be determined by Essex. The Local Plan in 2005 had in spirit to introduce a civic amenity site and council depot, but no plans for a depot were in place.

Residents of Hoblong's Cottages stated at present they had difficulty getting in and out of their driveways due to cars parking on the road and this would only get worse with HGVs using the road. Peter Dilworth said a traffic impact assessment would be undertaken.

Councillor Gower asked how many HGVs would use the road into the site daily. The Services Officer said Uttlesford had six vans for domestic waste and six vans for kitchen waste, therefore 12 vehicles a day would go out and come back. There would be a possibility that on some days these vehicles would have two drops in a day.

Councillor Hicks asked whether a traffic impact assessment would look at the A130 as this road had been highly used by HGVs to get to the south of the District. Peter Dilwoth said a traffic impact assessment would follows traffic to its source and this would be undertaken at peak time.

Councillor Thawley said he thought Essex County Council should buy out the residents of Hoblong's Cottages to avoid any nuisance and distress to them.

The Chairman asked if the East Area Panel could look at any planning application before it would go to Development Control Committee. The Executive Manager (Development Services) said he would try and make this possible; however it would depend on timescale.

The Chairman thanked Essex County Council and members of the public for attending the meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.05pm.