

PUTTERIDGE AND STOPSLEY AREA COMMITTEE

26th November 2002 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor J. Davies (Chair), R. Davies, Dolling,
Greenham, Siederer and Wates.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Slater (Head of Planning)
Ian Blackley (Development Control Manager)
Tony Ireland (Special Events Officer)
Alan Williams (Assistant Engineer)

23. MINUTES (REF: 2.1)

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 6th June, 2002 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

24. FAIR VISITS (REF: 5.1)

The Special Events Officer reported with regard to a proposal that a 6 year agreement be entered into with fair operators on the following basis:-

- (a) The Fair will visit Wardown Park and Stockwood Park once per year.
- (b) The Fair will visit Legrave and Lewsey Parks on an alternating basis (i.e. once every two years).
- (c) The Fair will visit Manor Road and Ashcroft Park on an alternating basis (i.e. once every two years).
- (d) In recognition of this security, the Fair Operators will "sponsor" a community benefit (e.g. an item of playground equipment or piece of community art) the operators have offered £1,000 per annum towards this.

The Special Events Officer reported that consultation forms were available for members of the public to provide feedback on the issue.

Resolved: (i) That the report be noted and the proposals be supported by the Committee.

- (ii) That individual residents be urged to respond to the consultation exercise.

(Note: The above item was considered by Committee in pursuance of Sections 100B(4) and 100E(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair having considered that the item should be dealt with as a matter of urgency in order that the views of the public be sought).

25. LUTON AIRPORT - NEW RUNWAY AND ACCESS ROAD (REF: 7)

The Head of Planning reported on the future development of air transport in the United Kingdom: South East, which is a national consultation exercise being carried out by the Government. He reported that Luton had been identified as a priority area for regeneration, and that growth of the Luton Airport was a key issue.

The Executive supported the expansion of London Luton Airport to the maximum capacity in view of the regeneration of the local economy that would be

delivered, but requested that the Government identify a methodology to determine the environmental capacity for expansion.

The Council preferred the new realigned option, as this would affect fewer people than the other options of building a new parallel runway and extending the existing runway, although residents had raised concern with this option. It would also remove the western Public Safety Zone from urban areas and places both Public Safety Zones over essentially agricultural land.

The Head of Planning added that the Council supported the development of Alconbury for use as a designated freight airport, as this would constrain dedicated freight movements, especially at night, at other main airports in the South East. A ban would be imposed from all night flights in Luton. He commented that the proposed North East bypass would be difficult to accommodate, so use of rail would be encouraged.

A member of Friends of the Earth commented that if the proposed plans were implemented London Luton Airport would become bigger than Gatwick. He informed the Committee that a national campaign against the Governments proposals had been started, as people do not support it. He added that there was no need for the expansion of airports.

Members of the public raised concern in respect of the increased noise and pollution that the expansion of the airport would create.

A member of the public commented that there had been a lack of public consultation.

The Head of Planning reported that due to costs, advertisements had been published in local newspapers, libraries and local radio rather than individual letters to every household. He added that the DETR had held an exhibition in Harpenden promoting the proposals, the Council had pointed out that Harpendon was not in Bedfordshire, and that many people from Luton would not be aware of it.

The Chair added that the local Liberal Democrat Councillors had objected to the Councils decision for a realigned runway on the publics' behalf. Councillor Dolling urged residents to write to the Government making their objections clear.

A member of the public commented that the Wigmore Park had been developed to give the surrounding estates protection from the airport, but with the proposed realignment, it would be removed. He also added that existing houses would only be 200 yards from the runway.

The Head of Planning informed the Committee that Wigmore Park was part of a noise soak away, and that with a realigned runway, it would not be usable. He added that if the park were removed, it would be replaced.

A member of public felt that the decision had not been made democratically and suggested that there should be a referendum.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

26. SELSEY DRIVE (REF: 8)

The Development Control Manager reported that an Outline Planning Application had been received for the development of an area of land at Putteridgebury.

He explained that outline planning permission was only acceptance in principle of the proposal, and that, if outline permission is granted, a further detailed application would be submitted at a future date for approval. He added that 82 letters of objection and a 14 signature petition had been received, and that the Council would take into account local views on the matter.

The Development Control Manager reported that the County Structure Plan which had identified this area as Green Belt, was currently under review, and that the release of Greenbelt was under scrutiny. He added that the current Structure Plan had identified a requirement in Luton to build 16,000 houses over the current allocation.

The Development Control Manager informed the Committee that a decision in respect of the application would not be made until January or February, 2003 at a meeting of the Development Control Committee. If the application were to be recommended for approval it would be a departure from the Borough of Luton Local Plan and would have to be submitted to full Council for final approval.

A member of the public raised concern in that if the application were approved, it would set a bad precedent for the remainder of the Putteridgebury site. He added that Friends of The Earth would object to any development.

A member of the public commented that if properties were constructed on the site, it would necessitate more schools and a new hospital.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

(Note: Councillor Greenham disclosed a personal interest in the above item and remained in the meeting during consideration of the proposal)

27. CANNON LANE – PARKING ISSUES (REF: 9)

The Director of Environment and Regeneration reported that Consultants had been commissioned to undertake a review of parking problems in Stopsley and Putteridge Wards, fifteen specific sites had been identified and investigated. The proposed double yellow lines at the junction would help relieve the congestion, but the problem couldn't be reduced without the resident's agreement to the extension of double yellow lines.

He reported that the Consultants would focus on these issues, and that any feedback from residents would be welcome and would assist in the solving of the problems.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

28. TRAFFIC CALMING AND PARKING SCHEMES (REF: 10)

The Chair reported that the Council had proposed to install double yellow lines in Butterfield Green Road and Venetia Road, and also parking meters, which residents do not want. She added that Sommerfields would have easier access to increase parking in the area.

A member of the public raised concern that Putteridge Road has become congested during the rush hour, especially around school drop off points. She commented that this would restrict emergency vehicles.

Councillor Greenham referred to a questionnaire, which had been distributed to every house in Putteridge Road regarding traffic calming measures, which he urged residents to read carefully. The Chair emphasised that it was important that residents responded to these questionnaires.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

29. LIME TREES LOCATED IN HITCHIN ROAD - PETITION (REF: 11.1)

The Head of Street Services reported that a petition had been received with regards to Lime Trees in Hitchin Road. To help alleviate problems caused by the trees, it was proposed that they would be pruned by 15-20% before March 2003, and then on a regular basis every 3 years.

Resolved: (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That the Head of Street Services be requested to:

(a) ensure that the lime trees are pruned by 15-20% before 2003

(b) to establish a programme to ensure that the Lime trees are pruned every 3 years.

30. MAKE CRAWLEY GREEN ROAD A SAFER ROAD – PETITION (REF: 11.2)

The Director of Environment and Regeneration reported that a petition had been received requesting that the length of Crawley Green Road from Wigmore Primary School to Hedley Rise is made a safer road. He referred to a scheme being proposed for the length of Crawley Green Road, and reported on a number of traffic and safety measures, which were included in the scheme.

Resolved: (i) That receipt of the petition be noted.

(ii) That the Director of Environment and Regeneration (Engineering and Transportation) be instructed to install the proposed scheme for Crawley Green Road and to inform the head petitioner accordingly.

(iii) That the Director of Environment and Regeneration (Engineering and Transportation) be instructed to refer the request for a footpath across the Green to the Parks Division for consideration.

31. TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES ON MOUNTGRACE ROAD – PETITION (REF: 11.3)

The Director of Environment and Regeneration reported on a petition received from residents of Mountgrace Road requesting the installation of traffic calming measures. He informed the Committee that Mountgrace Road was already on the request list, but at present was only ranked a Medium Priority. He explained that the contents of the Request List were re-evaluated each January so that a programme of traffic and safety work for the next financial year could be submitted to the Executive for approval. He added that at this stage it was unlikely that traffic calming for Mountgrace Road would be ranked as a high enough priority for inclusion in the programme.

A member of the public raised concern that traffic turning off of the A505 speeds down Mountgrace Road, and suggested that speed humps are imposed to help reduce the speed.

Councillor Greenham informed the Committee that a child had recently been knocked off of their bike in Mountgrace Road.

The Director of Environment and Regeneration informed the Committee that the request list does take into account accident reports.

The Chair raised concern that with the development of Butterfield Green, traffic would increase in the area.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

32. TRAVELLERS – PETITION (REF 11.4)

The Head of Street Services reported on a petition received, regarding Travellers. He reported that at present the Council has not designed a 100% foolproof barrier that prevented access to open areas. This was difficult to achieve, as Council vehicles had to gain access to maintain the grounds. He commented that if earth mounds were installed at Luton Regional Sports Centre, Travellers would be displaced to surrounding areas.

The Head of Street Services informed the Committee that the problems held at Ashcroft Park had been a watershed. Chief Super Brian Minihane had instructed officers to be more pro-active in their approach to remove travellers.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

33. COMMUNITY AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT - AREA UPDATE (REF: 12)

The Area Community Development Officer reported on community and youth development in the area. He reported that provision had been made for a youth club at both Putteridge High School and Ashcroft High School. He added that two outreach youth workers had been allocated to target problem areas.

The Area Community Development Officer informed the Committee that a number of complaints had been received with regard to nuisance youths. To discuss this, a separate meeting had been arranged with the police, youth agencies and Margaret Moran MP. The meeting would be held on 6th December at Raynham Way Community Centre.

A member of the public believed that youths from the Youth Club were drinking, throwing used cans into gardens, and causing a disturbance on two nights a week, and enquired as to the type of control undertaken at the Putteridge Youth Club.

Councillor Greenham informed the Committee that the youth clubs were strictly controlled, and that no alcohol was allowed. He suggested that residents should write to the local schools. The Chair also suggested that these issues should be taken up through the nuisance youth scheme.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

34. AREA REPORT (REF: 13)

The Area Committee Support Officer updated the Committee on issues that had been raised at the last meeting held on 6th June 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

13th August 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. 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 reported on three area based project proposals which had been submitted by members of the public for consideration as follows: -

1. **Ref: SP18.** Provision of shutters to the front of The Arts Shop in Yeovil Road, garden furniture, benches and an overhead sign at a cost of £5000.
2. **Ref: SP19.** Provision of a play area on the green area in Brunswick Road at a cost of £5000.
3. **Ref: SP20.** Provide three public toilets in the Stopsley Area. Jansel House, Hitchin Road and Lothair Road.

Resolved: (i) That the Report be noted

(ii) That the committee support SP18.

(iii). That project SP19 be deferred to the meeting to be held on 14th January 2003 to enable further details to be submitted, in respect of the financial implications of this project.

(iv) That due to financial restraints the installation of public toilets in Stopsley referred to in project SP20 was no longer possible.

35. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (REF: 14)

A member of the public asked the Committee why the garage on the A505 had closed down.

The Head of Planning informed the Committee that the garage had closed down because it was no longer economically viable.

35. AGENDA PLANNING (REF: 15)

Resolved: That the following items be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Committee:-

- That the Development Control Manager report back on the response from the Statutory Consultation undertaken in respect of the development of land at Putteridgebury, Selsey Drive
- Luton Airport

(Note: The meeting ended at 9.45 p.m).