

## CHALLNEY, LEAGRAVE AND LEWSEY AREA COMMITTEE

21<sup>st</sup> January, 2003 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Shaw (Chair); Councillors Akbar, Coleman, R.J. Davis, Patten, Roden, Shaw, Simmons and Stewart.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. G Roberts - Area Committee Support Officer  
Mr. B. Timms - Parks Manager  
Mr. T. Dessent – Director of Lifelong Learning  
PC. M. Halling  
Police Inspector. P. Buckingham  
Mrs. K. Alexander – Lewsey Farm Learning Centre Manager  
Mr. M. Hussain – Major Developments Manager  
Mr. R. Brown – Area Housing Manager  
Mr. B. Baker – Area Youth Worker  
Mr. N. French – Area Community Development Officer  
Mr. M. Hussey – Democratic Services Officer

~~25~~ ~~— APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (REF: 1) There were no apologies for absence.~~

### ~~26~~1 MINUTES (REF: 2.1)

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2002 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair

### 2 NEW AREA BOUNDARIES (REF: 7)

The Head of Local Democracy reported on the Area Committee Boundaries.

The Committee were informed of the draft proposals on which Wards will form the basis for each Area Committee when the Council is elected on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2003. The proposal was that there would be 6 Area Committees of the Council arranged as follows:-

Challney, Legrave and Lewsey	– 9 Councillors
Bramingham, Northwell and Sundon Park	– 6 Councillors
Dallow, Farley and South	– 9 Councillors
Barnfield, Icknield, Limbury and Saints	– 9 Councillors
Biscot, High Town and Round Green	– 8 Councillors
Crawley, Stopsley and Wigmore	– 7 Councillors

**Resolved:** That the report be noted.

### 3 OPENING OF LEWSEY FARM LEARNING CENTRE (REF: 8)

Mrs. K. Alexander, the Lewsey Farm Learning Centre Manager reported on the new Lewsey Farm Learning Centre based at the old Chantry Junior School.

The centre would include such facilities as Internet access, aromatherapy, music room, kitchen, hall and offices. The centre would initially be open to members of the public from Lewsey and surrounding areas between the hours of 9.00am to 5.00pm, and then weekends subject to the demand of the community.

The centre would be officially opened on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2003.

A member of the public asked that consideration be given to providing a crèche facility should be made available at a nominal or free of charge, to enable single parents to use the facilities.

**Resolved:** (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That the Lewsey Farm Learning Centre Manager be asked to give consideration to the suggestion of a crèche

#### **4      TEENAGE VILLAGE FOR LEAGRAVE, LEWSEY AND CHALLNEY (REF: 9)**

The Head of Street Services reported on the possible development of a Teenage Village for Leagrave and Challney. Lewsey had withdrawn its request for a teenage village, as funding had been granted for an alternative project in the ward. The teenage village would need to be located in an area large enough so as not to disturb local residents, but close enough so that the facility could be monitored. He added that ideally any identified location should be constructed as part of a play area for maintenance purposes.

Possible sites for the teenage village were:

Hockwell Ring – near community centre  
Beechwood Road enclosure  
Dunstable Road open space/Chaul End Lane  
Regis Road – as part of the home zone initiative  
Electrolux site

The Chair informed the Committee that the current deadline for submitting grant application from Bedfordshire Police Crime Reduction Unit had passed, and that a further application would need to be submitted. He suggested that an application should be made for two Teenage Villages, one in Challney and one in Leagrave. He added that advice should be sought from Youth Services on suitable locations.

**Resolved:** (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That the Head of Street Services be instructed to submit grant applications for two Teenage Villages one in Challney ward and Leagrave ward.

(iii) That Youth Services be requested to provide a list of recommended sites for teenage villages in consultation with Councillors.

(iii) That subject to a successful bid, it be noted that the Area Committee's preferred choice would be Hockwell Ring.

#### **5      FENCE TO DETER MOTORBIKES INTO LOFTUS GREEN (REF: 10)**

The Head of Street Services informed the Committee that after consultation with the Police, it was decided that a fence should be erected in Loftus Green to deter motorbikes away from the open space. He added that although this would not resolve the issue, it would help alleviate the problem and redirect the motorbikes away from the front of the houses.

**Resolved:** That the report be noted.

#### **6      PETITION – PROBLEMS AT HOCKWELL RING SHOPS (REF: 11)**

The Chair reported to the Committee that a petition received from residents and shopkeepers in respect of the problems outside of the Hockwell Ring shops. He said that young people were begging, drinking and intimidating people collecting pensions and benefits from the post office. If challenged, people were threatened and property had been damaged.

Councillor Roden said that this was an ongoing problem, and that a meeting of the Hockwell Ring Action Forum had been arranged with appropriate agencies for the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2003 in answer to the petition.

**Resolved:** That receipt of the petition be noted.

## **7 PETITION – PLANTATION OF ADDITIONAL SHRUBS – POETS GREEN (REF: 12)**

The Head of Street Services reported on a petition received from residents of Poets Green requesting the installation of additional shrubs to alleviate the problem of nuisance ball games and also requested that bollards are erected on the corner off the Green (Browning Road end) to prevent cars being driven across the Green..

The Head of Street Services recommended that no action should be taken in response to the petition in respect of planting or with regard to bollard installation, and that officers be instructed to monitor the situation and should the level of disturbance dramatically increase, a further report would be submitted to the Area Committee.

A member of the public expressed the view that as the Green was for recreational use. He said that parents wanted somewhere near for their children to play in safety. He added that many children who played on the Green were aged between 18mths to 15 years.

Another member of the public strongly objected, and stated that many of the problems were caused by young adults from the surrounding area who had caused damage to house and gardens, and also vandalism to cars. He added that a goal post had been installed which had aggravated the problem.

A local resident informed the Committee that she had purchased the goal post, and said that she had spoken to residents of Poets Green telling them that if any problems occur to contact her. She added that parents did not want their children to go to Lewsey Park as it would be dangerous, and that there was nothing there for children.

Another resident informed the Committee that in 2000, the Luton Mediation Service had arranged a meeting between parents and residents of Poets Green. Unfortunately only 3 residents from Poets Green attended, two of which had left the meeting early.

Bob Baker, Area Youth Worker suggested that a further meeting should be held to enable both sides to come to an agreement. He said that the green belonged to the community and it would be against community spirit if shrubs and bollards were installed.

The Chair agreed that Luton Mediation Services should arrange a further meeting between parents, residents and the Parks Division. He suggested that £500 pounds should be allocated for reconfiguration of shrubs to protect houses and also to discourage older youths from playing on the Green.

**Resolved:** (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That Luton Mediation be instructed to arrange a meeting between parents, residents and the Parks Division.

(iii) That £500 pounds be allocated for reconfiguration of shrubs to protect houses and also to discourage older youths from playing on the green.

## **8 PETITION – REQUEST FOR RESIDENTS PARKING – BEECHWOOD ROAD (REF: 13)**

The Director of Environment and Regeneration reported on a petition received from residents of Beechwood Road requesting the introduction of residents parking in Beechwood Road between Linden Road and Filmer Road.

Mehmood Khan, Highways & Structures Engineering Manager informed that Committee that if funds were available, provision could be made available for residents parking in Beechwood Road in the Spring of 2003, and he would inform the head petitioner accordingly.

~~(ii) That consultation with houses effected be carried out~~

Councillor R. J. Davis suggested that as there were a number of proposals in the Leagrave area, there should be a single consultation exercise covering all schemes.

**Resolved:** (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That the Director of Environment and Regeneration (Engineering and Transportation Services) be instructed to investigate the provision of residents parking in Beechwood Road in the Spring of 2003 and inform the head petitioner accordingly.

## 9 COMMUNITY AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT - AREA UPDATE (REF: 14)

~~Mr. B. Baker~~The Area Youth Worker ~~informed the Area Committee~~reported that youth provision had been made available for four nights a week at the Hockwell Ring Community Centre to help alleviate Nuisance Youths issues in the area. He added that summer activities had been arranged for youths in Lewsey, but youth provision in Challney still needed to be addressed.  
~~as they need guidance as well as social responsibility. This information could be obtained by holding a Youth Community Forum.~~

**Resolved:** That the report be noted.

## 3510 AREA REPORT (REF:15)

The Area Committee Support Officer updated the Committee on issues that were raised at the last meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2002.

The Committee were advised that during the last round of Area Committees observations had been made with regard to notice given to members of the public in relation to future meetings of Area Committees. As a result all individuals who had attended the last three meetings, and whose names had been recorded on the database, had been notified of the dates of future meetings during week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> December 2002. Information had also been published in the local press, LutonLine and on the Council's website.

He reported that the Area Committee Board had expressed concern in respect of the poor uptake of the transport, which had been provided to convey members of the community to the Area Committee meetings, although attendance of the meetings had increased. It had been resolved that if the take up of transport didn't improve, future transport would only be provided on a request basis.

The Area Committee Support Officer informed that Committee that at the previous meeting, he had been instructed to investigate suitable sites for the provision of off road motorcycles. Unfortunately, the search for a suitable site had proved fruitless. The availability of appropriate land and space was limited and some of the identified sites, which had been explored, did not fall within the Luton Boundary or had already been identified as areas for development.

The Area Committee Support Officer reported on an area based project proposal which had been submitted by members of the public for consideration as follows:-

Ref: LW 63:- Lewsey Leisure Gardens - £750 Grant for new gates for security purposes, to prevent individuals using it as a climbing frame.

**Resolved:** (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That the proposal ( Ref: LW 63) be deferred to a future meeting. The Chair informed the Committee that he would discuss the proposal with the applicants, as the gates might be able to be encompassed within another project in the area.

## 3611 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (REF: 16)

A member of the public asked the Committee when the Community Notice Boards would be installed.

The Area Committee Support Officer informed the Committee that the boards were ordered, but did not come with stands. On returning the signs, it was discovered that the company had gone into

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liquidation. Another company had been identified, and would be installed the new notice boards within the next few weeks as locations had been identified and legal permission granted.

A member of the public raised concern that the a letter sent to residents with regard to traffic calming in Station Road, did not represent the views submitted in a recent consultation exercise. He commented that the ancient field/hedgerow ~~The following issues were raised:~~ mentioned in the report was dilapidated, and that the pavement should be located on that side of the road.

Councillor R. J. Davis replied that the Executive had been advised to preserve the ancient hedgerow for environmental reasons. If ill advised the Executive could reconsider its decision.

A member of the public commented that the new traffic lights installed at the roundabout of Chaul End Lane, Dunstable Road and Oakley Road caused traffic jams and major disruption to the flow of traffic.

Mehmood Khan informed the Committee that the traffic lights were installed to create a modal shift towards use of public transport.

A local resident informed the Committee that there were still fallen branches in the area from storms in October 2003.

The Area Committee Support Officer informed the Committee that the Parks Department were still in the process of a clean up operation, after the October storms.

A member of the public raised concern that parents dropping their children off at Moorlands School ignore any parking restrictions. They added that the police and parking attendants had targeted the area, parents move on but return the next day.

Councillor R. J. Davis informed the Committee that hopefully land left over from the Electrolux, could be allocated as a parking area for the school. Councillor Roden added that the Headmaster of the school had tried to speak to the parents concerned but had been ignored.

A member of the public raised concern at the amount of pigeons roosting at high-rise flats in the area. He said that droppings from the pigeons area health hazard. He suggested that they should be either sterilized or culled or deterred by use of a hawk.

The Area Housing Manager informed the Committee that it was illegal to sterilize the pigeons. He added that the Council would not object to residents installing netting on their balconies, but it would be detriment to the flats appearance, as they were unsightly and birds often got caught in them, which could cause distress to residents. Councillor R. J. Davis added that some residents feed the pigeons, which attracts the pigeons and was also contravened their tenancy agreement.

Resolved: (i) That the items raised be noted.

(ii) That the Executive be asked to reconsider its decision in respect of the location of the footpath in Station Road.

**(Note: The meeting ended at 9.00 p.m.)**