

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
HELD ON**

17 March 2009

7.30pm – 9.35pm

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS

Eddie Johnson (Chair)

Joel Charles (Vice Chair)

Sarah Jane Dangerfield

Tony Hall

Maggie Hulcoop

Sue Livings

Lorna Spenceley

APOLOGIES

Eleanor Macy

SUBSTITUTES

Linda Pailing (for Eleanor Macy)

ALSO PRESENT

Mike Garnett

Andrew Johnson

Muriel Jolles

Patrick McClarnon

81. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

82. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2009 and the special meetings held on 22 January 2009 and 17 February 2009 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

83. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

84. **WRITTEN QUESTIONS & PETITIONS**

(i) Written Questions

None.

(ii) Petitions

(a) *Random Alcohol and Drug Testing of Private Hire Drivers*

A petition of 21 signatures was received from private hire drivers objecting to the introduction of random drug and alcohol testing.

In response to the petition, the Chairman confirmed that there would be no additional financial burden to the drivers for the random alcohol testing, as testing would be undertaken at the same time as the random vehicle inspections.

With regard to the random drug tests, it was confirmed that approximately 24 tests per year would be carried out and therefore the impact of time away from work should be minimal.

The Chairman reiterated that the Council was working towards random alcohol and drug testing being applied to both the private hire and hackney carriage trade.

(b) *Road Traffic Orders*

The Committee received 12 petitions objecting to the proposed introduction of pay and display car parking in Old Harlow, The Stow and Bush Fair.

In response to the petitions, the Chairman acknowledged that whilst many concerns had been raised about the potential impact of car park charging, the proposals had been developed in response to concerns raised by others about the lack of available parking spaces and safety issues relating to cars being parked on pavements, zebra crossings and access being blocked for emergency vehicles.

85. **TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS**

The Committee received a report detailing the outcome of the public consultation it had commissioned at its meeting on the 20 January 2009, seeking views on proposed Traffic Regulation Orders to allow amendments to Clearways, Yellow Lines, Parking Permits and Pay & Display fees.

The Committee discussed the report at length and received proposed amendments to two recommendations detailed in the report.

The first proposed amendment was to replace the three bands for parking at the Town Station Lay-By with a half an hour free no return within one hour (recommendation K).

The second proposed amendment was to allow at weekends the first two hours parking at the Town Park to be free and to levy a charge of £1 all day thereafter (recommendation I).

RESOLVED to:

- (A) make the Resident Parking Permit: Fees Order 2009, as detailed in paragraphs 13 - 16 of the report;
- (B) make the Special Permits: Fees Order 2009, as detailed in paragraphs 17 and 18 of the report;
- (C) make for the Bus Terminus: On Street Waiting Order 2009, as detailed in paragraph 19 of the report;
- (D) make for Post Office Road , Wych Elm and Harlow Pool car parks: Off Street Parking Places Order 2009, as detailed in paragraph 20 of the report;
- (E) approve for Bush Fair car parking: Restriction of Waiting Order 2009, as modified by paragraph 33 and shown in Appendix O of the report;
- (F) approve for The Stow: Restriction of Waiting Order 2009, as modified by paragraph 33 of the report;
- (G) approve for Bush Fair car parks: Off Street Parking Places Order 2009, as modified by paragraph 36 (f), (g) and (h) of the report;

- (H) approve for The Stow car parks: Off Street Parking Places Order 2009, as modified by paragraph 39(a) and (g) of the report;
- (I) approve for the Town Park car park: Off Street Parking Places Order 2009, as modified by paragraph 42 (c) of the report and in addition, include the provision of Saturday and Sunday first two hours parking free, £1 all day thereafter;
- (J) approve for Old Harlow car parks: Off Street Parking Places Order 2009, as modified by paragraph 45 (c) of the report;
- (K) approve for Town Station: On Street Parking Places Order 2009, to permit half an hour free parking with no return within one hour;
- (L) delegate authority to the Strategic Director, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee, to state the reasons for the decisions made in A to K as required by the Traffic Order Procedural regulations, as set out in paragraphs 51 – 52 of the report.

The meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes from 8.25pm – 8.35pm for order to be restored in the public gallery.

86. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE