

SOUTH WEST AREA PANEL held at the HATFIELD BROAD OAK VILLAGE HALL at 7.00 pm on 1 MARCH 2007

Present: - Councillor G Sell – Chairman.
Councillors K Artus, A Dean, C M Dean, J F Cheetham,
A Marchant and A R Row.

Officers in attendance: - G Bradley, W Cockerell, F Gardiner, R Harborough,
S Hayden, P Snow and A Stewart.

SWAP56 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R M Lemon, D Morson and E J Godwin.

SWAP57 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2007 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to the addition of Councillor A Marchant to the list of attendees.

SWAP58 BUSINESS ARISING

(i) Minute SWAP 43 – Public Question and Answer Session

Councillor J Cheetham asked the Planning Policy and Conservation Manager to forward the answer to the question raised by Richard Cheetham from Takeley Parish Council at the last meeting.

(ii) Minute SWAP 51 – Recycling Update

Councillor A Dean reported that the amount of recycling in January had increased to 57%.

SWAP60 PARISH ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

Peter Snow, the Electoral Service Officer, gave a presentation on parish electoral arrangements. He explained that following the adoption by the Operations Committee of criteria guiding the Council's approach to parish electoral arrangements, a further letter had been sent last November giving parishes one final opportunity to comment upon their electoral arrangements prior to the ordinary election of parish councillors in May.

The Electoral Service Officer reported a letter from Great Hallingbury Parish Council stating that it was willing to reduce the number of councillors in the parish from 10 to 9. The Electoral Service Officer had also been contacted by

Hatfield Broad Oak, a large but under represented parish asking to increase to 9 councillors. The two requests made by each Parish fitted in with the Councils Policy and could be agreed.

He also reported that Great Canfield Parish Council had been under-subscribed by either one or two councillors for a considerable portion of the four year term. The parish has experienced problems in recruiting, and ideally its representation should be reduced from seven to six. The situation would be monitored and reviewed again in four years time.

The Electoral Services Officer explained that the Panel must consider, when reviewing parish electoral arrangements, any expected changes in the number and distribution of electors within the next five years. He outlined the expected changes for the parishes concerned and concluded that these would make no significant difference to the projected electorate in five years time.

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Section 17 of the Local Government and Rating Act 1997, the Council agree to the request from Great Hallingbury Parish Council to reduce the number of councillors from ten to nine. The Panel further agreed the request from Hatfield Broad Oak Parish Council for an increase in the number of parish councillors from seven to nine, with the number of councillors allocated to Bush End ward remaining at one and the number allocated to the village ward increase from six to eight.

SWAP61 **PART STREET LIGHTING SCHEME IN UTTLESFORD**

Alex Stewart, Strategic Partnerships Manager updated the Panel on the progress of the pilot scheme to turn off some of the street lights in Uttlesford during the night time period. He displayed plans of the affected areas and outlined the exception areas.

Councillor A Dean said that Essex County Council had asked Stansted Parish Council to undertake a parish consultation but this had proved difficult with the limited information available. However the survey had found that the majority were against the scheme. Councillor A Dean said that there should be a review of the consultation procedures.

Councillor G Sell said that there was a difference in the need for street lighting in urban and rural areas, for example the residents of Ugley Green residents did not want Street Lighting. Councillor Lemon gave his support to the scheme as it would cut costs and save energy.

Many residents of Stansted felt that 12.00am was too early to turn off the lights and suggested a time of 1.00 - 1.30 am. An alternative would be to turn off every other light. The Panel said that more thought could have been given to this proposal.

RESOLVED that, the Area Panel opposes the proposals and method of decision making by ECC and requests that Essex County Council calls in the decision for further consideration of:

- 1 The suitability of Uttlesford communities for this pilot
- 2 Alternative proposals
- 3 A review of the consultation and decision making process.

SWAP62 DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACE STANSTED ORDER

Fiona Gardner, Anti Social Behaviour Officer, advised the panel of a request from Stansted Parish Council for a Designated Public Place Order to be placed on the railway station and Station Road, The Recreation Ground, Bentfield Gardens Open Space, Bentfield Lower Green, Bentfield Causeway Playing Field, Skate Park, Windmill Fields, Memorial Gardens, Bentfield Upper Green, Bentfield Play Area and Mountfitchet Green. It was felt that placing an order of this nature was necessary to deal with the alcohol related incidents of antisocial behaviour within these areas.

Councillor Sell considered that this order was a way forward to deal with problems affecting community safety in Stansted Mountfitchet. Mr Woodcock, a member of Stansted Parish Council, questioned the enforcement of the order. He was advised that the order had been supported by the Police and if a member of public reported that drinking was taking place in these areas, action would be taken.

RESOLVED that the request from Stansted Parish Council be agreed, for a Designated Public Place Order to be placed on the requested areas to allow the Police to deal more effectively with incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour.

SWAP63 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CORE STABILITY ISSUES AND OPTIONS CONSULTATION

Roger Harborough, Planning Policy and Conservation Manager informed the Panel of progress with the consultation on the LDF Core Strategy. He explained that the consultation period expired on 9 March and views were now sought from the Panel on growth options. Councillors would be asked for their responses at a meeting in July, before the preferred options document was produced in Sept/Oct 2007 and the draft core strategy in March 2008. The panel members made a number of comments on possible growth options but said it would be useful to have an area workshop, to include Parish Council representatives, before the meeting in July.

SWAP64 UPDATE ON STANSED AIRPORT

Roger Harborough, Planning Policy and Conservation Manager, advised the Panel on developments at the airport in relation to the forthcoming public inquiry and the second runway project.

SWAP65 **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

Members noted the Community Development activities and schemes which officers had been involved with since the last meeting.

SWAP66 **LAST MEETING**

This was the last meeting of the Panel before the District Council elections in May. The Chairman thanked the public for attending the meetings and the a panel members and the officers for all their support during the year.

The meeting ended at 10.00 pm