

# **EPPING FOREST LOCAL COUNCILS' LIAISON COMMITTEE**

## **NOTICE OF MEETING**

**Place:** Council Chamber, Civic Offices,  
High Street, Epping      **Date:** Wednesday, 10th November,  
2010

**Room:** Council Chamber      **Time:** 7.30 pm

**Democratic Services Officer:** Mark Jenkins (The Office of the Chief Executive)  
Tel: 01992 564607 Email: mjenkins@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

### **Members:**

#### **District Council Representatives:**

Councillors Mrs A Grigg (Chairman), K Angold-Stephens, R Morgan, B Sandler and J M Whitehouse

#### **Local Council Representatives:**

Clerks and Chairmen/Members of Parish and Town Councils

#### **County Council Representatives:**

Members for the following divisions:

North Weald and Nazeing:	Councillor A Jackson
Loughton Central:	Councillor C Pond
Ongar and Rural:	Councillor G McEwen
Epping and Theydon Bois:	Councillor Mrs J Whitehouse
Buckhurst Hill and Loughton South:	Councillor V Metcalfe
Chigwell and Loughton Broadway:	Councillor J Knapman
Waltham Abbey:	Councillor Mrs E Webster

**PLEASE NOTE THE START DATE OF THE MEETING  
COFFEE/TEA WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FROM 7.00  
P.M IN THE MEMBERS ROOM**

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

### **2. MINUTES**

To confirm the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 17 March 2010 (previously circulated) and matters arising.

### **3. QUEEN ELIZABETH II FIELDS CHALLENGE (Pages 5 - 16)**

(District Council) The National Playing Fields Association is trying to get local authorities to nominate playing fields/open spaces/commons for QE2 Memorial Field status (with the aim of keeping these open spaces as “play spaces in perpetuity”) as a celebration of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympics in 2012.

The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge is an exciting grassroots legacy programme to mark the two great events that are taking place in the UK in 2012: Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympics. It is the very first project to receive official endorsement by the Queen and will aim to protect 2012 playing fields in communities all across the country to be known as Queen Elizabeth II Fields - a 21st century version of the hugely popular King George V Memorial Fields.

Fields in Trust - the operating name of the National Playing Fields Association - has been the leading independent charity campaigning to protect and improve playing fields for more than 80 years with the long standing support of the Royal Family. HRH The Prince William of Wales will be leading this campaign as an active Patron of The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge.

The aim is to create a sense of public engagement around both the Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympics by asking the nation to vote for their favourite local playing field to be protected. In order to achieve this Fields in Trust is looking for support from each Local Authority to identify a number of possible playing fields in their area that they would be happy to see protected. A national media campaign is planned to get the public to vote for their favourite sites with the eventual winners being selected as the Queen Elizabeth II Fields.

The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge is a unique opportunity to be involved in a high profile, nationwide campaign that has a real and tangible benefit to communities across the United Kingdom. The Challenge has the capacity to impact on a wide range of key agendas such as promoting social cohesion, increasing participation in physical activity and improving the environment. The campaign will be supported by a media partnership along with a series of top national sponsors and presents an excellent opportunity for Local Authorities to mark both the Diamond Jubilee and the 2012 Olympics.

Further details, the benefits of protecting fields, minimum criteria and frequently asked questions are attached.

Jon Cann, the Major Grants and Trusts Manager of the National Playing Fields Association will attend the meeting to make a presentation.

#### **4. LOCAL COUNCIL COMMENTS ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

(District Council) At Planning Services Standing Scrutiny Panel it has been raised that local council’s, in responding to consultation on planning applications, had on occasions requested that in the case where they had raised no objections and requested that it be reported to the relevant area planning committee, they were in fact being dealt with under officer delegated powers.

Under delegated powers, there is no such provision for such applications to be

reported to area plans committees. The delegated agreement makes it clear that there are two provisions that determine applications are reported to planning committees where it involves local council comments. These are:

- Applications recommended for approval contrary to an objection from a local council which are material to the planning merits of the proposal; and
- Applications recommended for refusal but where there is support from the local council and no other overriding planning consideration necessitates refusal.

The first of the above regularly trigger applications going to area plans committees, whereas the second is on occasion a trigger, because local council's appear to be a little less forthcoming in stating support for development and more comfortable in stating no objection. This has worked well for a number of years and should delegated authority be changed so that a "no objection" with a request that it be reported to area plans committee, actually goes to committee, then this will not only add to the length of items on agendas but will impact on NI157 indicator performance for turnaround time of planning applications.

Officers advice is that local council's could provide a more positive response ("support") where necessary, subject to justifying this opinion and also be reminded that they can approach a District Councillor of the relevant area planning committee to request a planning application be reported to that area plans committee within the first 4 weeks of notification.

## **5. ISSUES RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILS**

To discuss the following matters raised by Local Council's:

- Eviction of large Gypsy/Traveller camp in Basildon. Is there information regarding where the Gypsies/Travellers will go?; and
- Weekly List of Planning Applications moved to the Internet. Some local councils require the paper copies of the Weekly List.

## **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

## **7. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next scheduled meeting of the Committee will be on Wednesday 9 March 2011.