

**SOUTH WEST AREA PANEL held at CLAVERING VILLAGE HALL at 7.00 pm on 7 SEPTEMBER 2006**

Present:- Councillor G Sell – Chairman.  
Councillors E C Abrahams, J F Cheetham, A Dean, C M Dean, R T Harris, R M Lemon and A Marchant.

Officers in attendance:- G Bradley, J Elsom, V Harvey, S Hayden, J Mitchell, P Snow and A Stewart.

Also present:- Councillor R P Chambers  
Tom Boland and Joanne Jeggo from Essex Police  
Peter Jones - resident of Stansted  
Bertha Bedford - local resident  
Angela Hall – resident of Stansted Mountfitchet  
Councillor R Gilbert – East Herts District Council  
R Woodcock – local resident  
Mrs Pearl Wellings – local resident  
Tony Wellings – local resident  
Jackie Sayers – East Herts District Council  
John Hudson – Stansted Parish Council  
Glen Button – resident of Stansted  
Simon Cook – local resident  
C Mallyon – a resident of Stansted  
D Mady - a resident of Stansted  
J Newbury - a resident of Stansted  
Helen Webb - a resident of Stansted  
Christina Hope - a resident of Stansted  
D G Wilson - a resident of Stansted  
M Williams - a resident of Stansted  
W Moss - a resident of Stansted  
L Mannering - a resident of Stansted  
Julia North - a resident of Spencer Close, Stansted  
Mr Armiti - a resident of Spencer Close, Stansted  
Mrs Armiti - a resident of Spencer Close, Stansted  
Nics Hall - a resident of Stansted  
C L Knowles - a resident of Stansted  
C Bullock - a resident of Stansted  
M Bullock - a resident of Stansted  
Gerrard Frogley - a resident of Stansted  
Ross Deacon - a resident of Stansted  
A Mardell - a resident of Stansted  
M Sullivan – Hatfield Heath Parish Council  
B Weetly – resident of Hill Green Clavering

**SWAP12 PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

The Chairman opened the panel meeting and welcomed Councillor Chambers, Tom Boland and Joanne Jeggo from Essex Police.

A member of the public asked who was picking up the bill for policing at the airport. Councillor Chambers said that there had been outstanding debt not

paid by the airport, but this had now been paid; negotiations on cost and officer numbers were underway. He also stated there was a contingency fund for security and terror alerts.

Many members of the public asked what action the police were undertaking to tackle the problem of youths congregating in the village of Stansted by the recreation ground, as many residents of and near to Spencer Close felt threatened. Inspector Boland said that when offences had been made the Police had made arrests. Councillor Chambers then went on to say that the number Community Support Officers was due to increase. These officers were unable to make arrests, but their presence within the community would enable them to gain local intelligence. Councillor Chambers offered his telephone number to the local residents and urged them to call him at any time of day with any concerns. Inspector Boland said he was new to the area, but it was his intension to improve the service provided in the community.

Councillor Harris drew attention to the rave that had recently taken place near Great Chesterford, and questioned where the 200 Police Officers had come from. Inspector Boland said the rave had been a serious issue and Police Officers from the wider area had been called in, of which many had been injured.

Councillor Lemon brought to light the allegations made in a local newspaper about the digital chips placed in the wheelie bins. Members of the Environment Committee informed the panel that these chips were placed in the bins to save costs if in the future, the Government asked Local Authorities to measure the amount of waste produced by households. They would not act as a tracking devise.

### SWAP13 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K R Artus, J I Loughlin, D J Morson, A R Row and V Pedder.

Councillors made the following personal non-prejudicial interests:

Councillor Cheetham as a member of NWEPPHA and the National Trust.

Councillor C Dean as a member of the National Trust, Stansted Parish Council and Stansted Skate Park.

Councillor Lemon as a member of the National Trust and Hatfield Heath Parish Council.

Councillor Marchant as a member of the National Trust and Stansted Parish Council.

Councillor Sell as a member of Stansted Parish Council.

### SWAP14 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2006 were received and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to *Also Present* to read *Tony Wellings –Member of public.*

SWAP15 **BUSINESS ARISING**

**(i) SWAP7 – Uttlesford Primary Care Trust**

Councillor A Dean asked whether the Council had written to the government on this issue. The Leisure Manager said this was yet to happen.

**(ii) SWAP8 – Stansted Airport – South West Area Issues**

The website dedicated to Stansted Airport issues was now up and running. The site address was [www.stanstedexplained.info](http://www.stanstedexplained.info)

**(ii) SWAP9 – Recycling – Update on South West Issues**

Councillor C Dean said that the bio-degradable bags were available for purchase in Elsenham at the Village Hall and W Barker & Son garage and at the village store in Henham.

SWAP16 **ESSEX POLICE**

Inspector Boland from Essex Police said he had only been in post a few weeks and was getting to know the demands of the community. He would aim to target the problems and ensure the PCs worked to the best of their ability.

Councillor Cheetham asked how the Community Support Officers would be distributed across the area. Inspector Boland said the details had not yet been finalised, but it was a possibility for one to go Stansted and one to go to Great Dunmow.

A resident of Spencer Close, Stansted said that the residents often felt they wanted to take the law into their own hands, and asked how far Neighbourhood Watch should go. Inspector Boland said the residents were not to know how dangerous these youths could be and said they should contact the police when they felt threatened.

Another local resident stated many of the youths were drinking alcohol under age and suggested the police should target the places alcohol was being purchased. Inspector Boland said a possible means to stop the younger youths causing trouble was to contact the parents direct and record their details.

Inspector Boland reassured the panel and members of the public that he would try his best with the resources available to keep the community as safe as possible.

## SWAP18 **COMMUNITY PROJECT GRANTS**

A report had been prepared by the Community and Development Officer and Funding and Strategic Partnership Manager which provided Members with a report detailing the applications received from organisations requesting grant funding from the Community Project Grant.

The South West Area Panel had £4,000 ring-fenced for Stansted Mountfitchet, £6,666 split between the remaining settlements. £4,000 was to be retained internally for District wide promotions.

Applications had been submitted by the Stansted, Manuden, Berden, Ugley and Great Hallingbury Parish Councils. It was suggested that these applications be granted 75% of the requested amount.

Councillor Cheetham said that the South West Area had 15 villages and the £3,000 ring-fenced for Stansted was not deemed fair. She proposed that the formula for allocating grants be reviewed.

Councillor C Dean suggested that all the money in the grant should be allocated and not be carried over to the following year.

RESOLVED that

1. The following amounts be allocated  
  
£4,000 to Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council  
£2,625 to Manuden Playing Field Association  
£644.25 to Berden Village Hall  
£693.75 to Ugley Village Hall  
£2,625 to Great Hallingbury Village Hall  
And the remaining £78 be divided up between the four villages.
2. The formula for funding be looked at and reviewed by the Community Committee.

## SWAP19 **HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION STREET LIGHTING POLICY AND PRACTICE**

The Community and Development Officer had prepared a report on the background information which lead to the decision taken by the Essex County Council Cabinet Member of Highways and Transportation – Councillor Rodney Bass, relating to the switching off of street lighting in the District.

With increasing concern about light pollution and the County Council's commitment to reduce CO2 emissions, the County Council was now reviewing this arrangement. By investing £1.8 million over 2 years on technology, which would allow street lights to be turned off during the least busy part of the night, it was hoped a saving of £1.0 million per annum on energy costs would be made.

The ECC Cabinet Member – Councillor Rodney Bass had agreed to the following:

- give a clear statement of intent to switch off street lights at midnight GMT and on again at 0500 GMT.
- seek approvals for an investment of £1.8 million over the next two years to yield annual savings of £1 million.
- introduce the new practice progressively by piloting in Maldon and Uttlesford in the first instance, measuring local reaction, and evaluate the success of this initiative to the rest of the county over the next two years.
- ask the Highways and Transportation Policy Development Group to oversee the initiative and measure public acceptability.

Members were unclear whether the aim was to save money or prevent environmental damage.

The Chairman passed on apologies from County Councillor Ray Gooding, who would have been able to provide further information on this subject.

Councillor Cheetham said that most people would appreciate less light pollution, and some streets in rural locations would benefit from having some street lights turned off. However the public should be consulted on their views.

This item was to be passed to the Environment Committee and it was hoped that further information would be provided at that meeting.

## SWAP19      **UPDATE ON STANSTED AIRPORT**

The Executive Manager (Development Services) updated the panel and members of the public on the current developments at Stansted Airport. The current planning application was to determine the use of the existing runway. This was being dealt with in a new process, which included public consultation and a thorough examination of the environmental statement. It was the intention of the Development Control Committee to reach a recommendation by 27 September 2006; however this was not going to be possible as the Committee had not obtained enough information from BAA, the rail operators and the Highways Agency to make a well rounded and full recommendation. With the final two meetings left in the extraordinary series the meeting to be held on 13 September would be an opportunity to give questions and answers to SSE. The meeting to be held on 27 September would be a report on the current position. It was hoped that all information would be received and considered in the forthcoming months and the Development Control Committee would make a recommendation by the end of November or early December.

As the application would not be determined by the expected date BAA was within their rights to lodge non-determination, which would result in a public inquiry.

The consultation period for the four options of a second runway at Stansted had been undertaken and the Government was expected to publish this document in early October.

A member of the public asked what powers the Panel held with regard to the application. The Chairman explained that the Panel could listen to views of residents and pass these views on to the Development Control Committee, which many Members had done during the public consultation week.

Councillor A Dean reminded the public that the website [www.stanstedexplained.info](http://www.stanstedexplained.info) was regularly updated. He expressed his disappointment at BAA's behaviour in the slow time it was taking to provide the information requested.

Ray Woodcock asked if BAA had refused to provide the information. The Executive Manager (Development Services) said that BAA were still preparing the information and had not refused to provide it.

A member of the public expressed his alarm that the Council were not in a position to make a decision. He said a lot of decisions in the workplace were based on assumption and said a resolution should be made on the current information that was had. Councillor Cheetham said that if the Council did this it could be subject to a legal challenge.

Councillor A Dean made a proposal, and the Members of the Development Control Committee (Councillors Abrahams, Cheetham, C Dean and Harris) left the room before a vote was cast.

RESOLVED that this Area Panel regrets BAA's unwillingness to provide at, an early stage, adequate information to this Council and to national bodies. This has led to a delay in determining the current planning application. The Area Panel regrets the continuing uncertainty for the local community that this delay will cause.

SWAP20

## **REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES**

The Electoral Services Officer had prepared a report on the statutory review of polling districts and places that had commenced on 1 September 2005. Under legislation, the Council must decide on suitable arrangements for its district after appropriate consultation. It contained details of representations received and recommendations for the adoption of a scheme of polling arrangements. The delegation scheme authorised area panels to advise the Council on the designation of polling places and the review of boundaries of polling districts. A recommendation from the South West Area Panel was sought to put to the Operations Committee. The new scheme adopted would be published and would operate at all elections held from the effective date onwards.

The Electoral Services Officer then went to cover the rules applicable to the process.

The existing arrangements were last reviewed in 2002 and came into effect on 3 February 2003. As part of this review the Head of Building Surveying arranged for the Essex Disabled People's Association Ltd (EDPA) to undertake detailed inspections of all existing polling places to measure them against the Council's statutory responsibilities.

Members discussed the proposals and it was

RESOLVED that

- 1 a separate polling district of Bush End be reinstated (using the parish ward boundary with Hatfield Broad Oak), that is 'That portion of the parish of Hatfield Broad Oak lying to the north of a line commencing at a point on the western boundary of the parish, north of Wall Wood, along the road from Lodge Farm in a southerly direction towards Forest Hall to meet a footpath striking south-eastwards, along the line of the said footpath to join the road from Forest Hall Farm to Doodle Oak, following the line of the said road in a north-easterly direction for approximately 600 yards to a point where a footpath meets the road on the south side, then along the line of the said footpath in a south-easterly direction to a junction of the path at a point on the west boundary of Barrington Park, then along the line of the footpath proceeding north and east to meet the road from Hatfield Broad Oak to Takeley to Brumstead Common, then in a straight line in a north-easterly direction to the east boundary of the parish at the junction of the roads from Great Canfield and The Grange to Takeley" and that the Ancient Foresters be designated as the polling place for Bush End.
- 2 the Peter Kirk Centre continue to be designated as the polling place for Stansted North.
- 3 the existing polling arrangements remain unchanged at Little Canfield.
- 4 the remaining polling arrangements in the South West Panel Area remain unaltered.

## SWAP21 **STANSTED SKATE PARK**

Ray Ball a representative from Stansted Skate Park and Chair of the Skate Park Working Group presented Members of the Panel with details of the work that had been undertaken, work due to take place and the costs involved with Stansted Skate Park.

The first phase of the skate park had been completed. When asked, potential users said their surface of choice would be concrete. However, this was too costly. Users said a fun box was essential and a half pipe was also a popular choice; however it was viewed that a half pipe would only be accessible to more experienced skaters. It was decided that a mini ramp would be the most useful.

A number of fundraising events had taken place including fun runs, BBQs, music quizzes, the selling of wrist bands and a number of donations had been received.

The current fund stood at £20,000 and it was hoped that a further £20,000 could be raised. Councillor Cheetham suggested the Skate Park put in an application to receive funding from the Community Initiative Fund and the Community Fund. The Leisure Manager suggested the Skate Park spoke with the Funding and Strategic Partnerships Officer, Jane Elsom, to ask for advice on fund raising.

Members were pleased with the Skate Park and supported the work of the group. A report on Stansted Skate Park would go to the Community Committee.

## SWAP22 **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

The Community Development Officer (Cultural Services) presented the Panel with a report relating to community development activities and schemes which officers had been involved with since the previous Panel meeting. It brought the Panel's attention to important community based activities that would be taking place during the next few months.

The Chairman and Area Champion had held residents' drop-in sessions around the district every Friday since 6 June 2006 from 10am to noon. These sessions had already taken place in Stansted, Hatfield Heath, Takeley and Little Hallingbury. This had proven to be very popular with elderly residents. From the end of September, sessions would be held for two weeks in a location, then moving around the area. The first weeks session would be held during the day and the following weeks in the evening, to enable more residents to attend.

The South West Area Panel's website was now up and running, with a link on the Councils website [www.uttlesford.gov.uk](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk)

Nominations for the 2006/07 Community Achievement Awards were underway with a closing date of 13 October 2006. Nominations must be proposed either by the Parish Council, Council for Voluntary Services or the Volunteer Bureau.

Members were pleased with the work within the community and had found the drop-in sessions with residents very useful.

The meeting ended at 10.20pm.