

EAST LUTON AREA COMMITTEE

Thursday, 30th September, 2004 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Skepelhorn (Chair), Dolling, Franks, Howes, Patterson, Siederer and Wates.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (REF: 1)

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors P. Chapman, J. Davies and R. Davies.

3 MINUTES (REF: 2.1)

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Area Committee held on 13th July, 2004 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4 FEEDBACK FROM MINI WARD FORUMS

Feedback from the Mini Ward Forums was given by the facilitators and noted by the Area Committee Support Officer.

5 WARD FOCUS CRIME HALF YEARLY REPORTS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY (REF: 8)

The Committee welcomed Sergeant Daize, Partnership Officer, representing the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, and received a presentation on the Community Safety Consultation which formed part of Luton's Community Safety Strategy 2005-2006.

The presentation specifically covered the following areas:

- Crime trends in Luton between 1999 and 2004
- Crime distribution
- Crime rates by area 2003/04 (covering Luton, Bedfordshire, England and Wales)
- Local crime distribution (types of crime)

The views of the members of the public were sought on the issues which they considered should be included in the Community Safety Strategy. They were invited to answer the following three questions and to return their comments to Sergeant Daize.

1. What should continue to be in the Community Safety Strategy?
2. What are the areas that we should be improving?
3. How can we best address the fear of crime within Luton?

Resolved: That the report be noted (Ref: 8).

6 PROVISION OF STOPSLEY VILLAGE TOILETS (REF: 9)

The report of the Head of Waste Management advised the Committee that consideration of replacing the closed and demolished toilet block in Stopsley Village had been ongoing for some time. Costings, attached at Appendix A of the report, had been obtained for placing a system-built unit on the location of the old toilet block, in order to minimize connection charges for services.

Councillor Franks, as leader of the Council, advised the meeting that the provision of toilets in Stopsley village would be treated as a priority and that particular attention would be given to their location.

Resolved: (i) That, as a part of the overall consideration of all public toilet provision in Luton, the Corporate Directors Management Team be recommended to consider placing a system-built toilet block on the previous Stopsley Village site.

(ii) That, as a part of the Council's budget making process for 2005/06, the Executive be recommended to consider the provision of a system-built toilet block.

(iii) That the report be noted (Ref: 9).

7 STOPSLEY LIBRARY UPDATE AND CLOSURE OF WIGMORE LIBRARY (REF: 10)

The report of the Director of Lifelong Learning updated the Committee on the developments at Stopsley Library and informed of a three week closure of Wigmore Library for essential repairs to the floor once the new Stopsley Library was up and running.

Resolved: That the report be noted (Ref: 10).

8 SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION – CARE FOR THE ELDERLY (REF: 11)

The Head of Community Care, following a request at the last Area Committee, updated Members on the progress of the Strategy for the Future Living Needs of Luton's Older People.

The draft Strategy was the first of a series of service strategies, which would result in a comprehensive Older People's Strategy for Luton, and was underpinned by a vision of community living that achieved a number of outcomes for older people. It was also an important driver for achieving the Council's Public Service Agreement target to increase the numbers of older people who live independently in their own homes.

In relation to Luton's Older People, the Council's strategic aim was to strengthen and develop the range of community-based health, social care and housing services so that older people and their carers could be enabled to live independently in their own homes for as long as they choose to.

The Housing and Social Services Department had prioritised work to develop the Strategy as a consequence of needing to take forward developments to address the issues arising from the non-compliance with minimum National Care Standards of three council-run residential care homes for Older People – Sherd Lodge, Farley and Warden Hill.

The Committee noted that the draft Strategy for the Future Living Needs of Older People would be considered by the Executive at its meeting on 18th October 2004.

Resolved: That the report be noted (Ref: 11).

9 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN (REF: 12)

The Committee received a brief presentation on the Local Transport Plan from the Transportation Projects Manager, which had to be submitted to the Government by the end of July 2005.

In response to a question from a member of the public about the East Luton Corridor improvements scheme, the Transportation Projects Manager advised that the Public Inquiry would take place in early 2005 and, if approved, work would commence in early 2006.

The key issues were:

- Overall structure of the second Local Transport Plan
- Continuing themes from the first Local Transport Plan
- Car ownership/mode of travel to work
- Future development
- Local residents

The Transportation Projects Manager urged members of the public present to complete and return the consultation forms provided.

Resolved: That the report be noted (Ref: 12).

9 DRAFT STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY – CONSULTATION (REF: 13)

The report of the Head of Environmental and Consumer Services, as part of the formal consultation on the draft Policy, presented the Draft Statement of Licensing Policy for consideration by the Committee.

Councillor Franks, on behalf of the Committee, proposed a vote of thanks to the Licensing Manager for the work she had undertaken in connection with the new Licensing Act 2003, and assured members of the public present that the procedure for consulting local residents would be included in the Council's Licensing Policy.

Resolved: That the report be noted (Ref: 13).

10 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND YOUTH SERVICE (REF: 14)

The Committee received a presentation from two young people and the Outreach Worker on the Community Development and Youth Service in the area.

The Committee noted the following points:

- The Ashcroft Youth Club had opened on 24th April 2004 and had been open throughout the summer holidays.
- There was other youth provision in the area; including special needs provision.
- Transport was provided for all participants.
- The issues around staffing had been resolved.
- New groups, including 50+, would be set up.
- Partnership working continued.
- Following the Children's Bill and the Community Development Best Value Review the Community Education and Development Department would be restructured.

The Chair thanked the two young people for attending and speaking to the Committee.

Resolved: That the report be noted (Ref: 14).

12 AREA REPORT (REF: 15)

The report of the Head of Local Democracy updated the Committee on the issues that were raised following the last Area Committee held on the 3rd June 2004 i.e. Crawley, Stopsley and Wigmore and the 29th June 2004 Biscot, High Town and Round Green.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Area Committee Support Officer advised that the overall budget for the Area Committees amounted to £60,000, which had been aggregated according to the Member composition of each of the area committees. Therefore the allocation was as follows:

West Area Committee	£11,500
South Area Committee	£11,500
North Area Committee	£12,500
East Area Committee	£12,500
Central Area Committee	£12,500

The Committee raised a number of concerns regarding Scheme CR Reference SP 142 - Supply and installation of wooden (oak) fencing, gates and horse step-overs to the public open space adjacent to the Eastern Boundary to prevent access by nuisance motorcycle riders.

The Committee were of the view that the work should be funded by the Parks Department and not the Area Committee, and that the matter should be deferred until January 2005 to enable officers to identify alternative sources of funding.

The Area Committee Support Officer advised that a late application for funding had been received from the residents of Buchanan Drive Garage Owners Association. The application was for the erection of an anti-vandal fence and gates to the garage site to enable a reduction in vandalism to the garages had been received. The amount requested was £2,725.

Councillor Dolling proposed that £100 be allocated towards the Half Term Club at Stopsley Baptist Church where, often, over one hundred children attended.

A member of the Raynham Way Users Association raised concerns regarding the accessibility of transport for their annual social event for older people which was taking place at the Raynham Way Community Centre on Saturday, 23rd October 2004. She reported that the mini buses provided last year had, unfortunately, proved unreliable and asked if there were alternative vehicles available. She also advised that they now had three people who had undertaken the Luton Borough Council's Transport Driving Test and that these people would be willing to drive the vehicles. The Area Committee Support Officer undertook to put the arrangements in place for the Area Committee Tour bus to be made available on the day.

Resolved: (i) That the report be noted (Ref: 15).

(ii) That the following application, previously agreed in principle, be approved:-

Scheme	Ward	Cost	Other Contributions	Amount Requested
<p>◆ Reference CR 140 Clearance of rubbish and vegetation growth to the rear of land at 78 to 136. Hart Lane, Luton. Installation of gates. Fitting of lock and supply of one key to each household.</p>	Crawley	£3,760	<p>T & R A - £1,400</p> <p>Residents - £700</p>	£1,660.00

(iii) That the following application be deferred until January 2005:-

Scheme	Ward	Cost	Other Contributions	Amount Requested
◆ Reference SP 142 Application by the Community Safety Officer. Supply and installation of wooden (oak) fencing, gates and horse step-overs to the public open space adjacent to the Eastern Boundary to prevent access by nuisance motorcycle riders.	Stopsley	£5,409		£5,409.00

(iii) That the following applications be approved:-

Scheme	Ward	Cost	Other Contributions	Amount Requested
Reference SP 145 Half Term Club - Stopsley Baptist Church	Stopsley/All?	£100	??	£100
Reference CR 144 Buchanan Drive Garage Owners Association funding for the erection of an anti-	Crawley	£5450	£2625	£2725

vandal fence and gates to the garage site to enable a reduction in vandalism to the garages				
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13 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (REF: 16)

Noted: No questions were raised under this item.

14 AGENDA PLANNING (REF: 17)

Members of the public requested that the following comments be taken into consideration for the future arrangements of the Area Committee:

- Additional copies of the agenda made available at each meeting.
- Shorter Ward Forums and an earlier start time.
- Presentations should be no longer than 10 minutes.
- Previously discussed items, which remained unresolved, be provided at the meeting.
- Local residents advise officers of their concerns prior to the meeting.

Resolved: (i) That the Acting Head of Regeneration bring “Good News Stories” to the next meeting of the Area Committee to counteract Luton’s poor image which was recently reported in a local newspaper.

(ii) That at the next meeting of the Area Committee, the Head of Planning report on the current situation at Butterfield Green.

(Note: The meeting ended at 9.48 p.m.)