

Supplementary Council Agenda



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Council Tuesday, 22nd April, 2008

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 - 10)

To receive the following reports:

- (d) Report of Community Wellbeing Portfolio Holder;
- (e) Report of Environmental Protection Portfolio Holder; and
- (i) Supplementary report of Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder.

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Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 22 April 2008

Subject: Community Wellbeing Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Ms S-A Stavrou

Item: 7(d)

Recommending:

That the report of the Community Wellbeing Portfolio Holder be noted

(a) Safer Communities Issues

Overall, figures show that crime is going down in the Epping Forest District and detection rates are going up. The overall crime level has fallen by 10%, anti-social behaviour by 11% and detection rates have risen from 2004 figures by 28%.

Limes Farm

On Limes Farm the Special Action Group is working well through its three sub-groups; community engagement, environment and communications. Anti-social behaviour has dropped by 20% and complaints have reduced since November last. However, some of this downturn could be due to the weather. It is reported that criminal damage and graffiti on the estate has significantly reduced.

Buckhurst Hill Underpass

Meetings have taken place between EFDC, British Transport Police and LUL representatives regarding works to the underpass.

CDRPS Assessment

The Council is required to act as the Lead Authority in the development of the annual Crime & Disorder Partnership Assessment. The final document has to be published by April 2008. An Executive Summary is being prepared alongside a partnership plan and this will be available shortly.

Renewal of Dispersal Orders

Both dispersal orders were renewed from 1 March in a seamless transition to the two preceding orders. Both will remain in force until 1 August. These are the only two orders live in the District and this should ensure more rigorous policing.

Youth Council

An application for submission to the Youth Council is currently being completed in order to facilitate our interaction with the Youth Council and this is being processed as quickly as possible.

Neighbourhood Policing 'On The Buses'

A new Transport Action Group has been formed to work in partnership to address any anti-social behaviour or issues regarding transport. These measures have been taken to ensure travelling on public transport in the Epping Forest area remains a safe and enjoyable experience.

(b) National Concessionary Bus Pass Scheme

At the Cabinet Meeting of 12 November 2007 it was decided that the benefits to be provided to pass holders in the district should be as set out in the National Scheme. The National Scheme has a start time of 9.30am and does not include provision for companion passes. Since then, petitions have been made at the Council and to individual members to bring forward the start time to 9.00am and to include passes for companions. It was argued that adhering to the national guidelines disadvantaged many communities who suffered from restricted bus services and also those with the greatest mobility problems.

The original decision was subsequently reviewed and at the Cabinet Meeting on 14 April it was agreed:-

- (i) That the Council enter into negotiations with Essex County Council and bus operators to amend the start time of the concessionary bus pass scheme in the Epping Forest District from the statutory time of 9.30am to the earlier time of 9am; and
- (ii) That in addition to the statutory benefits of the National Scheme the Council further enhance the scheme by offering companion passes, although such passes will only be issued to applicants in receipt of the higher rate of the mobility element of Disability Living Allowance (or for those over 65 in receipt of attendance allowance).

Following on from this decision, negotiations have been undertaken successfully with Essex County Council, MCL and the operators and the change to 9am and the issuing of companion passes should now take effect from 1 May. This slight delay is necessary to enable operators to revise their instructions to drivers.

(c) Grant Aid

I am pleased to confirm that after the last Grant Aid allocation the remaining balance in this year's budget is £395. Applications are still being received and will be considered in the forthcoming year.

(d) Emergency Planning

The Pitt Review

The Cabinet, at their meeting on the 10 March, received a comprehensive report of the 15 recommendations and over 70 interim conclusions contained in The Pitt Review. The Council's response to these was agreed and this has been

communicated to the Pitt Review Team. We are now awaiting the final report by Sir Michael Pitt that is due to be published in June or July this year. I would remind members that Cabinet have agreed that any implications arising out of the final report will be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

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Report to the Council

Subject: Environmental Protection Portfolio

Date: 22 April 2008

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mrs M Sartin

Item: 7(e)

Recommending:

That the report of the Environmental Protection Portfolio Holder be noted

Bobbingworth Tip

Following the winter period of relative inactivity on the site, work will shortly recommence on the importation of soil. It had been hoped that this work would have begun slightly earlier in April but with the continued rainfall the ground has been too wet to allow the access of HGVs onto the site.

Leaflets are being delivered to the residents of Shelley to make them aware that work will be restarting and giving them new numbers for contact if there are any problems.

Despite the lack of heavy work taking place there has been considerable planting on the edges of the site which Countrycare have been involved in.

Pest Control Contract

With the end of the current Pest Control Contract, notices were issued for interested companies to submit tenders for the new contract. Three tenders were received and were scrutinised on a 50% quality, 50% pricing basis and as a result of this the contract was awarded to Predator Pest Control plc at a cost of £42,000.

Summer Waste Collections

With the coming of May household residual waste collections will be reverting to a weekly cycle. The Council has issued press releases reminding residents about these arrangements and new calendars will be delivered to all homes in the District over the next few days and before the start of the summer arrangements on 6 May, following the May Bank Holiday. Weekly collections will operate for 22 weeks (until Friday 3 October 2008).

Essex Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy

I would remind members that this document is currently out for consultation and that there is the opportunity to respond as individuals. There is also the chance to participate in the discussions which will take place at the Environment and Planning Standing Panel which will have this strategy as an agenda item at their meeting on Thursday of this week. The outcome of discussions at this meeting will form the basis of a formal response from the Council.

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Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 22 April 2008

Subject: Planning and Economic Development Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mrs A Grigg

Item: 7(i)

Recommending:

That the supplementary report of the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Economic Development be noted

Loughton Town Centre Enhancement Scheme

The LTCE scheme has now been signed off and taken into maintenance by Essex County Council. A report will be brought to a future Cabinet Meeting setting out the final account. Representations have been made to Cllr Norman Hume, Essex County Council Portfolio Holder for Highways regarding acceptance by the County Council of the unregistered land in Loughton High Road to enable the planting of trees.

Essex County Council will undertake works to remove the fifth arm of the "Morrison" junction as part of their congestion management programme.

Loughton Broadway Town Centre Enhancement Scheme

A report was brought to the April Cabinet regarding the BTCE scheme. Members will recollect that the scheme was delayed by the discovery that the gas main was much closer to the surface than originally indicated by National Grid Gas. National Grid Gas have now agreed our Method Statement for working in close proximity of their gas main. The scheme, which is within budget, was given Cabinet approval on 14 April to proceed, subject to the necessary approvals by the County Council.

Loughton Broadway Development and Design Brief

The Development and Design Brief has been received from Urban Practitioners, our Consultants, who gave a short presentation on their proposals to increase vitality in the locality at the Cabinet Meeting on 14th April. Included within their proposals, was the integration of the bus facilities with the station, which would mean that the buses would no longer park on Vere Road or Burton Road; provision of a much better pedestrian link between the shops and the station; the possibility of mews development with under-croft parking as well as the opportunity to develop town centre flats within walking distance of the shops and station. The possibility of high quality development on the two corner sites

of the Broadway and Chigwell Lane which could not only improve the link to the two roads but also provide Key Landmark buildings. It was acknowledged that there is a good range of shops in The Broadway and proposals will be looked at to complement the existing shops. There will be approx. 8 weeks public consultation on the proposals commencing from 1 May 2008.

Telecommunications Masts

Planning Services recently arranged a training course for Members regarding telecommunication masts. This was very useful to Members who attended. The independent consultant gave very useful information on designing mobile telephone systems, new radio systems, published planning guidance, health and safety issues, siting and design. This explained why additional masts were required to meet the increased coverage demand. If there is sufficient demand another course will be held in the future.