

**SOUTH WEST AREA PANEL held at STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET HIGH SCHOOL at 7.30 pm on 2 MARCH 2006**

Present:- Councillor G Sell – Chairman.  
Councillors E C Abrahams, A Dean, C M Dean, E J Godwin,  
R T Harris, J I Loughlin, A Marchant and A R Row.

Also present:- Councillor A R Thawley.

Officers in attendance: D Burridge, R Clark, S Clarke, S Hayden,  
C Morgan, R Pridham, P Snow and T Turner.

**SWAP9 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Artus, Cheetham, Lemon and Pedder and from Messrs Arnell and Nelson, representatives of Berden Parish Council.

**SWAP10 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2006 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the deletion of the reference to Councillor Sell as a member of the Development Control Committee in Minute SWAP1 and the deletion of the words “and car park” in the fourth paragraph of Minute SWAP7 and to the insertion of the words “Mountfitchet Green”.

The Minutes of the Dunmow Local Road Safety Advisory Committee meeting held on 3 October 2005 were received for information.

**SWAP11 BUSINESS ARISING**

**(i) Minute SWAP4 – One Railway Timetabling**

The Chairman said the timetable changes introduced from February this year had led to a significant improvement in the services provided to Stansted Station.

**(ii) Minute SWAP5 – Stansted Airport – South West Area Issues**

In response to a question, the Chairman gave an assurance that an item relating to Stansted Airport would be included on the agenda for all future meetings of the South West Area Panel.

**SWAP12 PRESENTATION ON WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Following a brief introduction by the Executive Manager (Environmental and Cultural Services), the Services Officer gave a presentation explaining the background to the Council's policy of a three wheeled bin system for the

disposal and recycling of household waste. He said that a great deal of pressure had developed for the Council to meet exacting recycling targets and that penalties would gradually begin to be introduced in cases where these targets were not met. The targets set for Uttlesford of 30% recycling in 2005/06 would not be met and it had been concluded that the only way to make significant improvements in the percentage of household waste to be recycled would be by introducing a three wheeled bin system. The principal aim of this policy was to reduce the amount of biodegradable waste going to landfill at present.

Before inviting questions from Members and the audience, the Chairman said that the disposal of household waste represented a major challenge to the Council in particular and to the United Kingdom in general. The country's performance on recycling was generally poor compared with much of the rest of Europe and the matter was now much higher on the political agenda as a consequence.

Councillor Thawley spoke as Chairman of the Environment Committee and emphasised the contribution that would be made to climate change by reducing the amount of biodegradable waste going to landfill.

In response to a question, it was explained that the new household waste collection system would start to be rolled out from 5 June this year and would be introduced in the whole of the District by September or October.

Councillor Row referred to some adverse publicity in the local press and felt that it might already be too late for the Council to counter the opposition expressed through this medium. The Executive Manager (Environmental and Cultural Services) commented that a great deal of work had already be done in publicising the new collection system and her experience was that little or no opposition had been met in talking directly to communities within Uttlesford. A series of road shows would be organised to explain the new system.

She recognised that it would be necessary to identify properties that may not be suitable to receive three wheeled bins and the scheme would have to have sufficient flexibility to cope with these properties. She envisaged that most of the properties that would not be suitable to receive the wheeled bins would be in clusters and this would not significantly hinder the collection of household waste.

Councillor A Dean felt that the Council should be honest and transparent in its appreciation that the purchase of wheeled bins would cost a great deal of money, but that this would provide a huge incentive for householders to change their pattern of behaviour and to encourage greater rates of recycling. He suggested that the Council could offer incentives to communities or individuals who could achieve the highest rates of household waste recycling.

A question was asked about the cost to householders in Uttlesford of the penalties for failure to meet recycling targets and what the benefits would be to the community by improving the Council's recycling performance. Essex County Councillor Gooding said that Council Tax would increase by tenfold by the year 2010 if the necessary targets were not met.

A question was also asked about the reason for the decision not to continue to recycle glass. The Executive Manager (Environmental and Cultural Services) said that there was presently no plant capacity in this area to process glass mixed with other materials and that Mid Suffolk District Council had found that the use of bottle banks in their area had trebled after the Council introduced a wheeled bin service with limited bin capacity for landfill waste..

Councillor Loughlin thought that residents and pressure groups should lobby supermarkets and other retailers to reduce the amount of packaging on retailed goods and also to introduce biodegradable carrier bags.

There was also a discussion about the treatment of the existing recycling boxes and the new wheeled bins by the Council's collection staff. The Services Officer said that it would be necessary to give appropriate training to all of the staff involved in collecting waste. If a replacement bin was necessary, the householder would normally be charged for the cost of supply, but this charge could be waived if the householder was not to blame for the damage or loss sustained. It was also noted that the skips presently provided in some parishes would be withdrawn once the wheeled bin service was introduced.

The Chairman thanked the officers for their clear and detailed presentation.

## SWAP13 **STANSTED AIRPORT**

Councillor Abrahams, C Dean, Godwin, Harris, Loughlin and Thawley declared a non-prejudicial interest in this item as Members of the Development Control Committee.

The Chairman outlined expected developments in relation to planning issues at the airport as follows:-

- BAA to submit a planning application for maximum use of the existing runway by 1 May.
- Environmental statement to be provided between 13 and 15 June.
- Residents' feedback to the District Council during the period 3 – 7 July.
- Public examination of the application on 22 and 23 August.
- A recommendation from officers would be made by 27 September.

The Development Control Committee would be meeting throughout the summer to consider the application and a full week of public consultation would be built into this process. The Chairman said that Uttlesford Members had forced a vote at a meeting of the Stansted Airport Consultative Committee (STACC) and this had resulted in a policy against a second runway being developed. He also referred to the position of Uttlesford

councillors who would be unable to express a view on the pending application in public, but could listen to all expressions of public opinion.

Councillor Thawley urged that any letters sent to an individual councillor be copied to the Executive Manager (Development Services). He said that all documents submitted as part of the planning application would be made available at the Council Offices in Saffron Walden. Although copying costs were likely to be prohibitive, it was hoped that full details of the application could be placed on BAA's website and made available at public libraries throughout the District. Members of the Area Panel agreed that a formal request would be made to the Executive Manager (Development Services) for these steps to be undertaken.

Reference was made to a consultation exercise carried out by consultants on behalf of BAA on the stopping up of roads and public rights of way required if the second runway proposal were to proceed. Trevor Allen of Takeley said that his Parish Council would not respond as part of this exercise, unless and until a proper presentation was given. Mr Allen cast doubts upon BAA's motivation in undertaking this exercise. Councillor Godwin said that Uttlesford had not been involved in any way and she would not have been aware of the consultation except for her involvement with Birchanger Parish Council.

Ray Gooding confirmed that he had received no communication on this matter as a County Councillor. He understood that the location of an extra junction to the M11 motorway, north of the A120 was an area highways issue. Councillor A Dean suggested that the Area Panel should ask BAA for a formal statement of clarification.

The Chairman confirmed that Stansted Airport would continue to be included as a standard agenda item at all future South West Area Panel meetings. He expressed the hope that channels of communication between the Panel and Parish Councils could continue to be improved.

## SWAP14 **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

The Executive Manager (Strategy and Performance) reported on suggested arrangements for grant awarding in a number of different categories under the Community Project Grant Scheme. These were:-

- Development of land for recreational purposes, including environmental improvements.
- Buildings/facilities that were available for community use.
- Car parks and access roads to car parks directly associated with a community use building.
- Children's play areas, including equipment and safety surfacing.
- Improvements, refurbishment or extension to any of the facilities outlined above.

- Essential equipment contributing significantly to the aims and objectives of the project.
- Training or one off staffing costs contributing significantly to the development of the project or increasing benefits to the community.
- All applicants must have raised at least 50% matched funding which could include donations "in kind".

It was noted that a report would be submitted to the Community Committee on 16 March 2006 proposing that the budgeted sum of £24,000 be split evenly between the three Area Panels and that the four urban centres retain their allocation of £4,000 each. Providing this recommendation was accepted, Members of the Area Panels could then determine the allocation of these grants during the June/July cycle of meetings and invitations would be issued in April and May for applications to be submitted.

The Cultural Services Officer referred to the proposed Healthy Eating and Lifestyle Programme (HELP) and said that the contact for this scheme was Stephen Prosser of Leisure Connection at the Lord Butler Leisure Centre.

The Chairman urged parishes to become involved in this project and informed the meeting that the contact for the Community Project Grant Scheme was Alex Stewart at the Council Offices in Saffron Walden.

SWAP15

## **ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Chairman said that there were no timetabled dates yet in place for 2006/07. He suggested that arrangements be made for highways and road safety matters to be discussed by each Area Panel on a rotational basis. Depending on the availability of a representative from Essex County Council, it was hoped that the South West Panel would be able to consider these matters at the meeting after next.

Reference was made to a meeting that Paul Hardy had attended with representatives of the Essex Association of Local Councils. Members were satisfied that there were sufficient highway matters of local concern to justify a further meeting taking place covering matters within the remit of Essex County Council.

Councillor Harris referred to a meeting at Takeley on local policing the previous evening which had given him cause for grave concern. He suggested an invitation should be extended to Divisional Inspector Shaw to attend the next meeting. The Chairman agreed and felt that this would provide an opportunity to consider the whole subject of community safety.

Councillor Row was anxious that urgent matters should not be left in abeyance and said he would like there to be a brief update next time on the Waste Management Strategy.

Councillor A Dean wanted there to be more linkage between area panels and policy committees. He suggested that a database of interested parties could be developed for the purpose of keeping parish representatives informed.

He referred also to the proposed autumn publication of the regional plan and said that Uttlesford should seek to be more proactive in terms of promoting economic development. The Chairman agreed and said that a strategy was needed to strengthen links with local businesses in the southwest part of the District.

Councillor Loughlin wanted to see a representative from the local PCT to discuss matters such as the problems associated with local dentistry.

In conclusion, the Chairman felt that the allocation of items to meetings should remain flexible, but that officers should plan to invite Divisional Inspector Shaw to the next Area Panel meeting.

Members considered a venue for the next meeting and representatives from Berden, Clavering, Great Hallingbury and Hatfield Heath all expressed an interest in hosting a meeting of the Area Panel. It was agreed that these offers should be explored further.

The meeting ended at 9.35 pm.