

**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
NOTES OF A MEETING OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANNING SERVICES STANDING
SCRUTINY PANEL
HELD ON TUESDAY, 26 JUNE 2007
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CIVIC OFFICES, HIGH STREET, EPPING
AT 7.30 - 8.25 PM**

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| Members Present: | Mrs P Smith (Chairman), D Bateman (Vice-Chairman), Mrs A Cooper, R Bassett, R Frankel, P House, Mrs P Richardson, H Ulkun and Mrs L Wagland |
| Other members present: | Councillor Mrs D Borton, K Chana, Mrs A Grigg, Mrs M Sartin and J M Whitehouse |
| Apologies for Absence: | J Knapman (Vice Chairman of Council) and M Woollard |
| Officers Present | P Sutton (Asst Head of Planning Services (Forward Planning & Environment)) and Z Folley (Democratic Services Assistant) |

12. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Pursuant to the Council's Code of Member Conduct, Councillors R Bassett and Mrs A Cooper declared a personal interest in agenda item 5 (Nazeing Focus Day). The Councillors determined that their interest was non prejudicial.

13. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

None reported.

14. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING - 26 APRIL 2007

Noted.

The Local Service Agreement was being rewritten and since the last meeting new information on this had become available. The Chairman of the Panel, Councillor Mrs P Smith, had attended a meeting with the Leader of the Council and the new County Portfolio Holder Councillor R Hume on such issues. She referred to his intention to consult the District on this during the late summer with a view to finalising a new agreement in Autumn 2007.

15. TERMS OF REFERENCE / WORK PROGRAMME

(a) Essex County Joint Waste Procurement Process

County presentation to be given to this weeks Council meeting on the County Wide Waste Strategy. Members encouraged to attend.

(b) East of England Plan

Go – East had indicated that the East of England Plan would now not be published before the Autumn 2007 at the earliest. The Panel stressed the need for EFDC input into the preparation stage before it was published. An item had been placed in a recent Council Bulletin on this.

(c) Ongoing Traveller Issues

A minded to direct letter had been received from central government in relation to Gypsy and Traveller needs. As a result, the Local Development Framework (LDF) and the East of England Plan had been held back for approval. A report on these issues would be submitted to the Cabinet on 16 July 2007.

It was requested that consideration be given to progress with the action concerning the Payne's Lane Site, Nazeing. Clarification was sought on whether this was a separate work plan item or whether it fell under the existing Traveller provisions item. Democratic Services to check this.

(d) Planning Enforcement Performance - Statistics

It was noted that Performance Enforcement Statistics for action taken so far for the year 2007/08 were circulated with last weeks bulletin. The Panel were happy with the format.

(e) Climate Change – Report to 5 September meeting

It was expected that Jim Nolan and Lisa Ingram would lead on the above item.

16. FOCUS DAY 10 MARCH 2007 - REPORT OF FACILITATOR

The Panel received the draft report prepared by the facilitator together with a revised version of Appendix A listing the agreed proposals and suggested owners of the actions (tabled). The Panel considered each one of the tabled actions in turn and made the following comments:

Agreed that the names in the footnotes be put in brackets next to the relevant footnote number in the text for elucidation.

Agreed that the actions in the 'suggested owner' column be ascribed to the organisation involved not individuals.

Paragraph 15 – Subsection on Enforcement – A Member questioned the accuracy of some of the facts concerning Dobbs Weir Road. Attention was drawn to the role of the Police in addressing the problems. It was suggested that this issue should be raised in action point 5 of the tabled Appendix A. Stressed that the Police be sent a copy of report.

Agreed that County Councillor A Jackson should receive a copy of the final report of the study when produced in view of his Chairmanship of the Epping Police and Community Consultative Group.

Paragraph 8.9 Essex County Council Freight Study – the County was in the process of trying to come up with a strategy to regulate movement of goods, HGV activity across the county. This might be launched this Summer 2007. Clarification was sought on the timetable for the consultation period. There was a need to establish whether the study was still at preparation stage or whether it was out for consultation. It questioned whether there were in fact two studies in production - one on Freight and a separate second one for Traffic. **Action** P Sutton to make available timetable for the study.

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Councillor R Bassett reported that the West Essex Highways Office had filmed a number of set points in the area to gather information on the problems. They were happy to share their findings. He would be attending a meeting on this. The Nazeing Action Group had been asked to carry out a further traffic study of the area.

A Member claimed that some of the actions specified for the plan had been omitted from the report and referred to an e-mail sent to officers detailing his points.

It was noted that the facilitator would circulate the final version of the report to members. The draft might be subject to change in view of the need to take on board the findings of local studies. County Councillor A Jackson should be consulted on the draft to ascertain his views.

The Panel agreed to hold the task of monitoring the actions in abeyance until after receipt of the outstanding information and the final version of the action plan/full report.

The Panel agreed that a small group of members (say 3-4) should meet to consider the final version once received and report back to the next full meeting of the Panel on 5 September 2007. Councillors Mrs P Smith, R Bassett, Mrs A Cooper and the Portfolio Holder Mrs A Grigg expressed an interest in partaking in this informal meeting.

ACTION:

Democratic Services to arrange date for sub-group meeting.

Final report to be submitted to next meeting of the Panel on 5 September 2007.

17. REPORTS TO BE MADE TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Reports for next OSC – Chairman's briefing on tonight's discussion.

18. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Noted that the following issues were due to be considered at the next meeting on 5 September 2007:

- (a) Nazeing Focus Group – Final report
- (b) Position report on Highway issues as requested at last meeting on 26 April 2007
- (c) Clean Neighbourhoods/Rogers Review
- (d) Climate Change – Council motion 24 April 2007.
- (e) Minutes of last meeting of Joint Waste Committee.

19. FUTURE MEETINGS

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29 October,
20 December 2007,
28 February, 2008
23 April 2008