

SOUTH WEST AREA PANEL held at the HENHAM VILLAGE HALL at 7.00pm on 7 JUNE 2007

Present: - Councillor D M Jones – Chairman
Councillors E C Abrahams, J F Cheetham, A Dean, J E Hudson, D J Morson, J Salmon, G Sell and L A Wells.

Officers in attendance: - E Blackie, G Bradley, S Hayden, M Jones, E O'Malley and A Stewart.

Also present: - Councillor P Wilcock and Davina Millership.

SWAP 1 PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

The Chairman welcomed members of the public to the South West Area Panel.

A Hatfield Heath resident said he was pleased to see that the Area Panels were continuing and asked whether the new Members were in support of the Panels.

Councillor J F Cheetham answered that they were in support of Area Panels but would be carrying out a review of the whole committee structure, in order to ensure it is far more efficient, including area panels.

A member of the public asked whether traffic items could remain on the agenda.

Councillor J F Cheetham suggested that he attended a meeting on 25 June at Hatfield Heath village hall which would address airport related parking in Aythorpe Roding.

SWAP 2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C M Dean, E J Godwin, R M Lemon and J I Loughlin.

Councillor J F Cheetham declared a non prejudicial interest as a Member of NWEHHPA.

Councillor G Sell declared a non prejudicial interest as a Member of Stansted Parish Council in relation to agenda item 5.

SWAP 3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2007 were agreed subject to the amendment of SWAP 63 to read 'the panel Members strongly request a special area meeting including area Members, Parish Councillors and area stakeholders'.

SWAP 4 MATTERS ARISING

(i) Minute SWAP 61 – Part Street Lighting in Uttlesford

Councillor A Dean gave members of the public an update on the Part Street Lighting Scheme in Uttlesford he said that despite protests from many District Councillors, Essex County Council was still going ahead with the scheme.

(ii) Minute SWAP 62 – Designated Public Place Stansted Order

Councillor Sell commented that he was concerned with the progress of the Public Place Order in Stansted, as the legal department at Uttlesford District Council said that they still required more evidence which meant that the order might not be in place by the summer.

Alex Stewart, the Strategic Partnerships Manager, replied that the order should be in place within the next 28 days.

(iii) Minute SWAP 63 – Local Development Framework Core Stability Issues and Options Consultation

Councillor A Dean said that the suggested workshop should aim to raise concerns, discuss options and gain the community's input. Councillor Cheetham asked if this discussion could be continued in agenda item 6.

SWAP 5 COMMUNITY PROJECT GRANTS

Alex Stewart explained in detail what the Community Project grant involved. He said that there was an £18,000 grant available. This would not however, be available to schools, sports groups or churches.

He reported that so far there had been five applications, which had all been granted. He said he would then write to those Parish Councils that had not applied and ask them to get in touch with an application for any projects they might have as soon as possible.

Councillor Cheetham questioned the time scale that Alex Stewart would allow, and he replied that he would allow 4 weeks. Councillor Morson then proposed that all Parish Councils would be given an opportunity, and if the funds were still not required the remaining money should be carried over and kept within the South West Area Panel. Councillor Sell advised Councillors and members of the public to spread the word on the funds available.

SWAP 6 LOCALLY DETERMINED BUDGET

A presentation was given to the panel on the Locally Determined Budget by Davina Millership, the West Area Highways Manager. She explained the functions of the Area Office and the various budgets that were available to

fund schemes in the district. She said that the notes from the presentation would be placed on an Extranet which could be accessed by Councillors to monitor the highways progress.

Davina Millership explained that she would not be asking the panel for a decision, as this had been decided in March 2006, and the programme was planned to run for three years. Councillor A Dean commented that there was a distinct lack of information on the last decision criteria, and asked whether this could be circulated again in more detail.

Councillor Cheetham mentioned fly parking and asked when this would be going ahead. Davina Millership suggested those concerned about the fly parking scheme in Takeley should contact the service director.

A Hatfield Heath resident questioned when engineering measures would be in place for the pedestrian island. Davina Millership replied that the Hatfield Heath scheme was experiencing land acquisition problems and she would follow this up and contact Gaynor Bradley.

Davina Millership advised anyone with further comments to write to County Hall direct.

SWAP 7 TOURISM IN THE SOUTH WEST OF THE DISTRICT

Elisabeth Blackie, The Tourism Officer, gave a presentation on tourism in Uttlesford.

SWAP 8 SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED ON THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Melanie Jones from the Council's Development Department informed the Panel of progress with the consultation on the LDF Core Strategy. 200 responses had been received to date from key stakeholders, town and parish councils and developers.

The collation and evaluation of the responses was still in progress, but Melanie Jones circulated a summary graph, which suggested that the most popular growth option was for development to be dispersed in a range of settlements around the district. The responses could be viewed on the consultation website which was accessed through the Council's main web page.

Melanie Jones explained that the core strategy would report to the Environment Committee on 4 September 2007 from which the preferred option would be put out to public consultation between September and October.

Councillor Cheetham asked whether this report could be brought to Environment, so that it could be discussed further and commented that this

could not wait until the October round of Area Panel meetings, and asked whether it could be a main item at the next South West Area Panel.

Councillor Sell suggested a workshop could be arranged in August, inviting all stakeholders and parish councillors in the area. A resident from Great Canfield commented that Members had not yet discussed the options for the policies before discussing the preferred options.

RESOLVED that

1. the Local Development Framework is a main item on the July agenda
2. a report is brought to Environment Committee so that the general principle can be endorsed.

SWAP 9 UPDATE ON STANSTED AIRPORT

Melanie Jones, Planning Assistant gave a brief update on the Stansted Airport consultation on Roger Harborough's behalf. She explained that the Inquiry into the expansion of the airport beyond 25 mppa was now sitting. The Council had presented part of their case and would conclude this week, and following that BAA would present its case.

She went on to explain that the Council had been consulted on the surface access arrangements for the Generation 2 application. The Council had given sent its views, which supported the concerns expressed by the East of England Regional Assembly and ECC Highways about the capacity of the M11 junction and the lack of clarity on the provision of the rail service. All comments were prefaced by the fact that the Council was opposed to any second runway at Stansted Airport. The G2 application was expected later this year.

SWAP 10 UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN

Alaine Clarke, Head of Partnerships and Performance, gave details of the Council's Corporate Planning framework. After the change in political leadership, a workshop had been held in May between senior officers and Members to discuss the Council's goals and priorities for inclusion in the Council's Corporate Plan. Four new priorities had been set. The Council was now consulting on these priorities. This would include the Area Panels, an article in Uttlesford Life, all parish councils, the Local Strategic Partnership and local businesses. There was a very tight timescale for receiving comments, but it was hoped that initial views would be taken to the Operations Committee on 28 June 2007. It was planned to produce the Corporate Plan in August which would set out a clear statement of the goals and priorities for the year ahead. This would be followed by more detailed divisional plans.

Alaine Clarke circulated a form and asked the Panel members and those attending the meeting to submit any comments they might have.

SWAP 11 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

The Panel was advised of related community development activities and schemes which officers had been involved with since the previous Panel meeting.

SWAP 12 BUSINESS ARISING

(i) Date of next meeting

Councillor Jones explained that the next meeting was to take place on 23 July in Great Hallingbury and Councillor A Dean requested that no future panel meetings clash with other Parish Council meetings.

The meeting ended at 9.25 pm