

## **EAST LUTON AREA COMMITTEE**

**8<sup>th</sup> January 2008 at 8.07 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Skepelhorn (Chair); Councillors Chapman, J. Davies, R. Davies, Dolling, Franks, Patterson, Rutstein, and Siederer.

### **1 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE (REF: 1)**

An apology for absence from the meeting was received on behalf of Councillor Smith.

### **2 MINUTES (REF: 2.1)**

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2007 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **3 VIEWS ARISING FROM WARD FORUMS (REF: 6)**

- Parking Bays – Williton Road update – reason for delay explained, good report by the officer the project is now moving ahead.
- Butterfield Green update – more planting requested around the Butterfield development.
- Falstone Green Update – update at next meeting requested as no progress made since last meeting.

### **4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (REF: 8)**

A member of the public questioned the validity of consultation exercises and also the Council's accountability.

The Chair advised that members of the public may not like the outcome of the consultation exercises but that they were able to give their views. Councillor Rutstein advised that consultation was open to the 184, 000 residents of Luton but only approximately 400 people respond which was, in his view, a pitiful response and too poor and fragmented and limited to be of great value to determine priorities in the way money was spent.

The Chair explained that the Council were audited by the Audit Commission along with a lot of other organisations that monitored what the Council did.

A member of the public advised that the lay-by on the A6 near the BP garage contained at least 6 cars with for sale signs on them and enquired if the seller paid rent to the Council for the use of the lay-by.

Councillor Franks advised that the issue of car traders selling vehicles from lay-bys was a long standing problem in a lot of areas in Luton. He further advised that Officers would be requested to investigate and the person could be prosecuted if it was established that they were selling cars on the highway.

A member of the public was concerned by the restriction on new developments with regard to parking provision for those people working at the site, he advised that people were not parking in the Butterfield Green development but using Mountgrace Road.

Councillor Franks advised that he would take up the issue with Development Control Officers and also some investigations would be required to establish what activities were taking place on the site as their planning permission did have some restrictions on use at the site.

A member of the public raised their concern about the flooding at the end of Tancred Road advising that it had worsened since the mound of soil had been put in and that the ditches were now overflowing especially the ditch alongside No. 16.

Councillor Dolling advised that he had instructed the gulleys to be cleaned out in Tancred Road to ensure sufficient drainage was available, which had been done. He further advised that he would take up the issue on behalf of residents.

A member of the public commented that potholes in the A505 between Cannon Lane and the zebra crossing seemed to appear regularly, be filled and within a few months needed filling again.

An officer from the highways division advised that the road in question was scheduled to be resurfaced this year.

A member of the public advised that when visiting the Council caravan site she had noticed that around the there had been a very high smell of calor gas around the toilet block.

**Resolved:** That the information given and issues raised during the Public Question Time (Ref: 10) be noted.

## **5 EAST LUTON CORRIDOR UPDATE (REF: 10)**

Mr. Alan Jones, Public Liaison Officer, Birse Civils Ltd. updated the Committee with regard to the work on the East Luton Corridor as follows:

- There had been a considerable delay at the Eaton Green roundabout as during excavation work last summer a large number of services had been located which had not previously been chartered on any service drawings which meant a new survey had been required and a new design for the

road layout proposed, no further work had been able to be done whilst awaiting the survey to be undertaken and results provided;

- The amount of traffic cones were a cause of concern at the Eaton Green roundabout, but cones were in place to protect the open trenches
- Work would re-commence by the end of January 2008 and should be completed by the summer.
- Work on the four bridges was 95% complete with minor work such as handrails to be completed.
- In October 2007 a party of 10, year 11 pupils from Barnfield Academy were given a comprehensive tour of the site and a talk on the project and construction in general. The pupils were all studying construction at GCSE level and were all enthusiastic about the visit.
- Luton Borough Council regularly updates their website page with details of forthcoming diversions and road closures
- Freephone helpline number: 0800 032 9760

Councillor Franks commented that there had been a succession of excuses regarding the work to the roundabout at Eaton Green Road and that now the Committee were being told work would not be started until the end of January and be finished by the Summer. He further commented that it had been going on for over a year and was outrageous and quite dangerous with the white lines conflicting with the traffic cones.

Mr. Alan Jones, Public Liaison Officer, Birse Civils Ltd. advised that a large part of the roundabout had been removed and lanes closed the results of the survey had only been received just before Christmas and it took time to plan the works. He realised that it was unacceptable but he did not know how long it would take to complete as there was a lot more work than ever expected.

A Member enquired about the expected finish date?

Mr. Alan Jones, Public Liaison Officer, Birse Civils Ltd. advised that the work to the Eaton Green Road roundabout should be finished by Summer 2008 and that by the next meeting of the Committee he should be able to give a finish date for the whole job.

Councillor Patterson stated that the white lines and cones were dangerous and the conflicting white lines should be removed as the true route of traffic should be clear and that the blockage point was causing a lot of distress to Wigmore and Vauxhall residents'.

The Head of Engineering and Transportation advised that road safety was of paramount importance to the Council and was the responsibility of the contractors. He further advised that Council officers would visit the site in question the following day to review the situation.

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

## **6 THINK LUTON, THINK SUCCESS – THE NEW LUTON (REF: 11)**

The Business and Economy Service Manager gave a presentation (attached at Appendix 1/08 to these minutes) which gave an overview of the following initiatives in Luton:

- Town Centre Development Framework
- Town Centre Transportation
- Luton Dunstable Busway
- St. George's Square
- The Mall Arndale
- Luton Gateway Railway & Bus Station
- Power Court
- Napier Park
- Butterfield – Technology Village
- Innovation Centre & Business Base
- Butterfield – Park Centre
- East Luton Corridor
- London Luton Airport
- Marsh Farm – Master Planning
- MK & SM Sub-Regional Strategy L/D/HR Spatial Strategy
- Future Schemes
  - Luton Northern Bypass
  - Luton Eastern Bypass
  - Dunstable Bypass
- Building Schools for the Future
- University of Bedfordshire Master Plan
- Other Initiatives
  - Luton Safe
  - No Cold Calling
- And an overview of the indicative infrastructure over the next 25 years

A member of the public congratulated planners on the new airport building.

**Resolved:** That the presentation (Ref: 11) be noted.

## **7 LUTON YOUTH SERVICE (REF: 12)**

The Head of Centre, Putteridge Youth Club advised that:

- Administrative workers and workers in charge had been appointed and were awaiting CRB clearance;
- An increase in usage from 200 to 800 young people using the centre in the last year;

- Dance Group formed;
- Climbing wall;
- OfSTED inspection of youth service
- PHSE work delivered in schools – continuing and covering areas of community cohesion, sex education, drugs and alcohol awareness;
- Yeovil Road highlighted as a hot spot – 30 young people attended the Boom Bus;
- Next meeting feedback about Ashcroft.

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

## **8 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE (REF: 13)**

The Unit Development Manager for Raynham Way Community Centre circulated an update at the meeting as follows:

- Additional resources for staffing – recruitment underway and 2 new permanent members of staff were expected to join the team by the end of February subject to CRB clearance. Service provision should improve where it had suffered from staff shortages.
- New to the centres programme where an exercise class and slimming class as well as Saheth Community Group to which 2 members of the team had been allocated to help and support as key workers.
- Staff had been working with and supporting the Users Association with the running of all their events.
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2007 was the second of the Elderly and Housebound Parties with 60 people attending. Centre staff, volunteers and other staff from the area (Farley and Park Town) came along to help. With the funding support from this area committee 2 minibuses with tail lifts were hired to collect and return people from their homes, The Ashcroft and Ramridge Neighbourhood TARA also very kindly lent their minibus for the event as well.
- Several Christmas events were held at the Centre i.e. Christmas Bazaar and the over 50's Christmas Party – all of which were very successful.

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

## **9 AREA REPORT (REF: 14)**

The Area Committee Support Officer updated the Committee on issues that were raised following the last meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

He advised of the receipt of an application to the area project fund:

Project No	Project	Cost of Project	Amount Requested	Decision
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??	Hedging to Abbots Court, Ridge Court, Tower Court	£2,500	£???	Subject to 50% being funded by Housing - £1,250 Agreed
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**Resolved:** That the report (Ref: 14) be noted.

## 10 AGENDA PLANNING (REF: 15)

No items were identified by the public for submission to the next meeting.

**(Note: The meeting ended at 9.35 p.m.)**