

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT LOCAL COUNCILS' LIAISON COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, 17 March 2010 **Time:** 7.30 - 8.55 pm

Place: Combined Committee Rooms
1 & 2 - Civic Offices

Members Present:

Representing Epping Forest District Council:

Councillor(s): Mrs P Smith (Chairman), Mrs A Grigg, Mrs A Haigh, R Morgan and Mrs J H Whitehouse*

Other Councillors:

Councillor(s):

Representing Essex County Council:

County Councillor(s): J Knapman, C Pond and V Metcalfe

Representing Local Councils:

Councillor J Salter (Abbess, Beauchamp and Berners Roding Parish Council), Miss H Nicholas (Roydon Parish Council), Councillor C Thompson (Moreton Bobbingworth and The Lavers Parish Council), Ms J Hedges (Epping Town Council), Councillor J Filby, Councillor Ms J Bowerman (Matching Parish Council), Councillor Ms G Castle (Nazeing Parish Council), Mrs S De Luca (North Weald Bassett Parish Council), Mrs D Borton (Nazeing Parish Council), Mrs S Jackman (Ongar Town Council), Councillor Mrs S Jones (Theydon Bois Parish Council), J Philip (Theydon Bois Parish Council), V Evans (Epping Upland Parish Council), Councillor Mrs N Bridge (Fyfield Parish Council), R Balcombe (Fyfield Parish Council), Mrs K Richmond (Waltham Abbey Town Council) and Councillor B Miller

(* County Councillor C Pond also represented Loughton Town Council and District Councillor Mrs J Whitehouse also represented Epping and Theydon Bois as a County Councillor)

Apologies:

Epping Forest District Council –

Councillor(s):

Essex County Council –

Councillor(s):

Parish/Town Councils: -

Mrs P Richardson, Mrs E Walsh (Loughton Town Council), Mrs K Canning (Chigwell Parish Council) and E Fenwick (Matching Parish Council)

Officers Present: C O'Boyle (Director of Corporate Support Services), D Macnab (Deputy Chief Executive), K Durrani (Assistant Director (Engineering Services)), K Polyzoides (Assistant Director (Policy & Conservation)), E Haines (Conservation Officer) and R Perrin (Democratic Services Assistant)

By Invitation:

15. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 18 November 2009 be agreed subject to the following amendments:

- Councillor C Pond represented Loughton both as a Town Councillor and County Councillor.
- Councillor J Whitehouse sent her apologies as both District Councillor and County Councillor for Epping.
- Councillor J Filby was a representative from Lambourne Parish Council not Epping Town.

16. LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC GAMES - CO-ORDINATION OF CELEBRATORY EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEGACY BENEFITS.

The Deputy Chief Executive, Derek Macnab gave a brief update on behalf of the Epping Forest Olympic Champion, Councillor S Murray. The District Council asked that Town and Parishes Councils notify the Council about future events organised to celebrate the forthcoming Olympic Games, so that joint working opportunities could be generated.

The White Water Canoe Centre had been re-located to the Lee Valley Regional Park in Broxbourne, just 150 metres from the Royal Gunpowder Mills site in Waltham Abbey, with an expectancy of attracting around 14,000 per day visitors, through the period of the Olympic Games.

In addition officers were looking at possibilities for North Weald Airfield to potential provide a camping site for the Caravan Club, business aviation for Corporate events and sponsors and an organised Park and Ride site for Olympic transport needs.

Epping Forest Museum had received £10,000 external funding for a County-wide touring Exhibition celebrating Essex Sportsmen and Women. The Council were supporting a mini Olympics for all Year 6 children in the District. A bid to hold part of the Olympic Torch Relay had also been submitted.

The Local Councils enquired about the funding commitments that the District could incur from the White Water Canoe Centre, after the Olympic Events.

The Deputy Chief Executive advised that no funding commitments would be necessary from Epping Forest District Council. A business model had been developed by the Lee Valley Park Authority to run the centre after the Olympics as a white water rafting centre which should be financially sustainable. The National Canoe Centre had also indicated

that their head quarters would probably move to the venue after the Olympics. All public transport for the venue would be running through Broxbourne Borough Council.

The Deputy Chief Executive also advised that Hertfordshire County Council and Broxbourne Borough Council were keen to create an economic development officer to maximise the legacy benefits. EFDC may contribute.

County Councillor C Pond asked about the usage of the Lorry Park that had been created in the Loughton/Debden area of the M11 for the Olympics and hoped that the usage would remain as a revenue asset rather than returning to waste land.

Councillor J Salter enquired about the traffic problems encountered with the Scouts Jamboree in 2010 and that a similar problem could be caused by the Caravan Club event at the North Weald Airfield.

Councillor Mrs A Haigh asked about information on the rental of houses or lodgers for the Olympics.

RESOLVED:

That Parish and Town Councils organising events for the Olympics would advise the District Council and Town and Parish Councils would be approached to see if they wished to form a co-ordinating committee with the District.

17. STANDARDS COMMITTEE INVESTIGATIONS

The Monitor Officer for Epping Forest District Council, Colleen O Boyle, reported that the budget for the Standards Committee for the financial year 2009/10 had been increased to a total of £10,000 for ongoing work. For 2010/11, the budget had been increased further to a total of £15,000. The budget had been provided to fund training, conflict resolution and mediation not just investigations.

The Monitor Officer advised that investigation were very expensive and some of the issues could be resolved by other methods, although it should not deter true complaints.

The Chairman asked whether Parish and Town Councils could contribute to the cost of investigations. The Monitor Officer advised that costs incurred by investigations were the responsibility of the District Council by legislation.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee noted the increased budget for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

18. MONITORING OFFICER - VISITS

The Monitor Officer advised Parish and Town Councils that the Monitor Officer Colleen O Boyle, Deputy Monitor Officer Ian Willett, Altercation and Determination Manager Graham Lunnun and Local Assessment Manager Simon Hill were available to visit, if required, to discuss any matters of interest.

RESOLVED:

That Parish and Town Councils contact the Deputy Monitor Officer to arrange a visit, if required.

19. ELECTIONS - EFFECT OF COMBINED PARLIAMENTARY AND DISTRICT ELECTIONS

The Monitor Officer advised on behalf of the Returning Officer that all Clerks should have received a letter advising Parish and Town Councils of combined Parliamentary and District elections. Parish and Town elections will be held 21 days after the combined elections. Any concerns or queries to contact the Senior Electoral Services Officer, Wendy MacLeod.

RESOLVED:

That any queries or concerns raised by the letter sent to the Parish or Town Clerks should be referred to Wendy MacLeod.

20. ISSUES RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILS**a) Conservation Areas**

Concerns had been expressed by the Local Councils that not all notifications of Tree Protection orders had been clearly advertised, which had caused problems when Parish and Town Councils had gone onto complete remedial works.

The Local Councils felt that the Conversation appraisals seemed to be a slow process and more involvement for third party organisations should be considered. Whilst the use of the Article 4 directive should be used to provide more protection for areas within the Epping Forest District and reduce the alterations, protect and value the areas of conservation.

County Councillor C Pond commented on areas of Loughton and Buckhurst Hill that had been mentioned by members of the national heritage as conversation areas and asked how the Parish and Town Councils could forward this information onto EFDC.

The Assistant Director of Planning, Policy and Conservation, Cassandra Polyzoides advised that they were aware of resources issues and currently they had only one Conservation Officer, Elizabeth Haines. A report had been submitted to Cabinet on 19 April 2010, for a one year fixed term Technical Officer Post in the Conservation section to support the high demand of work and the post would allow for work to be progressed on existing Conservation Areas although not reviewing other areas and whether they merit designation.

County Councillor C Pond advised that consideration for joint funding to create further role, could be considered because of the valued work of the Conservation section.

Councillor Mrs A Haigh advised that Buckhurst Hill Parish Council had previously tried to protect areas of conservalational interest but had been unsuccessful because the houses had been altered too much or too many Victorian buildings had been protected, although if comments had been received about the Buckhurst Hill containing buildings of interest they would take it on board.

RESOLVED:

That the Assistant Director of Planning, Policy and Conservation, add the Local Councils comments to the Cabinet report for consultation undertaken.

b) Village Hall Rubbish Collection

The Assistant Director Environment and Street Scene (Technical) , Kim Durrani advised that the Cabinet Committee on the 8 March 2010 had decided that fees for the collection of residual waste from Village and Community Halls would be charged at £7.50 per container per collection and £2 rental per week via Sita UK with costs being reviewed annually. The Recyclable Waste collection and Recyclable Waste containers would be free of charge. The decision currently awaits the call in period after which a letter will be sent to all Parish and Town Councils inviting them to get in touch with the Council to discuss arrangements for implementation of collection services. These include formal agreements and duty of care requirements for collections. Officers of the Council will be able to visit the premises and agree the most appropriate collection arrangement with the Parish and Town Council.

Local Councils felt that the recycling collections were acceptable but that the costs for the residual waste were unfair because the majority of the Village halls were not profit making organisations and the residual waste produced would be minimal.

The Assistant Director Environment and Street Scene (Technical) advised that the Local Councils comments would be referred back to the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Councillor Mrs M Sartin and all Parish and Town Councils would be visited by officers to discuss collection details.

RESOLVED:

That comments from the Local Councils are passed onto the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Councillor Mrs M Sartin.

c) Presentations

Noted that future presentations from outside organisations should be kept to a minimum time and that if the organisations require longer, they could visit Parish and Town Councils individually.

21. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor J Salter thanked Councillor P Smith for chairing the committees for the last year.

22. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The future meeting dates for this Committee were noted.

CHAIRMAN