

**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
NOTES OF A MEETING OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANNING SERVICES STANDING
SCRUTINY PANEL
HELD ON THURSDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2007
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CIVIC OFFICES, HIGH STREET, EPPING
AT 7.30 - 9.55 PM**

Members Present: Mrs P Smith (Chairman), D Bateman (Vice-Chairman), R Bassett, R Frankel, G Pritchard, Mrs P Richardson, Mrs L Wagland and Mrs J H Whitehouse

Other members present: K Angold-Stephens

Apologies for Absence: Mrs A Cooper, P House and M Woollard

Officers Present J Gilbert (Director of Environment and Street Scene), J Nolan (Environmental Health Manager) and Z Folley (Democratic Services Assistant)

41. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

It was noted that Councillor Mrs J H Whitehouse was substituting for Councillor M Woollard.

42. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING - 29 OCTOBER 2007.

Noted subject to section on Parking reviews (pg 5) being amended to read:

It was noted that all Members had been invited to comment on the Epping Parking Review Consultation 2004. The particulars were included in the Cabinet papers.

43. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None reported.

44. WORK PLAN

The Panel considered the updated work plan.

(Essex County Joint Waste Committee – (Item 1)). Noted that the next meeting of the Essex County Joint Waste Committee was due to take place on 12 December 2007.

(Nazeing Focus Day Review – (Item 3)). - J Gilbert reported on discussions regarding the County Freight Strategy. It was noted that this strategy had now been completed and would be submitted to a future meeting of this Panel for consideration. The County's Traffic Study was also about to go out for consultation.

ECC Speed Management Plan – Noted that at the last meeting, the Panel expressed a wish to submit views on the Plan when published for consultation and that this should be added to the work plan.

(Climate Change – The Nottingham Declaration (item 9) At its last meeting, the Cabinet agreed that the Council should become a signatory to the Declaration. The documentation was awaiting finalisation. It was agreed that a draft of the action plan be submitted to the Panel for consideration.

Action: Work Plan to be updated accordingly.

45. CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS & ENVIRONMENT ACT (CNEA) /ROGERS REVIEW - REPORT OF SUB - GROUP

The Panel received the report of the Sub – Group for endorsement and submission to the OSC.

J Gilbert presented the report as follows.

(a) Rogers Review

The report detailed a table of proposed enforcement priorities for the District based on the findings of the Review. (page 5).

Agreed that the wording in the column entitled ‘proposed priority for Alcohol licensing (to include entertainment licensing)’ be altered to read ‘national priority for alcohol/ Local priority for entertainment’.

The use of the word ‘priority’ in recommendation (2) (a b) created some uncertainty. The Panel sought clarification of the resource implications of this proposal.

To clarify these issues, it was **agreed** that the following amendments be made to the recommendation:

(a) That the **most important enforcement functions for the Council in relation to the Rogers Review be agreed** as set out in paragraph 6 and that in the context of street scene services Crime and Disorder matters also be included as a **most important function**;

(b) that the enforcement priorities falling outside of these **areas** /or outside the Rogers Review terms of Reference be further reviewed.

(b) Cleaner Neighbourhoods Legislation:

The Sub Group considered the powers provided by the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 (CNEA).

The Group also considered the Encams Local Environmental Quality Report. The Panel noted the findings regarding Epping Forest and requested that this report be sent to all Members of the Panel.

Action: J Gilbert to circulate copy of the Encams review of Epping Forest to members of the Panel.

The Panel also **Agreed** that recommendation 2 (c) be amended to read that the finding of the review be **noted**.

The Panel felt that this document should be considered as part of the further review of the outstanding issues. A lot of the findings related to the quality of the Highway

Infrastructure. It was suggested that these be put to the Area Highways Manager when he next attends a meeting of this Panel.

(c) Information

The Panel considered ways of enabling the public to report issues. The Panel **supported** the provision of a 'One Stop Shop' service to facilitate such reporting.

(d) Enforcement Processes

Reference was made to the corporate enforcement policy (tabled). There was a need to update this document. The Panel agreed that this task be undertaken as part of the further review.

(e) Partnerships

The Panel noted the need to consider the resource implication of negotiations. J Gilbert also reported on his intention to meet with Essex Police to consider arrangements for co-ordinating the delivery of the new powers.

The Panel sought clarification of the timetable for the introduction of the measures.

(f) Fixed Penalty Notices.

The Panel asked about the arrangements for allocating FPN income generated by the Police. **Agreed** J Gilbert to find this out and report back to the Panel.

Agreed that the report as amended be submitted to the 31 January OSC and 4 February 2008 Cabinet for endorsement.

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

Report on Rogers Review/CNEA.

47. FUTURE MEETINGS

28 February 2008.

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