

NORTH AREA PANEL MEETING held at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 7.30 pm on 28 February 2006

Present:- Councillors H D Baker, C A Bayley, P Boland, R P Chambers, R F Freeman, M A Hibbs, B M Hughes, S C Jones, A J Ketteridge, T D Knight, V J T Lelliott, J E Menell, M J Savage, S Schneider, E Tealby-Watson and P A Wilcock.

Officers in attendance: - G Bradley, D Burridge, R Clarke, R Johnson, N Morton, E Petrie, R Pridham, C Roberts and S Saward.

Representatives of Essex County Council:- Councillor R L Bass and Mr P Hardy

Representatives of Saffron Walden Initiative:- Mrs C Flack, Mr J Ready, Mrs S Rooney.

Representatives from the Parishes:-

Arkesden	Mr R Higgins
Ashdon	Mrs P Dale
	Mr T Dales
	Mr P Edgeworth
	Mrs G Skillings
Great Chesterford	Mr H Rolfe
Hadstock	Mr H McIlwrick
Hempstead	Mr S McCarthy
Langley	Mr K Rivett
Newport	Mr C Smith
Radwinter	Mr J Hardisty
Saffron Walden	Mr J Collins
	Mrs P Collins
	Mrs A Cove
	Mrs D Cornell (Tenants' Forum)
	Mr F Deutsch
	Mrs S Deutsch
	Mr E Effer
	Mr C Hingston
	Mr P Riding
	Mrs I Warren
	Mr M White
Sewards End	Mr P Stocking
The Sampfords	Mr P Hughes
Wendens Ambo	Mr A Lovatt
	Mr P Smith
Wimbish	Mr M Young
Also present	Mrs R Whitlan, Uttlesford Independent Remuneration Panel

NP9 **QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

The Chairman welcomed all present and opened the question and answer session at the beginning of the meeting.

Mr McCarthy (Hempstead) said that some residents were unable to get wheelie bins to their house and some had no room to store them.

The Chairman explained that whilst there was no intent to impose wheelie bins a significant increase in recycling was needed to avoid enormous fines and the experience of other authorities was that wheeled bins were the best option. Mr Pridham explained the options for different sizes of bin.

Mr Hughes (The Sampfords) asked that the Saffron Walden Local Road Safety Advisory Committee be re-instated.

The Chairman explained that a sub-committee could be set up to fulfil this role.

A Member of the District Council suggested that the meeting start time should coincide with the start of the question and answer session and the Chairman agreed that this would be an improvement.

A Parish representative asked for minutes of the Panel to be circulated earlier to give Parish Councils time to consider them.

NP10 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chairman welcomed John Ready.

Members stood in silence in memory of Councillor W F Bowker, a former Chairman of the Saffron Walden Local Road Safety Advisory Committee and the Local Transport Forum.

The following Members declared interests:-

Councillor J E Menell as a member of the Uttlesford Community Support Group and Uttlesford Community Safety Action Team.

Councillor C A Bayley as a member of the Saffron Walden Town Council and the Saffron Walden Partnership Board.

Councillor M J Savage as a member of the Saffron Walden Partnership Board.

NP11

MINUTES

The Panel considered the Minutes of the Panel meeting held on 28 February and the Minutes of the meeting of the Saffron Walden Local Road Safety Advisory Committee held on 5 October 2005.

(i) Minute NP6 – Road Safety Advisory Committee: Constitution Task Group investigation.

It was noted that the Constitution Task Group had not considered this matter at its last meeting. Councillor Hibbs said the Council was concerned to limit the numbers of new meetings created, but added that with the appropriate delegation a sub-group of the Area Panel could take up the road safety work.

Councillor C A Bayley the previous Chair of the Saffron Walden Local Road Safety Advisory Committee, asked for that Committee to be re-formed to report to the North Area Panel.

RECOMMENDED that the Saffron Walden Local Road Safety Advisory Committee be re-formed as a sub-group of the North Area Panel, and to report to that Panel.

(ii) Minute NP5 – Wheeled bins

Councillor A J Ketteridge asked that it be minuted that many representatives had commented at the last meeting on the lack of consultation about the waste strategy.

RESOLVED that subject to the comments noted above the Minutes of the Panel meeting held on 28 February and the Minutes of the meeting of the Saffron Walden Local Road Safety Advisory Committee held on 5 October 2005 be approved and adopted and signed as a correct record.

NP12

CONSULTATION: SAFFRON WALDEN MARKET SQUARE

The Chairman informed the meeting that although there had already been one consultation exercise about the proposals for the Market Square, it was felt that consultation on these proposals was so important that it should be extended to the Local Area Panel. John Ready, who had developed the proposals at the instigation of the Saffron Walden Initiative gave a comprehensive presentation on this topic and answered questions about air quality and the extent of possible pedestrianisation.

It was noted that most of the Parish representatives present considered the proposals to be good.

NP13 **PRESENTATION ON NORTH AREA HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT ISSUES**

The Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Transportation and Highways, Councillor R L Bass, and the Area Manager, Mr P Hardy, were welcomed to the meeting. Councillor R L Bass outlined the aspects of the service which had been reorganised in the previous year to achieve efficiency improvements. He added that the County Council would ultimately fund the Saffron Walden Town Centre Plan to the amount of £22,000, and that the "Slade" culvert through the Town would be repaired by the County Council during the coming year at a cost of £300,000.

Questions were asked about unadopted roads and the making of Road Traffic Orders, particularly for restriction of speed, and the amount of and mechanism for allocation of the locally determined budget. Discussion also covered reduction of KSIs, lighting and speed calming in the villages, and traffic criteria for developments and contributions from developers.

Mr M Young, Chairman of the CSAT Road Safety Working Group said he was sorry that Mr Hardy was moving on from his present job as he had been a most conscientious officer.

A Member of the Panel asked about funding of cycle routes, particularly the route to Audley End Station, and the Essex County Council representatives undertook to investigate this at the first opportunity. It was noted that this route was a strategic one which should reduce car use.

NP14 **"WALKING BUSES"**

The Road Safety Officer, Mrs R Johnson, gave a presentation on the need for walking buses, the process of setting them up and the extra incidental advantages they provide in the community.

NP15 **WASTE MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

The Services Officer, Mr R Pridham, gave a presentation entitled "Three ways with waste" which explained the pressures upon the Council to improve its recycling performance and take control of the increasing costs associated with landfilling waste. He assured questioners that those having problems with the bins would be dealt with sensitively and that there was provision within the Wheeled Bin Policy for visually sensitive premises and areas.

NP16 **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

The Leisure Manager presented a comprehensive report on community development related activities and schemes which would be taking place in the next few months.

NP15 **ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Leisure Manager presented a proposed arrangement of presentations for consideration by the Panel over the ensuing eighteen months. Members asked in addition for a talk on the operation of "Yellow Buses" and on "Park and Ride transport to and from Audley End Station".

The Chairman thanked all present for their attendance. He asked whether the meeting had improved upon the first meeting of the Panel, and received the general view that it had been a much better meeting..

The meeting ended at 10.15 pm.