

A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 7.30 pm on 14 MARCH 2006

Present: - Councillor A R Thawley – Chairman.
Councillors E C Abrahams, C A Cant, A Dean, C M Dean, C D Down, E J Godwin, B M Hughes, E Tealby-Watson and A M Wattebot

Officers in attendance: - D Burrige, R Chamberlain, V Harvey, J Mitchell and L Scott

Also attending:- Councillors J E Menell and M A Gayler.

E40 STATEMENT BY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

Mr Coltman, a representative from Arkesden Parish Council attended the meeting and asked the committee to consider extending the 30mph speed limit along Quicksie Hill in Arkesden. He said the last application was made in 2001 and had been on the reserve list since. A new play area had been installed at the end of the road and therefore more children were walking along it, hence there had been a change in circumstances. The Parish Council had received a petition from the residents of Quicksie Hill for the extended speed limit. He stated the road was dangerous and asked for provisions to be made available in the budget for the speed limit extension.

E41 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies were received from Councillors K R Artus, J F Cheetham, S Flack and V Pedder.

Councillor Thawley declared a personal non-prejudicial interest as a member of Felsted Parish Council and in knowing the applicant of Felsted Aid For Deprived Children in his profession.

Councillor C M Dean declared a non-prejudicial interest as a member of Stansted Parish Council.

Councillor Hughes declared a non-prejudicial interest as a member of Saffron Walden Town Council.

Councillor Abrahams declared a non-prejudicial interest as a member of Clavering Parish Council.

Councillor Gayler declared a non-prejudicial interest as a member of Dunmow Parish Council.

Councillor A Dean declared a non-prejudicial interest as a governor of Stansted Mountfitchet High School.

E42 **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 24 JANUARY 2006**

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to minute E37 being amended to read *“that officers review as a matter of urgency the demand on the council to participate in the economic and social development sub-region agenda and the resources available to fulfil this workload”*.

E43 **MATTERS ARISING**

(i) Minute E32 - Policy for Wheelie Bins

Members wished to change the wording to be clearer and grammatically correct. It would now read “Where the property is in a conservation area or within the curtilage of a listed building (or other buildings in exceptional circumstances) and where wheeled bins cannot be accommodated out of sight from the public domain they may be excluded and the property will remain on the boxed system”.

(ii) Minute E34 – Street Cleansing

Members had attended a workshop on the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 and had been impressed with the quality of the presentation and asked that the congratulation of the Committee be passed to the Officers concerned.

(iii) Minute E36 – Scheme of Delegation

The Executive Manager (Development Services) sought the permission of the Committee to extend the Scheme of Delegation to area panels and it was RESOLVED that the provision and maintenance of off-street vehicle parking facilities include the making of the appropriate orders, and the administration of on street parking, i.e. residents parking schemes be delegated to the Area Panels.

(iv) Minute 39 – Notice of Motion

Councillor Tealby-Watson was disappointed that the Development Control Committee had not supported this motion.

E44 **LOCALLY DETERMINED BUDGET PROGRAMME 2005/06 TO 2008/09**

Paul Hardy, the Highway and Transportation Area Manager from Essex County Council presented the Committee with a report seeking approval for the schemes to be investigated and implemented as part of the Locally Determined Programme for 2008/09 and to inform members of the progress on the schemes in the 2005/06 programme.

The earlier statement from Mr Coltman regarding Quicksie Hill in Arkesden was addressed. Paul Hardy informed Mr Coltman that the road was still on the

reserve list and in light of the residents petition informing ECC of the new play area, Quicksie Hill could be rescored.

For the safety of children using the playground Councillor Godwin proposed to move this item up the reserve list; no member seconded this proposal. Councillor Gayler argued that any of the areas on the reserve list that had representation at this meeting was at an advantage. He stated the scoring system in place was over four years old and should be reassessed before items were rescored. He spoke in favour of rescoring Woodlands Park Drive, Dunmow.

Paul Hardy explained that funding was not as simple as moving funding from one item to another. He also said that Councillor Bass from ECC had had attended the last North Area Panel to discuss making the Market Square in Saffron Walden Town Centre pedestrian friendly. Funding would only take place through the Locally Determined Programme. The Chairman suggested the Committee needed more information on the scheme.

It was proposed and seconded for the already agreed 2006/07 programme to continue and for the 2008/09 to return to the next meeting of this committee.

RESOLVED that the approved programme for 2007/08 and that proposed for 2008/09 be reviewed subject to:

- 1 the scoring system being reviewed
- 2 the reserve list being revisited and rescored
- 3 money being available from the Section 106 agreement to fund Saffron Walden Town centre refurbishment and
- 4 the availability of finances.

Paul Hardy informed members that any proposals should be made to Sonia Church at Essex County Council.

E45

GOLD ENTERPRISE ZONE, ELSENHAM

The Executive Manager (Housing Services) informed the committee of the current position regarding Enterprise Zone at Elsenham. It currently consisted of 18 small business units, of which the Council agreed a 25 year lease which it would be legally tied to until November 2009. However, whilst 10 units were let the market continued to show little signs of interest in the remaining units. He stated the figures in the budget were the worst possible outcome and were not a projected figure.

The second part of the report explained how the Council was approached by Felsted Aid For Deprived children who were asking for storage. The Executive Manager (Housing Services) said it was unlikely that eight surplus units would be used. It would be an opportunity to use a resource and help a local charity.

Members considered it commendable to help the local charity but held reservations whether it was creating best value of the storage and if it was setting a precedent for other charities. Councillor A Dean also questioned whether it was within the remit of this committee to make such a decision. The Executive Manager (Housing Services) said any requests from non-profit earning organisations would be considered and this charity came from within Uttlesford. He explained that this committee could refer the item to the Community Committee with a recommendation. Any further requests of this nature would require policy guidelines to be considered by the Committee.

RESOLVED that the committee:

- 1 noted the current situation at the Gold Street enterprise Zone
- 2 would provide storage free of charge to the Felsted Aid for Deprived Children subject to agreement by the Community Committee, a yearly review and that the units would not be needed by paying organisations and
- 3 would receive a report on the situation at Golds Enterprise Zone at every meeting.

E46

MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE FOR THE WASTE AND STREET CLEANSING SERVICES

The Executive Manager (Environmental and Cultural Services) advised members of the planned reorganisation of the services to reflect the transfer of refuse personnel to directly employed staff. There was due to be a TUPE transfer of the refuse service to combine the refuse and recycling, this forced a staffing structure review. If the early retirement of the Operations Manager was approved it would create flexibility to have a generic structure. This new structure would need to be in place by 1 April 2006.

This new structure would be cost neutral and later require the harmonisation of pay and conditions across the workforce.

Members concurred with this structure and asked if the street cleansing team used street hoovers that suck litter out from underneath cars. The Executive Manager (Environmental and Cultural Services) said this was not a tool used at present but would be considered when the review of street cleansing was undertaken in the Autumn

RESOLVED that the new management structure for the service be adopted with effect from 1 April 2006.

E47

PARKING – STRATEGIC POLICY REVIEW

The Parking Enforcement Manager reported to Members the work that had been undertaken on behalf of the Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement Task Group and outlined the recommendations.

In relation to the machine review, members discussed the possible alternatives. Pay on exit was deemed too expensive and cash machines were costly to repair if vandalised.

RESOLVED that:

- 1 The status quo be maintained but that the Parking Enforcement Manager in conjunction with the Highways Authority (ECC) provided details of proposals for the introduction of TROs to the relevant Area Panels as necessary. Decisions were to be made by the District but the work carried out by ECC tailored to District requirements.
- 2 Adequate parking provision must be considered when plans for major developments were being looked at by the Planning Department.
- 3 (Issue 2.1) That the Parking Enforcement Manager undertook the machine review and provided appropriate costings to the next committee in relation to the introduction of machines which give change to be brought in 2007/08 subject to a cost analysis.
- 4 (Issue 2.2) -That charging was not introduced to Catons Lane or Debden Road but that an RPS Scheme was consulted on for the residents of Little Walden Road adjacent to Catons Lane to alleviate the commuter parking problem. Decision to be passed onto Area Panel.
- 5 (Issue 2.3) –That a Park & Ride Scheme from Swan Meadow to Audley End had been discussed and noted.
- 6 (Issue 3.2) - That officers worked in conjunction with ECC, the Parish Council was to introduce a Temporary Order for a trial period of 18 months and that at the end of the Trial period, a further report was to be made to the area panel.
- 7 (Issue 4.1) -That the groups/organisations listed provided a guide as to who should be consulted on any parking issues that may have affected them. A contact needed to be provided to all those relevant groups.
- 8 (Issue 5.1)-That Customer Satisfaction Surveys were undertaken in line with the Community Safety Strategy (i.e., every three years) and the findings were reported to the relevant Area Panels and this committee.
- 9 (Issue 6.1) -That the Parking Enforcement Manager ensured that all staff were trained to an acceptable standard.
- 10 (Issue 7.1) - That this be reviewed once the Department of Transport issued further guidance in relation to the Traffic Management Act 2004 and a report be presented to this committee by the Parking Enforcement Manager.

- 11 (Issue 7.2) -All comments on coning should be considered and determined by this committee.
- 12 (Issue 7.5) -That moving traffic offences be reviewed once the Department of Transport issued further guidance in relation to the Traffic Management Act 2004 and a report had been presented to this committee by the Parking Enforcement Manager.
- 13 (Issue 7.6) - That Zig-Zag lines be reviewed once the Department of Transport issued further guidance in relation to the Traffic Management Act 2004 and a report had been presented to this committee by the Parking Enforcement Manager.
- 14 (Issue 8.3) -Alternative means of transport be investigated in consultation with the Airport. Amend text to ensure that “is met” is deleted and “complies with the approved surface access strategy” is inserted.

E48

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Lower Street/Grove Hill Parking

At the request of local residents to discourage commuter parking and assist refuse collectors the item was referred to this committee by the South West Area Panel. The item had to come to this committee as urgent business due to the need for a speedy resolution of this problem.

RESOLVED that a scheme which prohibits anyone but residents of Lower Street and Grove Hill from parking on the aforementioned streets for one hour at some point during the working day be introduced.

(ii) Economic Development

This item came as urgent business because of the need to progress the matter quickly to enable a report to go to the next meeting of this committee.

RESOLVED that Councillors A Dean, Tealby-Watson and Knight form a working group.

(iii) Climate Change

This item was urgently needed because the private members bill was due to be discussed on Friday 17 March 2006 and to keep up to date with climate change legislation.

RESOLVED that the chairman write to parliament outlining the necessity for sustainable energy in climate change.