

**ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE held at COUNCIL OFFICES SAFFRON WALDEN at 7.30 pm on 10 JUNE 2003**

Present:- Councillor A R Thawley – Chairman.  
Councillors C A Cant, J F Cheetham, K J Clarke, D Corke,  
C M Dean, R F Freeman, E D Tealby-Watson and  
A M Wattebot.

Also present at the invitation of the Chairman:- Councillors S Flack,  
A J Ketteridge, S V Schneider and P A Wilcock.

Officers in attendance:- S McLagan, J Mitchell, B D Perkins, C E Roberts and  
R M Secker.

Also in attendance:- P Hardy – Essex County Council.

**ET1 STATEMENT BY A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC**

Before the meeting Dr Alison Teale a resident of Little Chesterford made a statement regarding the Chesterford Research Station Master Plan and a summary of this is attached to these Minutes.

**ET2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Down.

Councillor C Dean declared her interests as Chairman of Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council and in so far as she had shares in BAA.  
Councillor Cheetham declared an interest as a member of NWEHPA and in so far as her husband had shares in BAA.

The following Members declared interests as members of SSE:

Councillors C A Cant, J F Cheetham, D Corke, C M Dean, S Flack,  
E Tealby-Watson and A R Thawley.

Councillor C Dean declared a prejudicial interest and later left the meeting for consideration of item ET10 concerning a skateboard park at the Lower Street Car Park, Stansted Mountfitchet.

**ET3 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2003 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

ET4

## **BUSINESS ARISING**

### **(i) Minute ET66 – Proposed 50 mph Speed Limit – Great Chesterford**

Members were informed that the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation had written to say that he could not support the extension to the area covered by the speed limit as requested by the Committee. The Chief Constable also had written to say that he supported the County Council's speed reduction policy and that in the vast majority of cases he supported the proposals.

### **(ii) Minute ET79 – Car Boot Sales, The Common Car Park, Saffron Walden**

The Director of Community Services informed Members that a satisfactory arrangement had been made with the Town Council. The actual car boot sales would now take place on the grass with the cars reversed up to the edge of the grass.

ET5

## **CHESTERFORD RESEARCH STATION MASTERPLAN - OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION EXERCISE**

At the suggestion of the Chairman this item on the agenda was considered early to enable Dr Alison Teale to hear the Committee's deliberations.

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning and Building Surveying with an additional list of responses received, and comments, which was circulated at the meeting. Members took into consideration matters raised by consultees and the points made by Dr Alison Teale in her statement prior to the meeting. It was felt that the master plan, as amended, should provide a basis for determining future planning applications.

RESOLVED that the master plan be approved subject to the detailed changes set out in the report and the additional report circulated at the meeting.

ET6

## **MATTERS REFERRED FROM STANSTED AIRPORT ADVISORY PANEL**

### **(i) Future Development of Air Transport in the UK**

Members considered the report from the Stansted Airport Advisory Panel on the Future Development of Air Transport in the UK as the Council's proposed further response to the Government's Consultation Paper.

RESOLVED that the Council be recommended to submit the Supplementary Submission as its further response to the Government's Consultation Paper on the Future Development of Air Transport in the UK.

## **(ii) Review of Night Flight Restrictions**

The Committee considered the report of the Principal Environmental Health Officer and recommendations from the Stansted Airport Advisory Panel on proposals to extend the existing night flight regime for an additional year. Members emphasised that the Council's key message was that there should be no night flights at Stansted. Some further detailed changes were also agreed.

RESOLVED that the comments in the report of 29 May 2003 to the Stansted Airport Advisory Panel and the additional comments of the Advisory Panel be incorporated in a reply to be sent to the Department for Transport.

ET7

## **PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING – PEASLANDS ROAD OR MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD**

The Committee considered the report of the Area Manager, Essex County Council Transportation and Operational Services, on proposals to introduce a pedestrian zebra crossing in either Peaslands Road or Mount Pleasant Road as part of the Safer Journeys to School Initiative. The results of informal consultations and objections received were set out in the report. Members were concerned to provide a safe convenient crossing, which would be used and which would best accommodate the wishes of all interested parties. That site was in Peaslands Road, subject to satisfactory lighting arrangements.

RESOLVED that arrangements be made to introduce a pedestrian crossing in the general area shown on Appendix A1 to the report and that the Area Manager Highways be asked to carry out the necessary consultations and to consider suitable lighting for the site.

ET8

## **SPLIT OF HIGHWAY NETWORK INTO ROUTES OF STRATEGIC AND LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Committee considered a report by the Essex County Council Transportation and Operational Services Area Manager on possible changes to the decision process on highway and transportation issues linked to local service agreements. County Councillor R L Bass, the Cabinet Member for Highways at Essex County Council, wished to meet all District Councils to discuss future changes, particularly the establishment of a split between routes of strategic and local significance, which would be used, under local service agreements, to give District Councils greater discretion on local routes with the County Council focusing on the strategic ones. Members saw this as an opportunity to ensure appropriate funding and responsibilities for the Council.

RESOLVED that the Council welcomes the opportunity to discuss matters with County Councillor Bass regarding Highway responsibilities and the basis for future investment decisions in Uttlesford.

ET9

## **DECRIMINALISATION OF PARKING ENFORCEMENT**

The Committee received a report on the need for a Task Group to make recommendations to the Committee about the implementation of decriminalisation of parking enforcement in Uttlesford. Members emphasised the importance of having data and evidence of how it was working elsewhere.

RESOLVED that

- 1 a Member/Officer Task Group be established to make recommendations to Committee about the implementation of decriminalisation in Uttlesford.
- 2 Councillors Cheetham, Hibbs, Lemon, Sell and Wattebot be appointed to serve on this Task Group.
- 3 the Group reports to the September meeting of the Committee.

ET10

## **LOWER STREET CAR PARK STANSTED SKATEBOARD FACILITIES**

*Councillor C Dean left the meeting and took no part in the discussions or decision.*

The Committee considered a report by the Community and Development Manager about provision of a skateboard facility by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council. The Head of Community and Leisure Services clarified the site in question. Members were keen to assist the Parish Council with this project for young persons and agreed that the lease should be relatively short term to retain flexibility for all parties.

RESOLVED that the Committee agrees to the release of the identified site at the Lower Street Car Park for the provision of a skateboard facility by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council at a peppercorn rent, subject to the detailed legal arrangement being approved by the Head of Legal Services.

ET11

## **PLANNING DELIVERY GRANT AND THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PLANNING SERVICE**

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Planning and Building Surveying on the award of the Planning Delivery Grant in the sum of £246,261, for Uttlesford. The report explained how officers considered the grant could be spent to bring about short and long term improvements for the service. It was emphasised that the costs for consultants to carry out the best value review were only indicative and that the Member Review Panel would be involved in the process.

RESOLVED that the Resources Committee be recommended to agree use of the grant as set out in the report for:-

- A the appointment of independent consultants to carry out the Best Value Review of Planning Services;
- B bringing forward the appointment of new staff following the approved restructuring of planning services;
- C funding the appointment of temporary staff to reduce “pressure points” in workload.
- D improvements in IT;
- E staff and Member training;
- F outsourcing handling of planning appeals and consideration about sourcing certain categories of planning applications.
- G technical and administrative support for the enforcement service,

and that the Resources Committee be requested to approve a supplementary estimate to cover the increase in revenue expenditure proposed for permanent additional staff.

#### ET12 **UTTLESFORD TRANSPORT FORUM**

The Committee considered a report by the Senior Planning Officer about the achievements of the Uttlesford Transport Forum which had been set up for an experimental period of one year. The Forum had brought together key partners and had achieved worthwhile outcomes.

RESOLVED that

- 1 the Uttlesford Transport Forum be continued;
- 2 the District Council be represented on it by Councillors Bowker, Cant Cheetham and Clarke.

#### ET13 **FLOODING RELIEF**

The Committee considered the report of the Engineering and Safety Officer on criteria for the use of the Flood Relief Budget and proposals for its expenditure. A supplementary report about schemes for 2003/04 was circulated at the meeting. The Committee was concerned to ensure a fair basis on which to decide priorities for contributing to flood prevention schemes. Raising awareness on matters such as ditch maintenance was also very important.

RESOLVED that the Committee accepts the criteria, work listed and fund allocation priorities set out in the table “Flood Prevention Schemes where UDC can have a direct input in 2003/04”.

ET14

## **GOLDS NURSERIES – CONFIRMATION OF BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing seeking Member approval to carry over £30,000 in the Golds Nurseries budget from the year 2002/03 to 2003/04 and confirmation of urgent action to increase the budget provisions for repairs by £50,000 to meet the Council's obligations.

RESOLVED that

- 1 a progress report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.
- 2 the Resources Committee be requested to approve
  - a) the carrying forward of £30,000 as an earmarked reserve for use for dilapidation work in 2003/04.
  - b) the urgent action taken in consultation with the Chairmen for increasing the total budget by £50,000 be funded from the Council's Financial Management Reserve.

ET15

## **ESSEX WASTE MANAGEMENT**

A report by the Head of Environmental Services was submitted to the Committee, referring to a conference arranged by the Essex Waste Management Advisory Board which would be useful to update new and previous Members about what is required to meet demanding recycling targets.

RESOLVED that up to ten Members be nominated to attend the Essex Waste Management Advisory Board Conference on 30 June 2003 (Councillors Abrahams, Cant, Clarke, C Dean, Down, Flack, Ollier, Thawley, Wattebot).

The meeting ended at 10.15 pm.

## **SUMMARY OF STATEMENT MADE BY DR ALISON TEALE**

Dr Teale explained that she was a resident of Little Chesterford and a member of Little Chesterford Parish Council. There were eighty houses in Little Chesterford and a further five in Springwell and Chesterford Park. She did not accept the Master Plan as it stood. The Planning changes broadly covered her concerns but she was anxious for the village to have a voice. The Local Plan had described the proposals as comprehensive and the original had not been comprehensive enough.

There was high probability of increased traffic on local roads, both the B184, which was already accident prone, and the side roads which were likely to be used as rat runs. Transport impact assessment exercises were therefore needed and traffic-calming measures for both Great and Little Chesterford, funded by the developers to meet whatever traffic increase occurred.

The area was hydrologically sensitive. There would be increase to foul and service water running into the valley floor and measures should be taken to meet this situation. In addition, light pollution was likely from the site and from the roundabout. Again, measures should be taken to prevent this.