

# Supplementary Council Agenda



**Epping Forest  
District Council**

## **Council Tuesday, 24th April, 2007**

**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](mailto:iwillett@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)

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### **6. REPORTS FROM THE LEADER, CHAIRMAN OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET (Pages 3 - 6)**

To receive the attached reports:

- (f) Report of Environmental Protection Portfolio Holder;
- (j) Supplementary Report of Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder.

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## ***Report to the Council***

**Committee: Cabinet**

**Subject: Environmental Protection Portfolio**

**Date: 24 April 2007**

**Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mrs M Sartin**

**Item: 6 (f)**

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### **Recommending:**

That the report of the Environmental Protection Portfolio Holder be noted.

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### **Bobbingworth Tip**

Work has now begun on this project, with the bellmouth entrances being completed in anticipation of soil imports beginning this week. Work has also been carried out on the Moreton Road to improve the signage and put in a passing place.

A further newsletter has been distributed to the local residents giving them an update on the work so far and information on the haulage contractors who will be travelling to and from the site.

### **Smoke Free Legislation**

A seminar for Epping and Harlow businesses is being organised jointly by EFDC, Harlow Council and the West Essex PCT on 8<sup>th</sup> June. This will be an opportunity for businesses to get an update on the legal requirements of the Act and be given information on what support will be available to them from the Councils and the PCT.

### **Review of Taxi Licensing**

It is proposed to carry out a wide-ranging review of the licensing of taxis within the District. To this end, officers in the licensing department are collecting information from other authorities to help formulate proposals to form the basis for consultation with the taxi trade, members and other interested parties.

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## ***Report to the Council (Supplement)***

**Committee: Cabinet**

**Date: 24th April 2007**

**Subject: Planning and Economic Development Portfolio**

**Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mrs A Grigg      Item: 6(j)**

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### **Recommending:**

That the report of the Planning and Economic Development Holder be noted.

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### **Loughton Town Centre Enhancement -Trees**

I refer to my previous reports on the Loughton Town Centre Enhancement when I advised you that the District Council was commissioning a radar check on the services in the Centric Parade area in order to establish whether there was adequate space to plant replacement trees. In addition, legal advice was being sought regarding the ownership of the area of land in question and the possibility of the Council claiming adverse possession in the event that ownership of the land was not established.

The analysis of the radar investigations shows appropriate space between services etc for only one semi mature tree. However, our Legal Services have advised that the land where we wish to plant the tree is not registered with the Land Registry and that the shops in question only own up to the frontage. The District Council is unable to claim "adverse possession" as the land is not enclosed and we are not the sole user of the land.

In addition, Legal Services have also pointed out that if this Council planted a tree on land not within the Council's ownership, should an incident involving the tree occur (e.g. a branch falling on someone) this could expose the District Council to potential liability if a claim were made.

This is very disappointing news but the issue of the ownership/control of the land is unfortunately very complicated. Given what I have said about potential liability, it is prudent for this Council to satisfy itself that any action it proposes does not expose the Council to the risk of challenge. The Council's Officers will continue to look into the ownership issues with a view to finding a satisfactory outcome.

### **Town Centre Partnerships**

I am pleased to advise that support has been given to The Loughton Broadway Town Centre Partnership in the form of an allocation of £2,000 towards the holding of Debden Day. It was considered particularly important to support this event in the light

of the difficulties being experienced by the Broadway Traders at this time. In the past Debden Day has been a very successful event and I hope that this year's event will again be well supported.

A further £2,000 has been granted to Loughton High Road Town Centre Partnership in support of HOWZAT Cricket Festival. This event has been running in Loughton for two years and has attracted a large attendance. Again I hope this will be a very successful event.