

Notes of Env & Planning Scrutiny Panel

28 March 2005

7.30 pm

Cttee Room 1

Present:

Cllr D Stallan (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs D Borton
Cllr Mrs P Smith
Cllr Mrs M Boatman
Cllr D Kelly
Cllr Mrs M Sartin
Cllr Mrs A Grigg (substituting for Cllr P McMillan)
Cllr A Lee

Apologies

Cllr M Woollard
Cllr P McMillan

NOTES OF LAST MEETING

Given that the agenda had not been circulated in advance, the Chairman suggested deferral until the next Panel meeting. This was agreed.

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Mrs Anne Grigg substituting for Peter McMillan

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

EMERGENCY ITEM

Due to difficulties with agenda distribution, the Chairman informed the Panel that the meeting due for the 30th of March would not now take place. In the light of that he advised that John Preston, Head of Planning & Economic Development had agreed to attend this meeting to deal with issues relating to highways and vehicle movements in the Roydon and Nazeing areas.

The Head of PED set out the current situation for the Panel, including the outcome of a recent meeting with Keith Lawson from the County Council. He provided members with a list of issues which had been identified (attached). It was suggested that the matter could proceed by way of setting up one or more focus groups in order to ensure that all local concerns were considered as part of any highway assessment. The Head of ES informed the Panel that he also discussed this issue with the West Essex Highways Manager, who had indicated that money was to be made available for a transport study in this area. However, Cllr Mrs Sartin stated that at a recent meeting with the County Portfolio Holder, Cllr Bass, this was not necessarily the case.

There were some expressions of concern regarding how long this process might take, given that the problems were in fact reasonably well understood. It was agreed that arrangements should be made for a meeting with County officers as soon as practical whilst at the same time consideration be given to the establishment of a focus or focus groups. The meeting with County officers needed to be between the 14th and 25th of April.

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND WORK PROGRAMME

Given that the agenda had not been circulated in advance, the Chairman suggested deferral until the next Panel meeting. This was agreed.

MINUTES OF MOST RECENT WEST ESSEX JOINT WASTE COMMITTEE

Given that the agenda had not been circulated in advance, the Chairman suggested deferral until the next Panel meeting. This was agreed.

CONSULTATION ON THE REVIEW OF ENGLAND'S WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Chairman asked the Head of ES to take the Panel through the consultation with the intention of identifying those areas where they had the greatest concerns and where the district was suitably placed to be able to make an informed response to government. The following were key issues for the Panel:

- waste minimisation
- encouragement of recycling of trade and industrial waste
- the likelihood of an extended role for energy from waste in the hierarchy
- future target setting
- improving the market for recyclates
- dealing with waste crime

It was agreed that the Head of ES would prepare some proposed comments to a number of the set questions relative to these identified concerns for the meeting of the Panel scheduled on the 13th of April.

The Head of ES also made reference to the advantages of preparing a joint response with colleague districts and the County Council if at all possible, since government now give greater weight to such responses.