

MINUTES OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON

3 December 2008

7.30pm-9.47pm

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS

Linda Pailing (Chairman)

Nick Churchill
Mark Gough

Tony Durcan
Nick Macy

Mike Garnett
Patrick McClarnon

APOLOGIES

Joshua Jolles

28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

29. WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

None.

30. YOUTH COUNCIL-BRIEFING NOTE

The Chairman outlined the importance of involving the Youth Council in the work of this Committee. The Committee welcomed the attendance of Sean Farrell from the Youth Council and explained that Sean would be reporting back to the next full meeting of the Youth Council on the applicable agenda items of this meeting.

31. FLOODING ACTION PLAN UPDATE

The Committee received a report with action plan showing progress up to the 20 March 2008. Adam Littler, Highways Client Inspector gave an update on this action plan.

Members attention was drawn to persistent and ongoing flooding at the junction opposite to number 1 Joiners Field.

RESOLVED that

(a) the action plan be updated as follows:

- I. Action 11 - Gully areas now in a schedule of maintenance. 90% Gullies completed for year 08-09. Gt Parndon, Katherines, Sumners, Potter St, started – to be completed – due end April 09
- II. Action 12 - Reinspected and completed Aug 08, next due Aug 09
- III. Action 13 - Schedule on-going on yearly basis. Additional works: Woodcroft Ravine
- IV. Action 14 - Green Lane rescheduled for continual maintenance Dec 08
- V. Action 17 - Also now stored in 4 key locations around the town to assist in faster delivery
- VI. Action 18 - Gully cleansing schedule now in place, runs yearly from Jan to Jan to include all unadopted roads and estates
- VII. Action 19 - Works identified as being HDC responsibility carried out as per inspections, HCRM requests, planned maintenance e.g. Passmores House replacement drain run. Thames water apparently no longer attend surface water drains
- VIII. Action 23 - Works undertaken Ad hoc
- IX. Action 28 - Unadopted housing maintenance scheme in place on a rolling programme

32. **FREEVIEW IN HARLOW-VERBAL UPDATE**

As the relevant officer could not attend no update could be given to the Committee. Members were frustrated that this item keeps appearing on the agenda with what appeared to be very little action. Members agreed that this situation cannot continue as is and requested that decision be

taken as to whether this Committee continue with this item or delete it off the work plan.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the Chair of this Committee submit a question to Full Council asking for what outcomes and/or solutions have been reached between Harlow Council and Virgin Media.

33. **SCRUTINY REVIEW UPDATES**

The Committee received a progress report on the five reviews which this Committee had included in its 2008/09 Work Plan ie: Estate Parking; Policing in Harlow; Community Engagement; Concessionary Travel and Complaints Procedure.

Members of the Committee expressed a concern over the 'Complaint Procedure Review Working Party' choosing a housing complaint as a case study for the review, feeling that it produced a possible conflict of interest. It was suggested that Councillor Linda Pailing, Chair of Scrutiny choose a complaint for the working party to use as a case study.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the progress/update of each of the current scrutiny reviews, as set out in appendices 1-5 of the report, be noted;
- (b) councillor Linda Pailing choose a relevant complaint for the 'Complaint Procedure Review Working Party' to use as a case study.

34. **JOINT HEALTH SCRUTINY**

The Committee received a report on the potential of a joint Scrutiny review of health within West Essex. The proposal was to explore the possibility and potential benefits of undertaking a piece of health Scrutiny jointly with Uttlesford and Epping Forest. Members heard that the next stage would be to hold a meeting in the new year with the other authorities to discuss the topics and method of the review.

Members expressed concerns over the appropriateness of this review. Specific concerns were raised about the possibility of a duplication of work. It was explained that Essex County Council have a dedicated health Scrutiny Committee that were currently carrying out a review of West Essex Health Services.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the Chair and Vice Chair be tasked with gathering more information on the method and possible review topics and reporting back to the next meeting of this Committee

26. **REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

- (a) Licencing Committee
10 November 2008

Enforcement Policy

the above committee that the Scrutiny Committee be requested to scrutinise the drug testing process undertaken by the Harlow Occupational Health Service, as set out in the report at pages 67-78

RESOLVED that Councillor Pailing visit Harlow Council Occupational Health to assess the current situation and liaise with the Chair of Licensing, Councillor Nick Churchill

27. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE