

EPHING FOREST LOCAL COUNCILS' LIAISON COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF MEETING

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices,
High Street, Epping

Date: Thursday, 21st July, 2011

Room: Council Chamber

Time: 7.30 pm

Democratic Services Officer: Adrian Hendry (The Office of the Chief Executive)
Tel: 01992 564246 Email:
democraticservices@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Members:

District Council Representatives:

Councillors K Angold-Stephens (Chairman), R Morgan, B Rolfe, B Sandler and Mrs P Smith

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. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

Decision Required:

- (1) To confirm the appointment of District Councillor K Angold-Stephens as the Chairman of the Committee for the Civic year;
- (2) To appoint a Vice Chairman of the Committee for the Civic Year.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. MINUTES (Pages 5 - 14)

To confirm the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 9 March 2011 and any matters arising.

4. EFDC COMMUNITY SERVICES PRESENTATION ON THEIR WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTNERSHIP WORKING.

A presentation will be given by Felicity Hall, Arts Officer and James Warwick, Sports Development Officer and will identify ways in which EFDC Community Services can deliver projects aimed at young people in partnership with local parish and town councils.

5. SAFEGUARDING TRAINING FOR TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL STAFF AND COUNCILLORS

Child Protection & Safeguarding

Background

Epping Forest District Council understands and is committed to its' responsibilities in regard to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of its children and young people and has underpinned this commitment through the inclusion of a Key Objective (2011 – 2012) in the Council Plan 2011-2015.

The Key Objective undertakes to:

“To work in partnership with Essex County Council and other statutory and voluntary agencies, to ensure the effectiveness of local arrangements and services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young People”

The actions identified to address this objective are to:

(a) Review corporate procedures for safeguarding children and young people;

(b) Provide training for appropriate members and officers, to ensure that they are confident in dealing with safeguarding concerns;

(c) Review recruitment and selection processes for officers that work directly with children and young people, in line with the 'Safer Recruitment' guidelines developed by the Essex Safeguarding Children Board;

(d) Develop a Safe Recruitment Policy, to ensure that applicants are suitable to work with children, young people and vulnerable adults;

In implementing action (b) as above, the Council has provided Child Protection

training for all staff that have contact with children, young people and families and all Council Members. To date, around 150 staff and 25% of Members have been trained and a further programme of training is shortly due to commence

Child Protection and District Partners

The Council sees Parish and Town Councils as key partners in the drive to reduce Child Abuse across Epping Forest District and is keen to develop collaborative working in this respect.

As a starting point to this collaborative working, all Parish and Town Councils are invited to access the training opportunities provided by the District Council, which operate on 2 hr condensed course basis at £20 per person (which includes a delegate pack) and are based at the Council's Civic Offices in Epping. Courses are available during the daytime and on an early evening basis and the next round of training is due to commence in August.

The training is equivalent to Level 2 Foundation Training in Child Protection (which is usually provided over half or full day course) and is endorsed by Essex Safeguarding Children Board.

Any Local Councils interested in booking places for Councillors or staff should contact Community Services on 01992 564302 for a list of the course dates and times.

6. QUEENS DIAMOND JUBILEE - BEACON PROPOSAL (Pages 15 - 22)

The Chairman of EFDC has had a request from the Chairman of the County Council that we erect 5 beacons in the District on the 4th June 2012. One in or near each of our main towns would seem appropriate if we could find suitable locations.

The name of local individual 'Beacon Coordinator' will have to be submitted along with locations and other information by the 30th April 2012.

Beacons can be on open land or gas fired ones can be on Church towers or other high buildings that are suitable. The gas ones (if they do not already exist) cost £299 plus VAT and this does not include the gas cylinder. The ground beacons have to be erected in a certain way and in a safe manner of course and they will be quite labour intensive.

The meeting is invited to discuss this invitation from the Pageant Master for Her Majesty The Queen. Several pages of paperwork explaining it in some detail are attached.

7. ISSUES RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILS

To discuss the following matters raised by Local Councils:

(1) **Highways Panel** – Local Councils were concerned that this panel has been disbanded and that this is likely to lead to a more centralised and ‘out of touch’ highways service.

(2) **Article Four Directions and Protection of Conservation Areas** - With the recent expansion of Permitted Development Rights, the district’s conservation areas were perceived by local Councils to be poorly protected by the planning authority. There was now an urgent need for the District Council to use Article Four Directions (which adjoining planning authorities already use) to give added control over development in conservation areas.

(3) **Consultation on Applications for Tree Work on Trees in Conservation Areas** – Local Councils agreed that all applications for tree work including TPX applications should be subject to consultations with parishes and it was noted that TPX applications are not currently subject to consultation.

(4) **ECC Salt Bins – agreements between EFDC and ECC on Winter Services** – Local Councils agreed that the above matters caused considerable concern last year and a promised update had not so far been received. They agreed that the matter should be raised with ECC and EFDC.

(5) **ECC Liaison** - With the recent reorganisation of ECC and the dissolution of the Highway’s Panel and the West Area Forum, it was felt to be increasingly difficult for parishes to raise and discuss matters of general concern with Essex County Council. It was felt that the role of LCLC could be developed further (at present individual local Members of Essex County Council are invited to attend) to provide a better liaison point with ECC similar to that currently enjoyed with EFDC. To facilitate this discussion Councillor John Jowers, Cabinet Member for Communities and Planning, Essex County Council, has been invited to attend this meeting.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Meetings of the Committee are scheduled for the following dates:

03 November 2011
22 March 2012