

**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
NOTES OF A MEETING OF SAFER, CLEANER, GREENER SCRUTINY PANEL
HELD ON TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2014
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CIVIC OFFICES, HIGH STREET, EPPING
AT 7.30 - 9.25 PM**

Members Present:	Mrs J Lea (Chairman), Mrs H Brady (Vice-Chairman), K Chana, Mrs R Gadsby, L Mead, S Neville, Mrs M Sartin, D Stallan (Housing Portfolio Holder) and B Surtees
Other members present:	W Breare-Hall, A Mitchell MBE, G Waller, Mrs J H Whitehouse and J M Whitehouse
Apologies for Absence:	R Jennings, Ms Y Knight and Mrs E Webster (Vice Chairman of Council)
Officers Present	J Chandler (Assistant Director (Community Services)), K Durrani (Assistant Director (Technical Services)), A Hendry (Democratic Services Officer), J Nolan (Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)) and C Wiggins (Safer Communities Manager)

1. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

It was reported that Councillor D Stallan was substituting for Councillor E Webster.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

3. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The notes of the 15 April 2014 meeting were agreed as a correct record.

4. ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS - EPPING FOREST DISTRICT

The Chairman welcomed Adam Pipe, the Casualty Reduction Manager from Essex Police and PS Simon Willshire. They were there to talk about the work Essex Police were doing with the road traffic collisions data for the Epping Forest area.

Firstly Mr Pipe gave an overview of the Epping Forest area. He noted that the traffic section were having a difficult time as they were not seen as a priority by central government and had to deal with cuts in their resource budgets. They were to get down to 80 from the current 160 officers for the County and to 10 motorcycle units, with only 2 officers responsible for commercial vehicles. They were also down to 9 special constables responsible for casualty reduction.

The meeting noted that his section was also responsible for the road side safety cameras and carried out camera offences investigations. The cameras were not just for fines, a lot of the people caught this way were told to take safety courses by the courts.

His section was based at South Woodham, where they coordinated multi agency operations targeting commercial vehicles or young drivers or speeding motorists.

Part of their job was to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) on Essex roads through enforcement, education and engagement. Partly this would be down to the maximum use of re-education for the low end offenders and ensuring, where possible, that top end offenders were brought to justice. They also identified those persons who used the road network to commit crime. To continue to do these tasks they had to ensure that they were fit for purpose and were capable of delivering effective and professional roads policing.

They were creating all sorts of courses for low level offenders from cyclists, to motorcyclists and drivers, all based around educating them and modifying their behaviour. The meeting noted that a disproportionate 26% of KSIs were motorcyclists who made up only a small percentage of motorised road traffic. They were also noticing an increase in drunk drivers at present. The accidents were all plotted on an 'ACCSMAP' system that identified the position of all collisions and also recorded the reasons behind them. In the Epping Forest area, in 2014 so far there had been 35 KSIs. There had been 40 for 2013. As for cyclists, so far this year there have been substantially less KSIs than last year, which was encouraging. There had been quite a few pedestrian accidents so far this year especially in the Loughton area, a densely populated urban area.

Julie Chandler, the Assistant Director Community Services, asked if the figures could be broken down by day and time. Mr Pipe said that yes they could be if needed. They used this data to direct what they are going to do.

Mr Pipe finally showed the break down of KSI and slightly injured accidents of the surrounding main roads for the district for the past 36 months. The M11 had 23 KSIs and 151 slights; the M25 had 17 KSIs and 149 slights; with the A414 having 15 KSIs and 54 slightly injured. He noted that he could provide any level of information that could be asked for.

The meeting was then opened up to questions from the members present.

Councillor Sartin noted that a few years ago there had been a high level of KSIs on the rural roads in the area; did he have any figures on this. Mr Pipe said he could provide it if needed. There had been a lot of problems in the rural areas, especially along the Crooked Mile. They were now promoting a 50mph speed limit and were keeping it under surveillance. Bumbles Green had a lot of issues a few years ago and they put in double white lines down the centre of the road and this had taken away a lot of those issues.

Councillor Stallan noted that they have an annual night time ride that runs through North Weald; there had been some fatalities some years ago. Over the years he had received some complaints about the noise and that they were riding 5 abreast. Mr Pipe agreed that they had problems with this ride over the years. They could not stop them from doing this ride, but only speak to and advise the organisers on the issues raised. Policing this also depended on the resources available.

Councillor Stallan then asked about the M11/M25 junction coming up from Dartford; Lorries and cars tended to cut across and go down the south bound exit. Mr Pipe said he would look into this.

Councillor Stallan noted that not all forest roads had the 40mph speed limit. Mr Pipe said that they depended on the local authorities for this; it would have to go through the Local Neighbourhood Highways Panel.

Councillor Stellan commented that the zebra crossing in North Weald had cars parking on the zig-zag lines and police cars were just passing them without doing anything about it; this had also been raised at the local NAPS. Mr Pipe said he would look into this. Part of his responsibilities was to let the ordinary beat officers know that they also have a responsibility for this type of enforcement.

Councillor Jon Whitehouse noted that the data showed only the serious accidents. Are the non KSI incidents, of which there were many, recorded? He was told that not all were recorded; for every one incident recorded, there were approximately five that were not. They were now looking at cluster points to put on their database, as they currently only have an old fashioned paper system for this. Their new system was web based with GPS plotting.

Councillor Jon Whitehouse asked about police liaisons with local communities and giving them access to speed guns etc. Mr Pipe noted that there was less speed enforcement being carried out at present, but they would be using smarter technology to make them more efficient.

Councillor Janet Whitehouse asked if figures could be provided for Fiddlers Hamlet and asked how double white lines could be put on the roads. She was told that these figures could be provided and that if she wanted road marking installed she would have to speak to the highways authority.

Councillor Janet Whitehouse asked how many speed cameras there were and was told that at present they had 100 static cameras, which were now being digitalised. They were looking to change driver attitudes and way of driving by their use. He noted that at present there were about 1420 people being investigated, which created a backlog in their system.

Councillor S Neville asked how many people reoffended after going on these courses. He was told that independent studies were being undertaken at present, preliminary results seem to show that they were not reoffending within a year.

Councillor S Neville then asked if there was anything to gain from training up members of the public to help the traffic police as has happened elsewhere. Mr Pipe noted that they were not withdrawing speed enforcement although 'Speedwatch' was happening more and more, using more recording devices and maybe at some time in the future volunteers would be trained to use these devices. They were being used by PCSO in Manchester at present.

Councillor H Brady commented that she was sad to hear they were down to 80 officers. Mr Pipe replied that nationally road policing had not been given priority by the government. Some forces did not even have a traffic department; these were challenging times.

Councillor Brady asked what happened to the money brought in by the fines and was told that it went into a national 'pot'.

Councillor Brady then asked if they would allow small villages to pay to have their own speed camera to be installed. She was told that was a good idea, although they were a county asset. Some villages now pay for cameras, but Essex County had to agree to it. The average speed system worked really well as they achieved better compliance than the spot cameras.

Councillor Brady wanted to know if the education courses were combined with fines and was told that they were. They were for the low end of offending.

Councillor B Surtees noted that there were a lot of signage that was obscured or just not there. He had been asking for improvements to signage and to zebra crossings for some time. Also, there were a lot of early morning bike races; could anything be done about them? Mr Pipe noted that there was a 'Ranger' service that went around clearing the obstruction from road signs. Any cycle races had to notify the traffic police. If you could let him know which race we would look into it.

Councillor Sartin asked about the major accidents on the M11, were there any investigations being undertaken as to why they happened. She was told that as traffic managers they were responsible for sorting out the incidents and investigating them thoroughly. If they have to close a road for a long period to aid their investigation then they would; even though they were pressured to open up the road before they were ready they would do what they had to in order to enable them to understand what had occurred.

Councillor Lea wanted to know if there were any volunteers working speed cameras within the Epping Forest District and if anything could be done about the cycle races held on the Crooked Mile as they tended to ride four abreast; could they be marshalled by some police motorcyclists. Mr Pipe replied that currently there were volunteers working at Stanford Rivers and this was currently under review. There were some races that they could marshal but not all. They did put pressure on the organisers to keep the riders in line. They needed to get their events organised properly.

Councillor Lea then asked if speed cameras could help on the Crooked Mile and was told that there were some areas where they could help. They could use speed data to help indicate where there were issues that needed to be addressed.

The Chairman called this part of the meeting to a close and thanked Mr Pipe and PS Willshire for their excellent presentation and responses to the Panels questions.

5. ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR CASE REVIEW MODEL

The Communities Safety Manager, Caroline Wiggins noted that new legislation on Anti-social Behaviour, the Crime and Policing Act 2014 (formally known as 'Community Triggers') received royal assent on 13 March 2014. The Act was designed to introduce simpler, more effective powers to tackle anti-social behaviour and provide better protection for victims and communities.

Within the Act are new responsibilities for the relevant bodies including the District Council, the police, clinical commissioning groups, health providers and registered social housing providers.

To ensure agencies took a more joined up, problem solving approach, Safer Essex had agreed to develop a consistent County-wide approach across all agencies who are involved in the use of the new legislation; providing victims of anti-social behaviour with a coherent and effective response regardless of where they lived in Essex.

It was important to note that the District Council would play a key pivotal role in this process by taking the lead over the other agencies, including Essex Police, in

recording, collating and responding to all Anti-social Behaviour Review requests from the public.

The new act allowed for local areas to set their own threshold to accommodate local needs and resources. Safer Essex has set a county wide threshold of 3 incidents of ASB within the last 6 months where the victim considers no action had been taken.

It was also agreed to adapt the Anti-Social Behaviour Case Review model to include a lower threshold where the victim perceives the ASB to be of a Hate Crime nature to 1 incident within last 6 months where the victim considers no action has been taken.

Ultimately this strategy would aim to achieve County-wide publicity to introduce the Case Review's being complemented by local publicity, press releases and website site information identifying local contacts and specific details for each District and Unitary authority, including dedicated telephone numbers and web pages.

She noted that there were currently a lot of neighbour disputes cases, with officers increasingly using mediation tactics to resolve them. Officers could review cases if needed and could send them up to the police panel for review.

Councillor Stallan asked how many cases they had a year and would be more of a problem if one of the neighbours had a council house and the other had a privately owned house. Mrs Wiggins replied that if they were council tenants her team would normally not get involved and would leave it to housing officers. In a housing tenant / private householder dispute her team would take the lead.

Councillor Jon Whitehouse commented that sometime it depended on the persons involved. Did you have links with the mental health authorities? Mrs Wiggins replied that it was difficult, if the person said they were fine there was nothing the police could do, the same went for mental health officers, sometimes we could do nothing.

RESOLVED:

That the Panel noted the progress made to develop and launch a County-wide approach to the Anti-social Behaviour Case Review model, prior to the anticipated implementation in October 2014.

6. WASTE CONTRACT UPDATE

The Assistant Director, Technical Services, Mr Durrani gave the meeting a rundown on the latest of the new waste management contract awarded to BIFFA. The Cabinet agreed on 19 May to award the contract to Biffa Municipal Limited. Following the publication of the decision on 21 May there was the Alcatel mandatory standstill period. This was to allow any unsuccessful bidder to challenge the decision made by the Council. It was noted that no challenges were made to the awarding of the contract and the contract had now been formally awarded to them. The unsuccessful bidders had a debrief session on 3rd July. This was attended by SITA, SERCO and Ubaser.

It was noted that:

- BIFFA's mobilisation team had been accommodated at the Langston Road Depot -Loughton;
- An officer's working party had been set up to oversee the transfer;

- The new contract was different to one the Council had with SITA, BIFFA would now supply their own dust carts, dry recycling sacks, wheelie bins and other containers. The officer group would oversee the mobilisation of the new contract.
- There were a number of key issues to be monitored closely: introduction of new information technology systems, TUPE transfer of all SITA staff, asset transfer, handover from SITA to BIFFA, the relocation from Langston Road Depot to BIFFA's two depots and the introduction of a four day collection service next year.

Further updates will be given when available.

Councillor Sartin commented that various District Councils in Essex have dropped in their recycling figures recently. How were we doing? Mr Durrani replied that we were close to last years figures, not yet at 60% but at about 59% at present. We are one of the highest performing councils nationally. We are looking at recycling in flats to increase our figures.

Councillor Sartin then commented that she had noticed that children's education in recycling was not high on BIFFA's priorities. Councillor Breare-Hall noted that they were the weakest on this at the interviews. He stated that he would be raising this with BIFFA at the Waste Management Partnership Board meetings.

Councillor Janet Whitehouse noted that they would now collect tetra packs© along with glass. Mr Durrani noted that tetra packs© would be collected with dry recycling and as present, in clear plastic sacks, whereas glass would be in blue boxes. BIFFA will also do only one pass and pick them up all up in one go. They would also collect small electrical items.

Councillor Stallan said it was good to have publicity on this and suggested that we should match our bin colours with other councils to avoid confusion. Councillor Waller noted that Germany had standard bin colours for the whole country and this saved them a lot of money by mass buying the bins.

7. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND WORK PROGRAMME

Terms of Reference

The Panel noted their Terms of Reference and asked for the Leisure Board Minutes to be included as they had been agreed by the main O&S Committee.

Work Programme

Noted that the Panel would like an update on item 9, recycling in flats and multi-occupational dwellings. They noted that the Council's House Building Programme should include the need for relevant bin storage areas in their design. Also guidance was being developed for the planning protocols.

Councillor Surtees considered that there were bigger issues on new builds and there could be cause to have standard questions on planning applications. Councillor Stallan noted that a proposal like this should be addressed via a PICK form.

Councillor Neville wondered when the Panel would receive their next update of items 6 and 7, progress against Climate Local Agreement and progress against carbon reduction strategy. Councillor Waller noted that the officer was still work on these items and should be able to provide figures for the next meeting.

It was also noted that any minutes of the Green Working Party and the Waste Working Party should come to this Panel for information.

8. NOTES OF THE BOBBINGWORTH, FORMER LANDFIL SITE, LOCAL LIAISON GROUP - MINUTES

The Panel noted the minutes of the Bobbingworth, Former Landfill Site, Local Liaison Group for 27 March 2013 and 17 April 2014.

Panel members were urged to visit the site now that it was in full flower, it may be that this could be tied into a visit of the new waste sites.

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

There were no particular items to be submitted to the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

10. FUTURE MEETINGS

The future scheduled meetings of the Panel were noted.