

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE held at COUNCIL OFFICES SAFFRON WALDEN at 7.30 pm on 2 MARCH 2004

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

Also present at the Chairman's invitation:- Councillor S Flack.

Officers in attendance:- R Harborough, I Orton, B D Perkins, C Roberts and E Spencer.

ET55 STATEMENT BY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

Prior to the meeting a statement was made by Judith Thompson, Radwinter Parish Council Passenger Transport User Representative.

A summary of her comments is attached to these Minutes.

ET56 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors C A Cant, J F Cheetham, D Corke, C M Dean, and A R Thawley declared personal interests as members of SSE and drew attention to the dispensation from the Standards Committee.

ET57 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on 13 January and 3 February 2004 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the addition of Councillor Cheetham's name to the list of those attending the latter meeting.

ET58 BUSINESS ARISING

(i) Minute ET47 Local Service Agreement :

Members asked that a letter go to Town and Parish Councils updating them on the timetable and effects of the projected agreement and on the decriminalisation situation

(ii) Minute ET 48 Cycle access at Audley End Station

A Member asked that those dealing with the cycle network be alerted to the new arrangements at the station.

(iii) Minute ET 51 Kitchen Waste Recycling Trial

Members asked that the letter of thanks to be sent to those who had supported the trial should include other recycling publicity material.

ET59

REGIONAL PLANNING GUIDANCE FOR THE EAST OF ENGLAND – PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee considered the detailed report of the Planning Policy and Conservation Manager on progress with the preparation of the Regional Planning Guidance, which explained the timetabling and consultation arrangements and its links with the issue of a possible second runway at Stansted.

Members were concerned that the Council's view on the proposed second runway should be stressed at all stages of the preparation of the Guidance.

An amendment to the recommendation in the report was circulated at the meeting, put to the vote and accepted.

RESOLVED that the Committee notes the current situation in relation to the preparation of Regional Planning Guidance and supports active involvement in ongoing studies to protect the quality of life in Uttlesford. At the same time, it objects strongly to Central Government's premature insistence that the construction of a second runway be taken into account in further studies of the London-Peterborough Corridor and that Lord Rooker be so advised. The continued policy of opposition to two runways at Stansted by EERA is noted.

ET60

SAFFRON WALDEN TOWN CENTRE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEME

Members considered a report on a meeting of stakeholders in Saffron Walden Town Centre to discuss the results of consultation exercises. In relation to possible Blue Badge bays it was important to ensure a sensible balance in relation to total car parking requirements.

Members stressed the importance of (i) including other interested stakeholders in future discussions and (ii) dealing with the issue of car parking as a whole rather than as a series of piecemeal operations.

RESOLVED that

- 1 the technical feasibility of forming additional Blue Badge bays within the Controlled Zone as detailed in this report be investigated by Essex County Council.
- 2 this Council considers whether to dedicate the Rose and Crown Car Park to Blue Badge holders on market days.
- 3 this Council publicises the existing restrictions prior to decriminalisation, and that upon the introduction of decriminalisation that the controlled parking zone is enforced.
- 4 the Saffron Walden Town Centre Traffic Management Working Group with representatives

of other stakeholders and in liaison with the Decriminalisation Task Group, be convened to consider feasibility options for pedestrianisation / semi-pedestrianisation of King Street and Market Place.

- 5 further reports on items (i), (ii) and (iv) above be made to this Committee at its next meeting

ET61

ESSEX WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Environmental Services on progress by Essex County Council towards long term waste disposal contracts and potential involvement of the District Council as collection authority.

It was noted that the existing service was extremely good, and that the new proposals should be measured against a yardstick of this existing good service. Councillor Thawley proposed an amendment to the recommendation.

RESOLVED that

- 1 the Committee notes the timetable for the introduction of comprehensive waste handling, recycling and minimisation methods by this District and supports the principle of horizontal and vertical integration of services, where possible, in order to reduce the need for excessive landfill and remove the need for incineration of waste materials.
- 2 the Project Team timetable is noted and a further report is made to the June meeting of the Committee indicating the cost implications and service benefits.

ET62

GOLDS NURSERIES – PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee received a progress report on the management, lettings, repair and rebranding of the Golds Nurseries Business Park.

Members thanked officers for the excellent turnaround which had been achieved for this site.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and copies sent to each Member of the Council to publicise the turnaround at the Business Park.

ET63

DEFRA CONSULTATION – MECHANICAL VEHICLES ON RIGHTS OF WAY

Councillor Corke circulated a proposed response to the DEFRA consultation document on use of mechanically propelled vehicles on Rights of Way. It was noted that a reply had to be submitted by 19 March.

Members expressed their thanks to Councillor Corke for his action in preparing a timely paper responding to this situation. They felt that observations should be sought from all Members before the reply was sent.

RESOLVED that the Director of Community Services in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee be authorised to prepare and send a formal response to DEFRA in the light of the information put forward by Councillor Corke, and that the observations of all Members be sought.

ET64 **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED that under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

ET65 **STAFFING IN THE BUILDING SURVEYING SECTION**

The Committee received the report of the Head of Building Surveying recommending that a post be deleted and a new post created to formalise existing arrangements, improve efficiency and achieve a saving. Members asked that a report be made to the meeting of the Committee in June on how to improve energy efficiency savings within the Council and the wider community.

RESOLVED that approval be given to establishing a Project Officer post and deleting the post of Building Surveyor.

The meeting ended at 9.20 pm

**ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE 2 MARCH 2004 -
PUBLIC SPEAKING**

**REPRESENTATIONS MADE ABOUT WITHDRAWAL OF SERVICE ROUTE
X40 – BURY ST EDMUNDS TO STANSTED AIRPORT**

A statement was made by Judith Thompson, Radwinter Parish Council Passenger Transport User Representative.

She explained that the X40 Service was stopping in April. It had been financed by BAA and "First" who were stopping the service. Ms Thompson thought the service was very important for the village of Radwinter and for Saffron Walden. She thought the bus should have been a smaller one and should have been "hail and ride". The timings of the service did not allow for visits to Audley End Station or Cambridge, nor did it satisfactorily serve Stansted Airport. The village had lost another service since the X40 began. Since, however, the BAA had not withdrawn its financial contribution, she felt there was scope for Essex and Suffolk County Councils and the relevant Parish Councils to contribute to keep the service running and she was asking Uttlesford District Council to contribute too.

She handed the Committee a copy of her letter to the Essex County Highways Department.

In answer to questions she confirmed that the main value of the service was for transport to and from Saffron Walden. The young and the elderly would suffer most from its withdrawal.

Ms Thompson was thanked for her statement. The matter would be investigated and a reply sent to her.