

Scrutiny Panel Agenda



SCRUTINY

 Epping Forest District Council

Safer, Cleaner, Greener Scrutiny Panel Tuesday, 15th July, 2014

You are invited to attend the next meeting of **Safer, Cleaner, Greener Scrutiny Panel**, which will be held at:

**Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping
on Tuesday, 15th July, 2014
at 7.30 pm .**

**Glen Chipp
Chief Executive**

**Democratic Services
Officer**

Adrian Hendry, Directorate of Governance
email: democraticservices@eppingforestdc.gov.uk Tel:
01992 564246

Members:

Councillors Mrs J Lea (Chairman), Mrs H Brady (Vice-Chairman), K Chana, Mrs R Gadsby, R Jennings, Ms Y Knight, L Mead, S Neville, Mrs M Sartin, B Surtees and Mrs E Webster

SUBSTITUTE NOMINATION DEADLINE:

18:30

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

(Director of Governance) To report the appointment of any substitute members for the meeting.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(Director of Governance). To declare interests in any items on the agenda.

In considering whether to declare a personal or a prejudicial interest under the Code of Conduct, Overview & Scrutiny members are asked pay particular attention to paragraph 11 of the Code in addition to the more familiar requirements.

This requires the declaration of a personal and prejudicial interest in any matter before an OS Committee which relates to a decision of or action by another Committee or Sub Committee of the Council, a Joint Committee or Joint Sub Committee in which the

Council is involved and of which the Councillor is also a member.

Paragraph 11 does not refer to Cabinet decisions or attendance at an OS meeting purely for the purpose of answering questions or providing information on such a matter.

4. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING (Pages 5 - 10)

To agree the notes of the last meeting held on 15th April 2014.

5. ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS - EPPING FOREST DISTRICT

To receive a presentation from Adam Pipe, the Casualty Reduction Manager, from Essex Police and PS Simon Willshire around the work Essex Police are doing on Road Traffic Collisions data for the Epping Forest area including hot spots etc. and provide an understanding of our enforcement and operational activity.

6. ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR CASE REVIEW MODEL (Pages 11 - 14)

(Director of Communities) To consider the attached report.

7. WASTE CONTRACT UPDATE

(Director of Neighbourhoods) To receive a verbal update on the waste contract.

8. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 15 - 18)

(Chairman / Lead Officer) The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has agreed the Terms of Reference of this Panel. This is attached along with a draft work programme. The Panel are asked at each meeting to review both documents.

9. NOTES OF THE BOBBINGWORTH, FORMER LANDFIL SITE, LOCAL LIAISON GROUP - MINUTES (Pages 19 - 26)

To note the attached set of minutes for 27 March 2013 and 17 April 2014.

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

To consider which reports (if any) are ready to be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its next meeting.

11. FUTURE MEETINGS

To note the future meeting dates of this Panel. They are:

07 October 2014;
06 January 2015;
24 February 2015; and
28 April 2015.

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**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
NOTES OF A MEETING OF SAFER, CLEANER, GREENER SCRUTINY STANDING
PANEL
HELD ON TUESDAY, 15 APRIL 2014
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CIVIC OFFICES, HIGH STREET, EPPING
AT 7.30 - 9.04 PM**

Members Present: Mrs J Lea (Chairman), Mrs H Brady (Vice-Chairman), K Angold-Stephens, R Butler, S Murray, Mrs P Smith and J M Whitehouse

Other members present: W Breare-Hall and G Waller

Apologies for Absence: K Avey, Mrs T Cochrane, G Chambers, L Girling, Ms Y Knight, Mrs M Sartin (Chairman of the Council) and P Spencer

Officers Present J Gilbert (Former Director of Environment and Street Scene), J Chandler (Assistant Director (Community Services)), P Gardener (Communities Safety Officer), J Harding (Partnership Analyst) and A Hendry (Democratic Services Officer)

32. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

It was reported that Councillor K Angold-Stephens was substituting for Councillor L Girling and that Councillor Jon Whitehouse was substituting for Councillor P Spencer.

33. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The notes of the 11 February 2014 meeting were agreed as a correct record.

34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declaration of interest were made.

35. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND WORK PROGRAMME

Mr Gilbert noted that he was here on behalf of Mr Hall, the Director of Communities who had to attend another meeting. He also noted that this was the last meeting of the year for this Panel. In reviewing the Panels terms of reference he noted that one of the problems this Panel had always faced was that they received minutes of the various meeting they were supposed to inspect too late for them to undertake any meaningful scrutiny. This was usually due to the fact that the meetings dates did not match up with this Panel's meeting dates and this meant that they were sometimes months in arrears. This was something that could be looked at in the new year when reviewing their terms of reference for the coming year. Councillor Murray agreed that we should find a better way to handle this problem of late minutes, although he would not like to lose the NEPP, Highways Panel or the Police and Crime Panel minutes, as they had proved useful. Councillor Smith was in accord with Councillor Murray's comments on this.

Councillor Waller noted that the present terms of reference did not mention 'Country Care', which should come under the Panels Green terms and they should be added in for completeness.

The Panel noted that all the Scrutiny Panels would be reviewed in the new year by a Task and Finish Panel looking at the future work of the Panels and how they could fit into the new directorate system.

36. PRESENTATION ON THE COMPARATIVE OVERVIEW OF CRIME IN THE DISTRICT BETWEEN 2012 AND 2013

The Community Safety Officer, Paul Gardener introduced Inspector Andy Fusher, Essex Police and Josie Harding the Partnership Analyst who were there to help with the presentation on the comparative overview of crime in the district in relation to our priority areas, between January and December 2013.

Ms Harding noted that these figures were for the calendar year 2013, to keep in line with what had recently been reported in the press. The meeting noted that Essex was split into three policing areas, North, West and South Local Policing Areas (LPA). Epping Forest District was in the West LPA, along with Harlow, Bentwood and Thurrock and was the only area showing a reduction in crime figures of 3%. Although overall, Essex had seen a 1% increase in crime during this time period. Epping Forest had the fourth largest reduction in crime, having seen 377 less offences committed in 2013.

It was noted that there were two types of burglary that were recorded, Domestic and other. Domestic burglary included all inhabited dwellings, including caravans, houseboats, holiday homes and sheds and garages connected to the main building. The other category included non-domestic places such as businesses, abandoned buildings, warehouses, and sheds and garages not connected to a dwelling. Epping Forest had the fourth largest reduction in Essex for domestic burglary, with a 18% reduction. Year on year this figure was getting lower. Out of an approximate 52,000 households in our district only 1% were the victim of domestic burglary. It was noted that burglary usually peaked in the winter months when you had darker evenings, this was the window of opportunity for the thieves as houses stood empty waiting for their occupants to return home from work.

Of the 'other' types of burglary, Epping had the sixth largest reduction in Essex, with a 10% reduction. It was also noted that less than 1% of the population in our district were victims. It was also noted that there had been a 6% reduction in vehicle crime in Epping in 2013.

Asked if 'millennium burglaries' i.e. breaking into a house to steal car keys, came under the heading of domestic burglary, Ms Harding replied that they did.

It was also noted that there had been a 30% reduction in repeat victims of Domestic Violence and over 50% reduction in repeat victims of domestic burglary. This was identified after a repeat visit 6 months after the initial crime had occurred. As for Anti Social Behaviour it was noted that we had the seventh lowest rate in Essex.

There had also been a public perception survey and this had identified that 81% were satisfied with their local area; 85% felt that they belonged to the neighbourhood; and 84% felt that hate crime violence was not a problem.

Councillor Lea asked about the turning of off street lights at night time and noted that there were more burglaries when it got darker. Ms Harding noted that the burglaries mostly occurred during the evenings before people got home. At present there was not much data on street lighting to make any assumptions. Inspector Fusher noted that in other areas such as Maldon, where they have had dark skies for some time (7 years), they had noted that there had been a about a 29% reduction in crime. They had turned on the lights in certain areas and had seen a rise in crime, so had turned them off again. They can be very specific as to where they turned on lights and have done so outside a certain shop that had been suffering anti-social behaviour. Councillor Waller added that this was an issue in many parts of Essex where street lights have been turned off. Theydon Bois has had a dark sky policy for some years and evidence could be gathered from there.

Councillor Murray noted that Loughton Station was lit up but the path by Great Eastern park was not. This footpath should be lit up from the station. Also, who carried out the public perception survey and what was the methodology used. Mr Gardener said that they had a sample size of 250; they had used various people to get responses and they were looking to get a better sample size in the future. Councillor Murray suggested that they could use the survey of Council House Tenants in the future to help in the public perception survey.

Councillor Murray noted the recent coverage in the press about police crime statistics. He wanted to know how reliable our statistics were. Ms Harding replied that our statistics did not come from the police but from the Home Office and was considered to be neutral, but it was quite broad in scope. Inspector Fusher noted that the data was unqualified and needed qualification. Recording of the figures was complicated and because of the way the data was collected and because of this it could count one crime as two.

Councillor Butler noted that people did not feel safe on dark streets and it could be dangerous just crossing the street. The presentation mentioned that an average cost of a burglary was over three thousand pounds, how was this figure arrived at? Mr Gardener said that they were Home Office estimates which looked at the entire cost from the courts, insurance, police time etc. It was not an exact science but they needed to equate costs to benefits. The benefit of having an analyst on our team was that they could drill down into the figures and get meaningful data, which was of great benefit to us.

Councillor Brady noted that it was an interesting presentation and that the crime figures for Epping were going down; for how many years have these figures been collected? Mr Gardener noted that we were obliged to carry out this analysis by the government and produce a plan. This has been going on since 2007, when this legislation came in. Councillor Brady noted that different areas have different sizes of population; how would that affect the figures. She was told that they did a year by year comparison so as not to skew the figures.

Councillor Smith noted that the Community Safety Partnership had invested a lot to make it work. Our team should be proud of the improvement in the district that they have helped put in place. Have we experienced any difficulties in co-ordinating with other partner authorities. Inspector Fusher noted that the main agencies work well together but the biggest help would be more NHS participation; but they have their own reasons why they cannot help us. They could help identify where violence occurs, be it in the pubs, clubs or the home, but they are beginning to help us and share information.

Councillor Smith noted that victims support in Essex had been restructured some years ago. Have they achieved their targets? Mr Gardener noted that we do not interact with this agency but had good links with the voluntary agencies 'Safer Places' dealing with domestic abuse. They have people in Accident and Emergency units to pick up on assaults and have shown up some hidden aspects of domestic abuse.

The Chairman thanked Ms Harding, Mr Gardener and Inspector Fusher for their interesting presentation and answering the Panels questions.

37. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ASSESSMENT 2014-15 AND THE EFDC COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN.

Following on from the presentation the Panel considered the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment for 2014-15.

Councillor Smith was happy to endorse this report. However it seemed not to explain how rural crime had been lowered. Mr Gardener said they had done it in association with the Farmers Neighbourhood Action Panel (NAP), tackling their concerns over crime over the years and was working really quite well now.

Councillor Breare-Hall wondered what the prediction was for the upcoming 'Tour de France'. Inspector Fusher noted that they were expecting about 20,000 people to come into the district on that day, but thought that it would be a low crime event and there would be a lot of officers on the ground that day.

Councillor Waller noted that the Community Safety Partners also had difficulty in engaging with the health service. It should also be noted that we devote a lot of resources to our community safety team, more than most in Essex. We were encouraging more people to report domestic violence, which was incidentally, also making our statistics go up.

Councillor Jon Whitehouse noted that the night time economy involved further investment in CCTV and officers on the ground; it also involved licensing and taxi issues. Was there a forum where this was being discussed? Inspector Fusher said they had started a new initiative in Loughton and Epping to bring the partnership together. He noted that the CCTV in Epping was very good but less so in Loughton. Part of dealing with the night time economy would be education of the younger persons. Crimes were being reduced and there were now less violent crimes happening.

Councillor Angold-Stephens noted that 42% of burglary offenders came from London; did the police still use the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system to establish this? Also, taxi ranks, the operators were very supportive of having taxi ranks at night; this would be starting in Epping and then moving out to Loughton. Inspector Fusher replied that the problem was getting people to report where a crime had been committed. Loughton tended to get people up from London and the Police did use the ANPR and work in conjunction with the British Transport Police for those travelling here by train.

RESOLVED:

That the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment for 2014-15 was endorsed by the Panel.

38. EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN

The Community Safety Officer, Paul Gardener introduced the Community Safety Partnership Plan, noting that this was in response to the priorities identified in the strategic assessment. Dwelling Burglaries had gone down but they would never drop off the plans as a priority item, we can but make improvements over the years. We will reassessing in six months to make sure we have not missed anything. They were also looking 'courier crime' and would be concentrating on this in the next few months.

Councillor Smith noted that one comment to the partnership would be an observation of attendance of the partners to meetings, especially by the NHS and the Fire Service. Mr Gardener said this was a frustration, but noted that the NHS tended to service a large number of partnerships, and it was usually only one person who did this. But we would follow this up.

Councillor Murray noted that Roding Valley High School had bought into the 'Prison me, no way' scheme this year, as they were very impressed with this from last year.

Councillor Jon Whitehouse noted that the objective on street pastors did not mention anything about education. Mr Gardener noted this and said they could pick this up and amend it.

Councillor Whitehouse asked about the CCTV objective; did we have the resources to look at the footage. Mr Gardener replied that the Police could log into our systems once a problem has been reported to view the incident as soon as possible.

On consideration the Panel was happy to endorse the partnership plan.

RESOLVED:

That the Epping Forest District Council Community Safety Partnership Plan be noted, commented on and endorsed by the Panel.

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

It was noted that the partnership assessment document and the community safety plan would be reported to the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

The meeting noted that this was the last meeting for John Gilbert ahead of his retirement and wanted their thanks and appreciation noted for all his hard work over the years.

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SCRUTINY



Report to Safer Cleaner Greener

Date of meeting: 15th July 2014

Subject: Anti-Social Behaviour Case Review Model

Officer contact for further information:

Caroline Wiggins Community Safety Manager

Committee Secretary: Adrian Hendry

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

To note 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.

Report:

BACKGROUND:

1. The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 received royal assent on 13 March 2014. The act is designed to introduce simpler, more effective powers to tackle anti-social behaviour and provide better protection for victims and communities.

REPORT

2. 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 in each local government area to carry out reviews of our responses to anti-social behaviour. .

3. The Anti-Social behaviour Review model is a mechanism for victims of anti-social behaviour to require action from the relevant authorities, starting with a review of their case. Victims of anti-social behaviour will be able to use the model in the event that they feel that agencies have not taken sufficient action in respect of their complaint. There is now a duty to undertake a case review when someone requests one and where the case meets a locally defined threshold.

4. To ensure agencies take a more joined up, problem solving approach, Safer Essex have 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 live in Essex.

5. It is important to note that the District Council will play a key pivotal role in this process by taking the lead over all agencies, including Essex Police, in the recording, collating and responding to all Anti-social Behaviour Review requests from the public.

6. The model that Safer Essex has agreed to adopt has been developed largely based on the Richmond model (part of the national pilot scheme),

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

8. 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.

9. Below are the stages involved in the case review process; a flow chart outlining the procedures is attached:

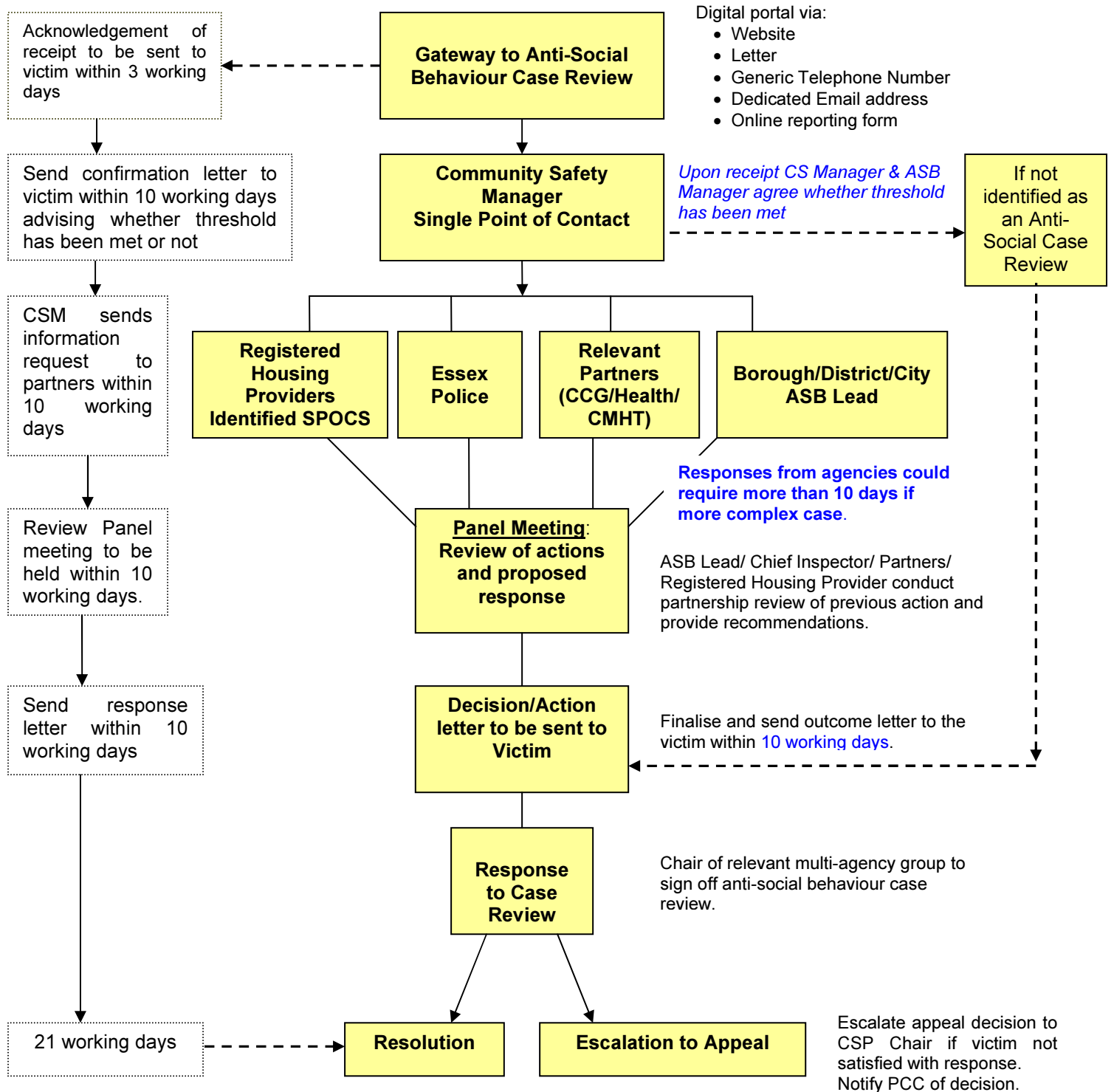
- *Risk* – it was agreed to use the risk based harm model already used in Essex to assess victim’s vulnerabilities. This is very similar to one already in use by the Community Safety Team at the council.
- *Reporting Forms* – on-line reporting forms are being produced and are to be hosted on local Council websites. These forms will be available in hard copy format if required.
- *Standardised Letters* – will be produced to be adopted by local areas.
- *Appeal* – victims have the right to appeal the decision of the review panel and as such these will be sent to the Chair of the relevant Community Safety Partnership in the first instance and notified to PCC’s office.
- *Resolution* – it was agreed that although the pathway to resolution could be standardised, it would prove very difficult for resolutions to be. Over time this may prove easier to achieve but until there is a better understanding of the impact this would not be progressed at this time.
- *Role of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)* - the PCC will be notified if the Case Review reaches appeal stage, rather than resolution, by the local CSP Chair.

10. The Public Communications Strategy is being developed by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner through the Essex Communications Officers Group, providing a pan-Essex strategic view and approach to both local and County-wide communications, relating to the Essex Community Trigger.

11. Ultimately this strategy will 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.

ESSEX ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR CASE REVIEW MODEL

Threshold: ASB reported 3 times in the previous 6 months period and the victim feels that there has been no action taken, unless defined as Hate Crime where trigger will be activated if ASB reported 1 time in the previous 6 months and the victim feels like no action has been taken.



Reason for decision:

Options considered and rejected:

Consultation undertaken:

Resource implications:

Budget provision:

Personnel:

Land:

Community Plan/BVPP reference:

Relevant statutory powers:

Background papers:

Environmental/Human Rights Act/Crime and Disorder Act Implications:

Key Decision reference: (if required)

TERMS OF REFERENCE - STANDING PANEL

Title: Safer, Cleaner, Greener

Status: Standing Panel

Terms of Reference:

1. To approve and keep under review the "Safer, Cleaner, Greener" initiative development programme.

(Note: this development programme will encompass the three main issues and will therefore include matters such as:

- (i) environmental enforcement activity*
- (ii) safer communities activities*
- (iii) waste management activities (in addition to WMPB information))*

2. To keep under review the activity and decisions of the Waste Partnership Member Board and the Inter Authority Member Working Group.
3. To receive reports from the Waste Management Partnership Board in respect of the operation of and performance of the waste management contract
4. To monitor and keep under review the 'Climate Local Agreement' and the Council's progress towards the preparation and adoption of a sustainability policy and to receive progress reports on the Council's Climate Change Strategy from the Green Working Group
5. To receive and review the reports of the Bobbingworth Nature Reserve (former Landfill site) Liaison Group.
6. To act as the Council's Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee and to keep under review the activities of the Epping Forest Safer Communities Partnership as a whole or any of the individual partners which make up the partnership and:
 - That one meeting a year be dedicated as Community Safety Committee meetings.
7. To monitor and review the new Local Highways Panel.
8. To receive the minutes of the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) for the purposes of monitoring the work and progress of the partnership.
9. To monitor and review the minutes of the Police and Crime Panel.

Chairman: Cllr. Lea

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Safer, Cleaner, Greener Standing Panel (Chairman – Cllr Lea)
Work Programme 2014/15

Item	Report Deadline / Priority	Progress / Comments	Programme of Future Meetings
(1) Enforcement activity	October 2014	Six monthly report to Panel	15 July 2014;
(2) CCTV action plan review	July 2014	Six monthly report to Panel – last went to October 2013 meeting	07 October;
(3) CSP scrutiny review meetings	April 2015	Report last went to April 2014 meeting	06 January 2015;
(4) Receive notes of Waste IAA Member meetings	As appropriate	Notes reported to Panel at first available meeting following receipt – the January '14 meeting received notes of 24 October 2013 meeting	24 February;
(5) Receive notes of Waste Management Partnership Board	As appropriate	Notes reported to Panel at first available meeting following receipt – October meeting received notes of 15 July 2013 meeting	28 April
(6) Progress against Climate Local Agreement	July 2014	Six monthly report to Panel –	Crime & Disorder Scrutiny meeting – April 2015?
(7) Progress against carbon reduction strategy	July 2014	Six monthly report to Panel – Once a charter of EFDC environmental commitments has been established and agreed, a strategy will need to be written based around achieving the aims that are signed up to.	
(8) Receive notes of Bobbingworth Nature Reserve liaison group	As appropriate	Notes reported to Panel at first available meeting following receipt – October 13 meeting received notes of the 27 March 2013 meeting	
(9) Recycling in flats and multi-occ dwellings		A verbal report was given at the Oct 13 meeting.	

Safer, Cleaner, Greener Standing Panel (Chairman – Cllr Lea)
Work Programme 2014/15

Item	Report Deadline / Priority	Progress / Comments	Programme of Future Meetings
(10) Monitor Local Highways Panel	As appropriate	Once established to keep a watching brief on the effectiveness of the new Local Highways Panel – January '14 meeting received minutes from the November 2013 meeting.	
(11) Review notes of SLM contract monitoring board	As Appropriate	Notes reported to Panel at first available meeting following receipt – January '14 meeting received minutes of the November 2013 meeting	
(12) Receive notes of North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) minutes	As appropriate	Notes reported to Panel at first available meeting following receipt – January '14 meeting received notes from the August 13 meetings	
(13) Highway Accident statistics	Info will be given to the Panel when available.	Report went to April 2013 meeting. A further detailed report and presentation from county officers was called for. An officer to go to the July '14 meeting.	
(14) To monitor the minutes of the Police and Crime Panel	As appropriate		

**NOTES OF THE
BOBBINGWORTH FORMER LANDFILL SITE
LOCAL LIAISON GROUP**

**Held at
3.30 27 March 2013
Conference Room, Civic Offices**

Present: Cllr W Breare-Hall, Environment Portfolio Holder (Chair) (JK)
 Susan Stranders, Drainage Manager, E&SS (SS)
 Cllr Tony Boyce (TB)
 Abigail Oldham, Country Care (AO)
Notes: Stella Forster

		Action
1.	Apologies: Colin Thompson, Qasim Durrani	
2.	Draft notes of the last meeting 26 September 2012 Agreed	
3.	Matters arising None	
4.	Terms of Reference No updates. Item to be removed from Agenda.	
5.	Budget SS: No problems concerning budgets have been encountered this year. Following discussion with Theresa Brown, Finance Officer, the money left in the budget has been rolled forward for a capital spend on a flood alleviation scheme. SS to check the exact figure. The CSB budget is about £3k underspent this year. The farmer, Mr Gemmill, has been contacted by TB and has indicated he would be happy to quote for the grass cutting work. TB suggested asking the Grounds Maintenance team if they would be willing to undertake this work. SS said that they had been approached before but had declined due to lack of time. However, they may give a more positive response if asked again. It has been established that Countrycare would not be able to take on the amount of work required.	SS
6.	Update from officers <u>Operation and maintenance</u> SS: Everything is working well, and there has been no feedback from Veolia even with the recent inclement weather. The reed bed will be checked for any further die back. <u>Landscaping and maintenance</u> There have been three volunteer days since the last meeting, on 4 October, 10 January and 14 March. AO provided an old map showing the original design for a line of hedges to mark the boundary between Moreton and Bobbingworth. The volunteers have now planted around 200 native trees to mark this boundary, leaving some gaps for a tractor, and used the spare trees to plant a hedge from the depot car park to the eastern edge. A large puddle has built up around the finger post near the mound, and a willow was planted on the last volunteer day to try to alleviate the problem. This has not had time to establish yet and it is still very wet in this area. Two oak trees have also been planted, one of which has been grown from an acorn from the largest oak in the country. This, called the Bowthorpe Oak, has been sited near the depot. The Jubilee Oak has been planted at the other end	

	<p>with a golden tree guard and a sign.</p> <p>The volunteers also began mulching an area between the trees to suppress the weeds, but this was time consuming and very hard work and Pearls were asked to quote for completing the work. Their quote has now been received and AO is able to provide the wood chip free of charge so that they can begin.</p> <p>Interpretation boards were also varnished by the volunteers. The QEII plaque has not yet been mounted as a suitable boulder has not been located.</p> <p><u>Ecology and wildlife</u> AO: There is very little to report over the winter months. Information boards have all been updated with upcoming events.</p> <p><u>Rabbit control</u> SS: No rabbit work has so far been undertaken. After agreement at the last meeting SS contacted Cllr Schwier and letters were written to two local people asking them to undertake the work at their own risk but they did not reply. It may become necessary to hire someone from a pest control company, but this will involve using gas and Veolia will have to be asked if they have any concerns about using this system of rabbit control on the site.</p> <p>TB reported that there appears to be far fewer rabbits on the reserve than previously. He will ask Cllr Schwier if he has been using his own methods to control rabbit numbers, and if he can offer any suggestions to solve the problem. Whose land the rabbits come from will always be in dispute. Although it is the farmer's crops that are mostly affected there is still the risk that rabbits will burrow down and destroy the cap on the site and a mutually beneficial and affordable solution will have to be found.</p>	TB
7.	<p>Queen Elizabeth Field Designation</p>	
	<p><u>Delay in mounting of plaque</u> SS: It was hoped to use a large boulder to mount the plaque but with the recent flooding problems there has not been the time to source one. TB offered to take the plaque to a company that he knows which has large boulders available for sale, and will let the Group know if he locates one suitable for the purpose.</p> <p><u>Royal Oak sapling</u> This has now been planted by CT. It is to be hoped that the sapling's roots have not become too waterlogged and it will be able to survive.</p>	TB
8.	<p>Complaints</p>	
	<p>None received.</p>	
9.	<p>Any other business</p>	
	<p>TB: The gate has been found to be locked on several occasions recently, which leaves local residents unable to use the nature reserve and complaints may be received. Keys are held by CT and another gentleman who has a property by the front gate, and if both are away at the same time there is no-one to open or close the gate. The solution may be to leave the gate permanently open but the person in question has intimated that he would prefer it to be closed to deter travellers and anti-social behaviour.</p>	
	<p>TB will talk to CT about the Group's concerns. He will also make the suggestion that, at times when both parties are away, a rota system involving village residents comes into play. A community event took place on 23 March and 180 local people took part, with a visit by Eric Pickles. This proved to be an excellent way to involve the community, and it is hoped to repeat it every six months. TB is sure that with this level of support most residents would be happy to be on a gate key rota. Access to the site must be for the community to resolve and TB will take it to the Parish Council for a decision.</p>	TB

	<p>Following agreement at the last meeting to call the viewing mound 'Colin's View' TB had taken the suggestion to the community and it had met with their approval. SS read out some wording prepared by AO for an explanatory sign, with the intention of having it laminated and placing it on show at the site. However, at TB's suggestion, it was agreed that a wooden plaque would be more appropriate. He will investigate costs and report back to the group.</p> <p>AO reported that the board at the car park entrance is covered in graffiti and is looking very shabby. It was agreed to have the board removed, in preference to renovate or replace it.</p>	<p>TB</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Date and place of next meeting The group is to meet on Wednesday 11 September 2013, at 3pm on site. This will be followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony and presentation by WBH at 4pm. Refreshments will then be available at the village hall - TB to book the hall and ask the Parish Council if they would be prepared to provide tea/cakes etc.</p> <p>The local community will be invited to the ceremony, as well as members of the Parish Council, volunteers, and friends from Veolia. SS will speak to Tom Carne regarding publicity, and as Country care is now on Twitter this will also prove a useful tool. In the meantime, the group is to consider an appropriate name for the event, and to make a list of other possible attendees.</p> <p>TB was thanked for taking responsibility for so many of the action points from the meeting.</p>	<p>TB</p> <p>SS</p> <p>ALL</p>

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**NOTES OF THE
BOBBINGWORTH NATURE RESEVE (FORMER LANDFILL SITE)
LOCAL LIAISON GROUP**

**Held at
3.00pm Thursday 17 April 2014
Committee Room 1, Civic Offices**

Present: Cllr W Breare-Hall, Environment Portfolio Holder (Chair) (WBH)
Susan Stranders, Drainage Manager, EDWT (SS)
Cllr Tony Boyce (TB)
Abigail Oldham, Country Care (AO)
Colin Thompson, Moreton Bobbingworth & the Lavers PC (CT)

Notes: Sarah L King

		Action
1.	Apologies: Qasim Durrani	
2.	Draft Notes of the last meeting 27th March 2013 Agreed	
3.	Matters arising SS: Action to point 5 - Capital underspend confirmed at 27k. The Grounds Maintenance Team was approached to undertake grass cutting, but there is no capacity for them to do the work. Alternative contractors would have to be looked in to.	SS
4.	Budget SS: The CSB spend for 13/14 was approximately 35K. SS was pleased that £36k CSB was allocated for 2014/15. SS had asked Finance not to reduce the CSB budget on Bobbingworth at revised budget time because the operating systems on site are still being tried and tested and there is always the potential for the unknown. This has proved to be the case for 13/14.	
5.	Update from Officers AO: Since the last meeting there have been 7 volunteer days – creating a saving to the Council of £3276. 300 trees have also been planted around manholes and barn owl boxes have been erected. There was little to report on Ecology and Wildlife as it was pretty much the same as last year. However, toads and slowworms are now about. Although there was concern about rabbit control. SS: Suggested additional measures may be required as we have no control on the frequency of visits by the volunteer warrener/s. SS to look into securing a contractor to carry out an assessment and additional rabbit control, if required. WBH: Suggested that we should start the process as soon as possible given the comments received about the difficulties securing contractors and getting them on the Market Place system. The risk of the rabbits' burrowing with regards to engineering is small, but must be addressed before it becomes a bigger problem. AO: Reported that the mound must be cut soon and the rest of the site within a fortnight. It was reported that the site was looking good and the grass was growing at an expected/hoped rate. It was agreed that it was difficult to get someone in for routine maintenance, however a regular contractor was required to do work as	SS
		SS

and when it was needed, and therefore it would mean the site would be cut more often.

SS: Explained there had been a few technical issues. Low concentrations of ammonia have been detected in the surface water in the southeast corner of the site. The ammonia has been carried through the 'clean' water wetland which is unusual. The cause is not known as yet but is thought to be linked to the amount of rainfall, thereby increasing the total load of ammonia that requires removal.

Veolia has suggested creating a new wetland and installing a new and permanent pump in the area which should help overcome the problem in the future. AO had no objections to this. It was agreed that it's a thriving area which is nice and boggy and the increased size is an advantage. The additional wetland will be placed just slightly north and adjacent to the existing wetland. Veolia will carry out the work in the summer.

Some elevated dissolved methane levels in the leachate discharge have been detected. The cause is unknown but again is thought to be linked to the excessive rainfall. All the spargers have been changed and the monitoring frequency is to be increased. We will be closely monitoring the situation and liaise with Thames Water if need be – but this has not been necessary to date.

The site runs on a complicated leachate drawn down system, given the above issues, Veolia have now recognised that all pumps will need to be operating during prolonged times of heavy rain fall.

Despite Country care planting willow in the area behind the finger post, the ground continues to be waterlogged. There was agreement to back fill the area- Veolia will carry out the work in the summer.

CT: The brook was reported to be very low at present after having months of it topping over with water. Probably not a regular problem, but something to look at.

The reed bed is starting to come back and is doing well. Blackfly was thought to be the problem, but with regular feeding, the much needed nutrients have restored it.

6. **Plant & Tree Labelling**

CT: It was suggested that it would be useful to have labels on some trees and plants in order to help identify certain species and for educational purposes.

AO: Thought that in principal it is a good idea, but it may not be possible to identify all the species. A budget would have to be identified. There are many species to label; 7 have been identified to date but in reality there is at least 15/20. Could look at labelling the rarest and significant examples.

It was proposed that, should it go ahead, it might be a good idea to start with lesser known species and although it was agreed that it wasn't essential it would enhanced the interest of the site.

7. **Any Other Business**

AO: 29 August 2014 – Moth Night (capturing and identifying). The event is aimed at adults, starting at 9pm until late. Also including bat detectors. The location of the event TBC.

WBH asked how often the site was being used/visited, and if there was any sense of numbers? Also, how do we attract more people to visit the area? Possibility of looking at raising its profile via the Forester and other local publications.

AO

CT reported that, although a high percentage of people have been to the reserve, a lot of them are dog walkers and many local people appear to use it regularly, but there is no idea of numbers. CT felt that many people outside of the local area aren't aware of the site, however, a report was presented at Parish Council about the reserve, so many more locals are aware, but just don't seem to be using it. CT felt it was a shame as it would appeal to so many more people; it is a beautiful place and a real asset to EFDC.

With regard to attracting more attention and visitors AO commented that there was a Wild Flower morning last year, but, as of yet, there is nothing planned for this year; money, resources and time is an issue.

8. Date and place of next meeting

On site (nature reserve) on Wednesday 3 September 2014 at 3pm and then back at the village hall.

D R A F T

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