

Supplementary Council Agenda



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Council Tuesday, 28th April, 2009

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

7. REPORTS FROM THE LEADER, CHAIRMAN OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET (Pages 3 - 4)

To receive the attached report from the Civil Engineering and Maintenance Portfolio Holder on matters falling within his area of responsibility.

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Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 28 April 2009

Subject: Civil Engineering and Maintenance Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Richard Bassett

Item: 7(c)

Recommending:

That the report of the Civil Engineering and Maintenance Portfolio Holder be noted

This has been a very active period with many issues and activities needing to be handled.

Firstly you will see on the Council agenda a report which will enable the setting up of the Localism Highways Panel. We have been working to enable us to have input into how the highways budget is spent in the district and I have already had many suggestions for schemes and current issues which members would like considered. I shall be working with Officers and Highways to create a single list which will be input for the first Panel meeting.

I can also report that TRO14 and TRO14A have now been sealed by county. We had some last moment issues as we had some extra items in TRO14A which we were not aware of and also we needed some clarification on some of the items in TRO14. All of these are now solved and signed off. Progress on these works will now start.

Following some considerable pressure we have received a copy of the revised Epping parking review however we have been asked by Essex County Council (ECC) to have another look to see if we could help further with commuter parking. We are double checking any options as requested and we envisage public consultation in June. We have just received the Buckhurst Hill review and we are checking for obvious omissions from our discussions. We are also expecting the Broadway review imminently and possibly at the next review meeting with Highways which is 28 April. I shall be working to create a firm public consultation timetable which I will publish in the Bulletin.

Whilst discussing parking ECC are reviewing the enforcement agency and we have now received our notice of termination. This expires on 31 March 2011. It appears likely that ECC will be happy for us to carry on and indeed we do not have to wait for the full two years notice to expire before a decision is made. However we will wait for the next few months and let ECC do their review and see what their comments are before progressing.

There have been several requests to look at concessionary fares and see if we could make Underground travel free to residents over 65 similar to the London Freedom pass. Along with officers we have looked into this in detail and provided a report to O&S. Unfortunately it would appear the cost to the Council would be very high and not practical in these tough economic times. We have also looked at extra possibilities which may help but these will be included in a formal response from the O&S Committee. Also it is worth remembering that Concessionary Fares will be administrated directly by ECC from 1 April 2009 and as such we will be paying them an agreed amount for our passes issued and anything extra we do will have to be negotiated by EFDC direct with TFL.

Following the issues with Land Drainage maintenance and the flooding earlier this year it has been agreed that we need to maintain the standby arrangements. We also entered into discussions with the Environment Agency on ownership of some of the drainage assets, what is expected by a maintenance contract and the whole issue of responsibility for works. The meeting made it clear to us that even if we had won the tendering exercise for standby support EFDC would doubtless have been required to take more riparian responsibility with the EA meeting less of the costs.. There is clearly some confusion around the duties of undertakers –v- enforcement agencies –v- riparian owners. Following the events at Clifton Road, EA, with some reluctance, probably accepted that their contractor's response was less than satisfactory. They have also agreed to consider installing telemetry at Clifton Road as part of their existing network.

Whilst not included in the report at this time, you will be aware that the Government has pretty much accepted the findings of the Pitt Review on responses to flooding, which will place additional burdens on the Council. We will need to consider and address all of these issues during 2009