

## Questions and responses from the South Community Forum – 2 September 2008

### Essex County Council Highways

Question	Response
When will there be a response to requests by Stansted Parish Council for disability access for the Post Office?	A joint site visit has taken place with Sue Locke, Liaison Officer with the local Access Group. It does appear that despite all of us being willing to accommodate the needs of the wheelchair users, parents with prams, and scooter users, the provision of easier access to the post office site is problematical. Should a dropped kerb be put outside, Blue Badge holders would not be able to park alongside it. Delivery vehicles could also obstruct it as would any other parked cars which would render the facility unusable. It is not possible to increase the width of the footway here and the down pipe from the guttering at the southern end of the Post Office makes access more complicated as the footway is very narrow at this point.
Can an assurance be given that the Highways West Area office will be recruiting to full capacity, as chronic understaffing is having an effect on the service?	We continue to recruit to the vacant posts at the West Area Office and are currently shortlisting applications from our latest advert published in September 2008. In the past, no applications have been received to some of the posts advertised which means that we cannot guarantee operating at full capacity in the office.
Great Hallingbury Parish Council Following the theft of all road signs from Great Hallingbury approximately two months ago, how soon can replacement signs be installed?	Replacement signs for those missing were ordered early August 2008, and their installation is therefore imminent.
What reassurance can we have that works being undertaken in the Rodings will be finalised before new schemes are started under the Community Initiative Fund?	The only outstanding work in the Rodings is the B184 Route Study, and no schemes have been approved yet under the Community Initiatives Fund.
When will Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council receive traffic counts in order to develop its Parish Plan? These were requested from Highways. The lack of this information is now holding back the plan.	A meeting took place with the Parish Council on 10 October 2008 and this information was handed over and discussed at this meeting.
There are several traffic improvement schemes due to be implemented in Stansted Mountfitchet. May we have an assurance that these will be given priority before new projects under the Community Information Fund?	The schemes are not linked and the Community Initiative Funding requests are yet to be approved so at this stage it is not clear whether these will be successful or not. However, those requests that are successful from the Community Initiative Fund will need to be implemented before the end of the financial year.
Could recent double yellow lining on Lower Street in Stansted be completed? It was hampered by a parked car, causing there to be a gap in the lines. Also lines were incorrectly painted outside a garage.	To confirm, the lines were correctly painted outside the garage and as a result of the meeting with the Parish Council on 10 October 2008 we are liaising with the Uttlesford District Council's enforcement team and Waste Management section with a view to getting the road swept and the missing lines installed on the same day with the aid of a temporary no waiting restriction.

## Essex County Council Highways continued...

Questions	Responses
<p>Who is responsible for enforcing the 7.5 ton weight restriction on Grove Hill in Stansted? What measures are available to prevent the daily breach of this restriction? There is also a road in Stansted where a car is parked daily on a pavement in the chevron area of a crossing. There is an issue in that neither the police nor highways appear to be interested in tackling these incidents.</p>	<p>Since the beginning of the financial year the County Council has requested Trading Standards monitor/ enforce this restriction. More recently, we have been made aware that Essex Police will also be carrying out enforcement of the restriction as and when resources permit.</p> <p>The pavement parking was raised at the meeting of 10 October 2008 with the Parish Council, and Essex Police informed that they were seeking clarification on this enforcement issue as they are currently responsible for enforcing the zig zag markings.</p>
<p>Parking on verges around the airport, particularly near Coopers roundabout, is getting worse. What action will Highways take?</p>	<p>The matter has been raised with BAA at the Stansted Airport Highways Working Group. BAA believes the proposed Coopers End entrance closure will resolve a number of the problems as no access will mean that people will have no reason to hang out along Parsonage Lane. It was envisaged that these proposals would be delivered this financial year. However, should a decision be taken to make the Takeley 'Fly Parking' scheme permanent, which is likely to be discussed in the next couple of months, a set of proposals will be drawn up for this location with a view to these being added to the consultation process.</p>
<p>Broxted Parish Council is very pleased with Highways programme just completed. However, unless weight restrictions can be imposed, inappropriate use by heavy lorries will get worse.</p>	<p>Even if an environmental weight restriction were to be introduced, it would not prevent lorries which need to gain access to properties or businesses along the restricted route from passing as they would be exempt from the weight restriction. In these circumstances, this would make the enforcement of any restriction very difficult, particularly if the restriction covered a significant length or a number of routes in close proximity to one another.</p>
<p>Hoblongs Junction, Chelmsford Road, by-pass and A120 – what has happened to the funding and when will it be sorted?</p>	<p>The proposals have been superseded by the need to improve the junction as a result of the proposed Civic Amenity site. Our colleagues in Waste Management are looking at the option of a roundabout for this junction as part of these proposals.</p>
<p>There are huge areas of grass verges on the roads leading out of Dunmow which serve no purpose whatsoever. Why are these not being used for cycle lanes and/or safe footpaths? It is ridiculous that while everyone is hysterical about recycling "carbon footprint", nothing is done to encourage people to make journeys independent of car use. Instead of widening roads, think bike, think walking.</p>	<p>To provide new footways or cycle tracks requires a specific allocation of capital funding (as does the widening of roads). The budget we have is for maintaining the existing network. There has been a proposal to provide a cycle way between Tesco's on the B1256 and Highfields, but this was delayed as a result of the new school and lay-by. It is now hoped to progress this with developer contribution.</p> <p>As part of the post-A120 measures, following consultations with Parishes, the footways on the B1256 were extensively upgraded.</p>
<p>Regarding the waste amenity proposed for Dunmow, can we expect a condition on planning permission to improve the junction?</p>	<p>It is expected that a 'Grampian' condition will be imposed which will prevent the commencement of the development or use of the development until the highway works have been implemented and opened to traffic.</p>

## Essex County Council continued...

Is it possible to get bus stops created between Great Dunmow and Little Dunmow?

In principle yes, however we would have to consider each case on its own merits. More details would be required e.g. exact location, what services are involved, and there would have to be a range of surveys carried out before a decision could be made. It would also help if we had a better idea of what was meant by bus stops – a simple stop? a bus box? a shelter and raised kerbs, etc?

## Uttlesford District Council

### Question

### Response

The proposed bypass near the Woodlands Park development is understood to be dependent on building the 651<sup>st</sup> house, but works are moving very slowly. Is it possible to get round the clause?

The relationship between progress with residential development and completion of the distributor road was set out in section 106 agreement when the original planning permission was granted. Talks are continuing with the developer to see if completion of the road can be moved forward.

Please could we have an update on the forthcoming Stansted public inquiry?

Yes. Parties' outline statements of case are due by 13 October. BAA is required to submit its economic impact report by 3 November. The Inspector appointed to hold the inquiry will hold a pre-inquiry meeting on 10 November. BAA will send a statement of case for each of the compulsory purchase orders after that meeting and objectors will have to provide their statements of case in response. BAA's statement of case for its planning and listed building consent applications is due by 5 December and all other parties are required to submit their statements of case in response by 19 December. Proofs of evidence will need to be submitted about 3 to 4 weeks before the inquiry opens. The inquiry opening date is 15 April 2009.

UDC budgets and accounts made simple and understandable to the layman. May be this requires a special session or one to have at least 50% of such a meeting?

The Council does have a specific meeting, Finance and Administration which the public are welcome to attend and listen to the debate. Members of the public may make a statement at the beginning of a committee meeting, subject to giving notice by midday two working days before the meeting to the committee section.

However, at the next Community Forum on Thursday 8 January, the Council's Director of Central Services will be reporting on the proposals for the 2009/2010 budget.

Community Forums needs more shape and an agenda with time limits on presentations.

Each agency will be given an opportunity to report to the meeting, followed by questions from the floor. The format for the Forum is being piloted for a year and we will be adapting them according to participants' wishes.

Please could we have an update each time on Stansted Airport?

An update will be made to the meeting if there is anything of significance to report since the previous Community Forum.

## Uttlesford District Council continued...

What is being done about breaches in planning regulations in Great Hallingbury in particular and elsewhere in general?

Uttlesford District Council created the new enforcement team at the end of March 2008. The team is responsible for investigating alleged breaches of planning control, licensing legislation and certain aspects of environmental health legislation (principally fly tipping and abandoned vehicles). Since formation the team has taken on 356 enforcement files from the planning team and has commenced 156 new planning enforcement investigations. To date 170 investigations have been concluded resulting in 17 planning contravention notices, 5 breach of condition notices, 6 enforcement notices, and 2 prosecutions being issued. Other cases have been closed without action either because there was no evidence of a breach of planning control or because in the judgement of the planning department it was not expedient to enforce. This compares favourably with the past performance of the Council with regard to planning enforcement.

What is being done regarding off airport parking i.e. in Great Hallingbury?

Currently the enforcement team has six airport related parking files under investigation. Two of these relate to Great Hallingbury

Airport related parking.

1. The land owner denies any breach of planning control maintaining that cars parked on the land belong to family and friends. The situation will be kept under review and in the event that firm evidence of airport related parking becomes available action will be taken.
2. Following two visits to the site there has been no evidence to support the allegation of airport related parking and as such this case will be closed with no further action (754).

Concerned with developers starting projects in the centre of Dunmow and leaving a mess which is detrimental to the town – what can be done about this?

In the current state of the housing market, little further construction activity can be expected for some time. In the case of the White Street development, the library and the affordable housing flats are to be completed.

Concern about the amount of retrospective planning permission that is being given, why is this occurring?

It is not an offence to commence development without obtaining planning permission. If the development is appropriate in terms of planning policy and other material considerations it will be permitted, whether an application was made before a start on site or retrospectively. In 2007/8, 72% of all planning applications in Uttlesford were granted so it is not surprising that a high % of retrospective applications are similarly approved.

## Uttlesford District Council continued...

Why aren't these meetings more widely advertised? The 5 parishes magazine - is that all?	Meetings have been advertised in various locations such as: flyers sent to town/parish councils for their notice boards, attendees e-mail distributions list, Essex Works incorporating Uttlesford Life (delivered to every household in Uttlesford), village newsletters/magazines, press releases sent to all local newspapers (although the Council doesn't not pay for this services therefore the newspapers are not obliged to print the release).
Can street signs for new streets at Forest Hall Park be put in?	Yes. The normal practice is for Uttlesford to arrange for erection of signs once payment has been received from the developer.
Regarding the waste amenity proposed for Dunmow, can we expect a condition on planning permission to improve the junction?	Essex County Council is the authority responsible for determining this planning application and it will consider the appropriate access arrangements for this site.
What is the authorised statement on recycling bins in cul-de-sacs?	Refuse collection is under constant review. Some small courtyards experienced problems with missed bins. The new lorries are bigger than the previous fleet, and there has over the past few months been a roll-out of getting residents of courtyards or cul-de-sacs to wheel their bins a short distance to the entrance. In these cases, the bins have been numbered by Uttlesford. This has been taking place in Hatfield Heath, the Maltings and parts of Woodlands Drive Park, as well as in some of the new developments across the north of the district. This is a slow rolling process to avoid problems with missed bins, and to speed up the service. The roll out is on hold while the situation is reviewed following a voicing of concern to the press.
Is the prime reason for collecting bins from the entrance to cul-de-sacs costs savings or safety?	This is an operational issue. The crews currently work a very long day, and manoeuvring these large vehicles down such narrow roads is very difficult, therefore it was the intention to look into bringing bins to a more appropriate place. This applies to a few isolated individuals, and we will try to resolve this particular issue. For every new planning permission there is now a requirement that at the end of the cul-de-sac there should be a place to deposit bins. It is impossible to reverse lorries into tight spaces where there are parked cars. Therefore, this needed to be looked at for efficiency savings as well as on the grounds of health and safety to lessen the risk of accidents with lorries reversing.
Is there a possibility that the next South Area Forum could be held in a venue further to the west?	Yes. The next meeting being held on Thursday 8 January 2009 in the main hall of the Mountfitchet Mathematics and Computing College.
With the proposed eco-towns vehicles would not be encouraged to go in and out of the settlements – what is likely to happen?	The Fairfield Partnership is finalising a traffic assessment which will include the transport strategy it proposes if the development proceeds.

## West Essex Primary Care Trust

Question	Response
What is the reason for the delay in setting up a National Health Service dental practice in Stansted, as there is an existing dentist who will start now?	Stansted will have a dedicated NHS dentist for the new health centre. An NHS dentist has already been identified. We will speak to the dentist concerned again and copy any correspondence to Mr Woodcock.
When can a response be expected to the question of a health facility for the Priors Green area in Takeley? How far have you got with the review of increasing populations in the villages?	<p>There has been a delay, as this is a complex issue, and does not just involve Takeley, but affects other areas, e.g. east of Dunmow, Felsted and Little Canfield. We have to be careful not to miss the bigger picture. In terms of time, we are committed to the provision of primary healthcare. There is currently sufficient capacity but we are not sure how long this will last, so a review is starting with the aim of drawing up a primary care strategy to highlight where provision is required. Consultation will take place once the strategy has been drafted.</p> <p>Councillor Barker referred the Forum to a group set up at Essex County Council to monitor the work of the WEPCT, and asked any Members interesting in feeding into that group to contact Cllr Elizabeth Godwin or Cllr Ray Gooding.</p>

## Essex Police

Question	Response
Henham Parish Council is keen to do a speed watch, but has been informed it would have to share the equipment with Elsenham. Is there any money to buy further equipment?	The local neighbourhood police team are working on plans to offer community speed watch training to interested parish councils. The initiative will involve training and explanations around provision of equipment. More details will follow from NSO's once the initiative has been set up.
No consultation seems to have been carried out regarding reductions in public opening times of the old police station in Great Dunmow. Will there be further cuts, and what will be the impact of the opening of the new library on staffing levels?	<p>A log of visits to the police station was kept, which showed an average of only one person a day. More people are now using the new police station because there are more departments there. The old police station is open two days a week, on Tuesdays and Saturdays.</p> <p>The police surgery opening times at the new library will reflect those offered at the old police station with the addition of themed surgeries encouraging engagement of hard to reach groups or the delivery of specific information (domestic violence, hate crime etc).</p>
There seems to have been no consultation of District, Essex or Parish Councillors on police helicopter signs. What consultation, if any, went on?	The sighting of helicopter speed check signs are as a result of a partnership initiative by the casualty reduction board. These have been positioned in an effort to reduce motorcycle speeding offences and accidents. The signs have been positioned following roads identified with particular issues re motorcycle nuisance.

## Essex Police continued...

When will the telephone directory be updated with the police contact numbers for each area?	This has been passed to Communications Division and will be updated.
Is there an update on communication between the police and Neighbourhood Watch?	A meeting will be taking place with Alan Johnson during the next 14 days and the outcome will be reported. A meeting has been held that was very positive. A programme of work has been identified. Active partnership patrols and other works headed by the new Essex Watch Co-ordinator are set to see notable improvement in NHW membership and communication between the police and NHW.
Could the assessment into speed bumps in Great Canfield be re-considered, as whilst there are no footpaths, there is a verge which might make this option feasible?	To be followed up.
Is there any possibility that the PCSO for Great Hallingbury, who has to cover fifteen villages, can be provided with a car?	A car has been arranged for her. More PCSOs are to be recruited, through match funding between the police and parish councils.
Speeding through Gt Hallingbury and Woodside Green, what can be done to enforce the 30 mph limit?	Local traffic officers have been made aware that speeding is an issue and asked to direct resources to this area where possible.  Traffic Management have also been informed to give a view on the stretch of road to see if it suitable for speed loops.
Speeding on the B1256 by the Audi showroom, what can be done to enforce the 40 mph limit?	Local traffic officers have been made aware that speeding is an issue and asked to direct resources to this area where possible.  Traffic Management have also been informed to give a view on the stretch of road to see if it suitable for speed loops.
Felsted are on the awaiting list for speed watch – could this please be actioned?	The local neighbourhood police team are working on plans to offer community speed watch training to interested parish councils. The initiative will involve training and explanations around provision of equipment. More details will follow from NSO's once the initiative has been set up.
Motor bikes are constantly speeding through Church End, Great Dunmow even though there is a 30 mph speed restriction, which is being totally disregarding. Some bikes must be leaving Dunmow at more like 60 – 80 mph. What is being done about this, before there is a serious accident? There is normally a mobile camera from the High Street along the Braintree Road, can the camera please be moved?	Local traffic officers have been made aware that speeding is an issue and asked to direct resources to this area where possible.  Traffic Management have also been informed to give a view on the stretch of road to see if it suitable for speed loops.

## Egniol Engineering – questions regarding proposed waste transfer site at Great Dunmow

Question	Response
What is the position regarding trade waste?	The materials coming into the site would be brought in either to the civic amenity recycling site by members of the public, or via Uttlesford's recycling vehicles. There might be an element of trade waste amongst these items, but the site was intended for the two categories above.
As ECC do not own the land, what is the timescale for commencing the proposed works?	The land is in private ownership at present. If it cannot be acquired by agreement then it may be necessary to do so by compulsory purchase order. In terms of timescale, if planning permission is agreed and a CPO is required, then it would depend whether objections were raised to the CPO. It could take twelve to eighteen months to complete. Construction would then take a further 12 months.
In Bishop's Stortford's civic amenity site it is necessary to climb stairs to deposit items in the containers. Will the proposed Great Dunmow site have civic waste containers on the same or on different levels to cars?	The site is designed for waste (such as bulky items or green garden waste) to be deposited into containers at a lower level than the cars without the need for steps. Other containers such as bottle banks will be at the same level as the cars and again steps will not be needed.
Reference was made above to the baling of dry recyclables. Uttlesford's household dry recyclables are mixed, therefore is there to be a sorting facility on site?	In this case, the materials would be bulked up without sorting. Materials from green banks for paper or cardboard would be baled up. This bulking or bailing leads to greater efficiency in transporting the waste and reduces the number of lorry movements required.
What is the timescale for junction improvements?	It is likely that planning conditions would be imposed requiring the junction to be improved before the recycling centre for household waste and transfer station could be opened
The appearance of the site will be detrimental to residents and those using the hotel. What height boundaries would satisfactorily conceal what would be an offensive view?	The site will be enclosed by a 2.4m high fence. The existing vegetation on this boundary will be retained and enhanced if necessary
Why has the money for putting in traffic lights at this junction been pulled? When will traffic lights be put in?	This question to be followed up.
Lord Hanningfield has written saying they would not buy the houses for this development, however, Mr Brown from Essex County Council asked if the residents would sell them. Mr Hockey would like a letter from Lord Hanningfield explaining the position.	Essex County Council has been out to speak with some of the residents who are affected by the proposed recycling site. Questions were taken away and further meetings will be set up to discuss the issues raised.

