

Uttlesford Locality Board: Minutes

Uttlesford District Council, 9 July 2018

Attendees:

Cllr Susan Barker (UDC/ECC), Steven Evison (ECC), Ben Ferguson (UDC), Dawn French (UDC), Cllr Ray Gooding (ECC - Chair), Roger Harborough (UDC), David Hill (ECC), Cllr Simon Howell (UDC), Cllr John Moran (ECC), Cllr Vic Ranger (UDC), Cllr Julie Redfern (UDC), Cllr Howard Rolfe (UDC), Cllr Andrew Sheldon (ECC) and Cllr Simon Walsh (ECC)

1. Welcome and introductions

Cllr Gooding welcomed all present and introductions were made.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

Dawn French said Officers would pick up the previous meeting's action points before the next meeting.

Action points of the 23 January meeting:

Action: UDC to write to parish councils to request contact details for transport representatives.

Action: To circulate statistics relating to the locations of road accidents in the minutes of the meeting.

Action: To further investigate potential ways of mitigating Public Health profile issues.

Action: ECC to distil key information into a media release regarding the work going on to plan school places.

3. Economic Growth/shared economic prosperity

Cllr Sheldon introduced a presentation on Economic Growth in Essex, with a focus on the County's shared economic prosperity with Uttlesford. He said the County would work with Local Authorities to secure infrastructure and develop people's skill sets in the area, to provide a basis for strong economic growth.

David Hill gave an overview on Economic Growth/shared economic prosperity. The following points were highlighted:

- Essex faced a number of economic challenges including slow GVA growth, infrastructure weaknesses, a skills gap with the rest of the UK and housing affordability.
- Essex was a diverse county and to ensure challenges were overcome, and growth was inclusive, ECC's economic strategies would focus 'on place'. Interventions would be targeted on

localities with the greatest economic opportunity, or most complex need.

- Priorities for ECC/UDC collaboration included the London-Stansted-Cambridge Innovation Corridor (LSCIC), Stansted Airport, the Harlow 'Growth Deal', commercial and land opportunities and developing Garden Communities.

Members discussed the connectivity between the proposed Garden Communities and transport infrastructure in the District, and the difficulty in ensuring Government funding for large infrastructure works. Councillor Rolfe said it was vital that the proposed Garden Communities, and any accompanying infrastructure, would satisfy the Inspectorate's requirements.

Action: ECC/UDC to ensure Government recognises the issue of infrastructure funding, in light of the Planning Inspectorate examining the proposed Garden Communities in the future.

Members expressed some concern over the Gigaclear Broadband project. Issues were raised in terms of the standard of work, the lack of collaborative working with Highways when laying the cables and the fact that Gigaclear and BT were supplying broadband to the same houses.

Dawn French said ECC and UDC had to work together to drive the provider forward.

Action: Councillor Sheldon said he could arrange a Member workshop/presentation from Gigaclear to provide an update on the situation.

4. Maintenance of road side verges

Councillor Barker said there was a discrepancy between some parish/town councils with regards to delegated powers to maintain roadside verges. The vast majority were maintained by ECC, but a small number were kept by the parishes. She said at this time of year it was particularly dangerous on the numerous single track country lanes that could be found across the District. She asked why all parishes were not delegated the power to maintain roadside verges.

Councillor Rolfe said there was a lack of certainty relating to what areas ECC were responsible for and this needed to be clarified before entering into a dialogue on the delegation of powers to parishes/town councils.

Action: To clarify the areas in which ECC maintained roadside verges.

Action: David Hill said he would take this point back to ECC and check on the specifics, as well as look into any contractual issues that may arise.

5. Programme of structural road

Councillor Rolfe said residents of Uttlesford had difficulty with ECC customer service, with particular focus on the reporting of potholes. He

**maintenance in
Uttlesford**

said that the current system had members of the public reporting potholes online, but there was no tracking system, nor was there any follow up correspondence from an ECC member of staff. He said this needed to be significantly improved and a tracking system should be implemented to allow people to track the progress of their complaint. He added that the issue of potholes could be delegated to a lower division of government to improve accountability and efficiency.

Councillor Barker said Councillor Bentley was looking into the current contractual situation with the maintenance provider.

**6. Future agenda
items**

- Councillor Redfern said the distribution of **Disability Funding Grants** was unfair; UDC was allocated £165,000 but spent £360,000. The Chairman confirmed that this could be brought back for discussion to the next meeting.
- Councillor Sheldon proposed bringing a written report on the **roll out of Broadband** across the District.
- Councillor Rolfe proposed the topic of **prevention in public health** for the next agenda, including a health update on primary and community care in Uttlesford. The Chairman agreed and said this would link with the **Special Education healthcare plans** that could also be brought to the next meeting.

7. AOB

Dawn French said future meetings of the Locality Board would alternate between the UDC Council Offices and County Hall.

The next meeting would take place at County Hall on 5 November 2018, at 4.00pm.

The meeting finished at 5.45pm.