

Supplementary Committee Agenda



Overview and Scrutiny Committee Monday, 28th February, 2011

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping

Time: 7.30 pm

Committee Secretary: Simon Hill, Senior Democratic Services Officer, The Office of the Chief Executive
email: shill@eppingforestdc.gov.uk Tel: 01992 564249

7. CALL IN - CABINET DECISION ON TOWN CENTRES OFFICER POST AND THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF TOWN CENTRES (Pages 3 - 6)

To consider late representatives from the Loughton Town Centre Partnership and the Waltham Abbey Town Centre Business Association

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**LOUGHTON HIGH ROAD
TOWN CENTRE PARTNERSHIP**
WORKING FOR THE PROSPERITY OF LOUGHTON HIGH ROAD

Please reply to the Chairman

Members of the Oversight and Scrutiny Committee
Epping Forest District Council

Dear Councillors,

Re: Town Centre Officer

It has come to my attention that Epping Forest District Council has decided to allow the contract for the TCO to expire in July, for financial reasons. I am shocked and extremely disappointed at this decision and I will comment on the reasons for my opinion.

Firstly, the position of TCO, since its inception as a result of the Section 106 agreement relating to Sainsbury's in Loughton, has been invaluable to Loughton High Road TCP (and other TCP's), despite the comings and goings of various personnel. Examples of this has been the establishment of the Howzat cricket festival, the forging of links with larger local businesses, the strong relationship with the local High Road churches, and the re-establishment of Christmas Lighting, to name but a few. The progress would definitely have been stronger and faster had we had a TCO in office all of the time, rather than intermittently. In fact, during the longish spell of not having had a TCO (before the arrival of Cathy MacBride), the morale and the activities of the TCP reached very low ebb.

Secondly, the arrival of Cathy has brought a new dimension to our activities. Strategic initiatives, invaluable professional guidance, a keen marketing eye, and a wealth of experience have been the hallmark of her tenure as TCO, and the Partnership is beginning to benefit from these attributes.

Thirdly, I am surprised that EFDC has chosen this moment to cancel this contract. Local shops and businesses will need more support, not less, during the dark days ahead. I understand that EFDC has to make some savings, but as far as I am aware they are in a much better financial position than many Local Authorities, and the position of TCO would seem to me to be both affordable and desirable.

Lastly, having praised both the position of TCO and the individual performance of Cathy MacBride let me say that the activities of the LHRTCP, and the support that we can give to the people and businesses in the High Road, will be seriously affected if this decision is allowed to stand.

I strongly recommend that this decision is urgently reviewed and reversed as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Sheen
Chairman

Chairman: Peter Sheen, 4, Cherston Gardens, Loughton, Essex IG10 3PN Tel: 020 8502 2149 Fax: 020 8925 0034
Secretary: Doreen Corsi, 8, Spur Close, Abridge, Essex RM4 1DS Tel/Fax: 01992 813150
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Dear Mr Hill & Mr Lunnun,

I was hoping our views maybe taken into consideration for the decision to not renew the contract for the Town Centre Manager Post.

Recently, a Town Centre Business Association has been formed with 46 members representing 40 businesses. The Group has been set up with the sole purpose of improving the commerce in Waltham Abbey Town Centre. Cathy has been instrumental in helping us with this process and her ideas and suggestions have been a great help. At a time when many of the business are extremely concerned about their futures, we feel it would be a great shame to no longer receive this support from EFDC.

Kind regards

Gavin Ward

(Chair of the TCBA)

Director

Henry Ward Property Solutions Ltd

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