

# Supplementary Council Agenda



## Epping Forest District Council

### **Council Thursday, 27th September, 2012**

**Place:** Civic Offices, High Street, Epping  
**Room:** Council Chamber  
**Time:** 7.30 pm  
**Committee Secretary:** Council Secretary: Ian Willett  
Tel: 01992 564243 Email:  
democraticservices@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

#### **9. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS UNDER NOTICE (Pages 3 - 4)**

To answer the attached questions asked after notice in accordance with the provisions contained in paragraph 10.3 of the Council Procedure Rules of the Constitution on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the District:

- (a) to the Chairman of the Council;
- (b) to the Leader of the Council;
- (c) to the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or
- (d) to any Member of the Cabinet;.

Council Procedure rule 10.4 provides that answers to questions under notice may take the form of:

- (a) direct oral answer;
- (b) where the desired information is in a publication of the Council or other published work, a reference to that publication; or
- (c) where the reply cannot conveniently be given orally, a written answer circulated later to the questioner.

Answers to questions falling within (a) and (b) above will be made available to the member asking the question one hour before the meeting. Answers to questions falling within (c) above will be circulated to all councillors.

This page is intentionally left blank

## **(i) Pyrles Lane Nursery, Loughton**

### **Question from Councillor Angold-Stephens to Councillor Breare-Hall, Environment Portfolio Holder**

“As a consequence of the application for outline planning permission to build houses on the Pyrles Lane Nursery site, Loughton, it is proposed to move the plant nursery to a much smaller site -

(a) .Does Councillor Breare –Hall agree that downsizing the nursery so that the skilled horticultural staff are no longer able to grow their own plants to enhance the district, is a retrogressive step, and that even if a cost saving can be demonstrated, it is not environmentally sound to only use expensive imported plants; and

(b) Small plants bought in to grow on, also eventually need space, so does he further agree that in the current climate of self-sufficiency and sustainability, the Council should be seeking an adequate site to grow its own plants thereby setting a good example of Localism at work in the district?”

## **(ii) Loughton High Road**

### **Question from Councillor Mann to Councillor Waller, Safer, Greener and Highways Portfolio Holder**

“(a) What pressure if any, is being put on the County Council to rejuvenate Loughton High Road, which is now beginning to look in quite a bad state of repair, many broken pavers that have become trip hazards, many displaced kerb stones, several places where pavers have been lifted and replaced with tarmac that has sunk and have also become trip hazards, chewing gum or similar that have become in-grained; and

(b) What is the annual maintenance budget for Loughton High Road both for EFDC and ECC responsibilities?”

## **(iii) Town Centre Partnerships**

### **Question from Councillor Angold-Stephens to Councillor Grigg, Asset Mangement and Economic Dvelopment Portfolio Holder**

“(a) Can the Asset Management and Economic Development Portfolio Holder explain why the Council failed to provide its normal grants in time for the events planned by the various TCP’s in 2011, the result of which was that the chairmen had to subsidise the events out of their own pocket for several months and, in the case of Debden, the summer Debden Day event had to be cancelled? The absence of the appropriate officer should have been no excuse as their duties should have been delegated to another officer during their absence. Fortunately TCP funding did come through in time this year; and

(b) Can the Portfolio Holder assure members and the TCP’s that the problems that occurred in 2011 will not happen in future?”

#### (iv) Loughton Broadway Parking Review

##### Question from Councillor Girling to Councillor Waller. Safer, Greener and Highways Portfolio Holder

“My apologies but as a newly appointed ward Councillor for Loughton Broadway with some significant transport experience I would appreciate your answers to the following:

The footfall of commuters using Epping, Debden (Loughton Broadway) and Buckhurst Hill London Underground stations are:

	TfL LU Performance updates 2003-2011				Population	Schools	Net cost £
	2008	2009	2010	2011			
Buckhurst Hill	1.600m	1.722m	1.790m	1.850m	10,738	3 pr & 0 Sec	610,006
Epping	2.480m	2.780m	2.860m	3.100m	11,047	5 pr & 1 Sec	624,650
Loughton Broadway	1.760m	1.896m	2.020m	2.120m	13,445	3 Pr & 2 Sec	244,300
						<b>Total</b>	<b>1,478,956</b>

If the figures for Loughton Station are added the commuter footfall for Loughton and Debden is at least as much as Epping and Buckhurst Hill together.

Epping and Buckhurst Hill have now had the luxury of 2 parking reviews whilst Debden which has the most schools in one ward/area has been budgeted with less expenditure than both schemes and the Loughton review was scrapped altogether although, taken together with Debden, it is the part of the District with the highest demand for commuter parking. These schemes have been in the pipeline since 2004/5.

The new local plan focuses on areas where there is high population to propose new development, but planning Highways schemes, improvements and repairs are not prioritized in the same way. Surely, high population leads to high car use and therefore more pressure on the highway?

It seems ludicrous that Loughton Broadway has been singled out for significant housing and retail expansion (Langston Road and The Broadway Development) compared with Buckhurst Hill and yet we are third in line to receive a parking review.

According to the 'Parking Reviews in Epping, Buckhurst Hill and Loughton Broadway' report to Cabinet on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2010 £922,956 (page 26) was spent on these three reviews in 2010.

(a) Can the Portfolio Holder confirm that after spending in excess of £75k of tax payers' money (Oct 2010 figure) on drafting the Loughton Broadway Parking Review, the scheme will continue, with an agreed timeline for implementation; and

(b) Has the Portfolio Holder considered any other way of expediting the Loughton Broadway parking review bearing in mind the Highways stated manpower limitations?