

**NORTH AREA PANEL held at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD
SAFFRON WALDEN at 7.00 pm on 19 JULY 2007**

Present:- Councillor J E Menell – Chairman.
Councillors S Anjum, R H Chamberlain, R P Chambers,
K L Eden, S J Howell, A J Ketteridge, J A Redfern, H S Rolfe,
D J Sadler, S V Schneider and A D Walters.

Officers in attendance:- G Bradley, A Clarke, S Clarke, R Harborough,
H Hayden, S Hayden, S Nicholas, C Roberts and J Starr.

Also present: Aidan Thomas – Chief Executive West Essex Health
Authority.

NP12

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

The Chairman, Councillor Menell, welcomed all present and opened the question and answer session. In reply to questions from residents she explained she had written to the Transport Cabinet Member at Essex County Council about the District's request for yellow buses, but that so far there had been no reply. She hoped that Councillor Ray Gooding would be attending the meeting to provide information.

She also informed the meeting that she had met with Tony Ciaburro to discuss the matter of natural calming for which he was most enthusiastic. He would attend a future meeting of the Panel to further develop discussions on this matter.

A resident of Debden, Mr Cosando, asked questions about the District Council's policy on affordable homes and on the tracking of aircraft routes across the District. Councillor R H Chamberlain answered the enquiry about affordable housing, explaining that it was the responsibility of the Housing Initiatives Task Group to investigate all aspects of affordable housing and incorporate these into the Council's Housing Strategy Statement so that the needs of the District for such housing could be met. Unfortunately, resources were limited and single persons and young couples were those in most dire need. In addition market conditions were adverse to such people, but the Council hoped to achieve improvement of the situation through Shared Ownership.

The Head of Housing and Planning Policy answered Mr Cosando's question about plane routes, explaining that changes to noise preferential routes needed to be directed to the organisation NATS, a government body which dealt with air safety. The fact of the matter was that arriving air traffic was not as controllable as departing. He agreed to supply Mr Cosando with the NATS telephone number.

Derek Jones, of Great Chesterford, asked whether provision for athletics was a part of the Council's thinking for the area north of Saffron Walden. Councillor Ketteridge replied that the Council had tried to buy appropriate land in Thaxted Road without success. Finding such land was the key factor and

in addition funds available would be low for the next two years. The Chairman asked officers to investigate this matter further for Mr Jones.

In answer to a question from Mr J Rose from Newport, Members and officers explained that provision of affordable housing needed an initiative from the local parish council, which would be welcomed, as had already happened for Littlebury and Ashdon.

The Chairman referred again to the questionnaire regarding improvements which could be made to the meetings of the Panel.

NP13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Knight, Wilcock and Yarwood and the Chairman of the Committee announced Councillor Yarwood's news about the birth of his son.

Members of the Panel declared personal and non-prejudicial interests as follows:

Councillor S Anjum, member of Saffron Walden Town Council.
 Councillor J E Menell, member of Littlebury Parish Council
 Councillor A J Ketteridge, member of Saffron Walden Town Council
 Councillor H S Rolfe, member of Great Chesterford Parish Council
 Councillor J A Redfern, member of Great Chesterford Parish Council
 Councillor K L Eden, member of Saffron Walden Town Council
 Councillor R P Chambers, member of Essex County Council and the Police Authority for Essex
 Councillor S Howell, member of Saffron Walden Town Council

NP14 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

NP15 NORTH WEST ESSEX PRIMARY CARE TRUST HEALTH STRATEGY

The Panel received an informative presentation by Aidan Thomas – Chief Executive of the North West Essex Primary Care Trust regarding the Trust's Health Strategy. Following the presentation questions were asked about possible car park charges at the Saffron Walden Community Hospital, which Mr Thomas said were being considered. A resident asked that elderly-focused groups should be given information regarding the new Strategy.

RESOLVED that the Strategy be noted.

NP16 **PLAY STRATEGY**

The Committee received a presentation by the Leisure and Community Development Manager on play strategy. She referred to possible lottery funding for a play strategy and presented an action plan in this context.

(Councillor Mrs J E Menell declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest insofar as she was president of the Buffy Bus Association).

The Leisure and Community Development Manager answered questions from the floor and informed the meeting that the Strategy would be on the Council's website and had already been the subject of consultation with the public.

RESOLVED that the Panel endorses the Strategy, subject to any further objections from Councillors viewing it on the intranet.

NP17 **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – CORE STRATEGY – TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL'S VIEWS**

The Panel received a presentation by Sarah Nicholas and Hannah Hayden of the Planning Department, regarding the Local Development Framework Core Strategy, with particular reference to housing growth. The observations of residents were received and recorded for the purpose of the consultation.

RESOLVED that the presentation be noted.

NP18 **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Community Development Officer (Youth and Arts) on community development in the area with a schedule of Summer activities.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

The meeting ended at 9.23 pm.