

WITHAM LOCAL COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Date: 11th September 2007

Meeting Started: 7.15pm.

Meeting Ended: 10.43pm

Venue: Public Hall, Collingwood Road, Witham

Local Chairman: Cllr T J W Foster

Contact Point for further information: Melanie Phillips, Locality Co-Ordinator [Witham Area]

Membership Present:

Councillor J E Abbott	Yes	Councillor Mrs S A Howell	Apologies
Councillor Miss L Barlow	Yes	Councillor P J Hughes	Yes
Councillor D L Bebb	Apologies	Councillor M C M Lager	Yes
Councillor K E Bigden	Yes	Councillor S J Lambourne	Apologies
Councillor J G J Elliott	Yes	Councillor A M Meyer	Yes
Councillor Dr R L Evans	Yes	Councillor R G S Mitchell	Yes
Councillor T J W Foster	Yes	Councillor Mrs J M Money	Yes
Councillor Mrs M E Galione	Yes	Councillor R Ramage	Apologies
Councillor J E B Gyford	Yes	Councillor W Rose	Yes

Representatives of the Witham Local Community also in attendance:-

Representative	Address / Representing
Phil Baggarley	Mulberry Gardens, Witham
Derek Hunt	The Avenue, Witham
David Williams	Orchards, Witham
Peter Northfield	Witham Voice/Community News
Ian Cass	Federation Of Small Business
Paul Ryland	Witham Town Strategy Group
Terry Dixon	Kelvedon Parish Council
Darren Whitby	Braintree District Youth Council
John Palombi	Witham and Countryside Society
Simon Attwood	Laburnum Way, Witham
Steve Downey	Laburnum Way, Witham
Chris Papworth	Kelvedon and Feering Heritage Society
Christine Papworth	Kelvedon & Feering Neighbourhood Watch
Theresa Hovell	Chelmer Road, Witham
Barbara Smith	Chelmer Road, Witham
Dennis Smith	Chelmer Road, Witham
Sally Carpenter	Client Act Public Relations Ltd.

21. Declarations of Interest.

- Councillor John Gyford declared a personal interest in the item relating to Witham Park for reasons of his wife having given advice on this matter.
- Councillors Bigden, Foster, Galione, Money and Abbott declared personal interests with regard to the information contained in the briefing note on the Spread Eagle, Witham, for reasons of them being Members of the Planning Committee.
- Councillors Bigden, Elliott, Meyer and Hughes declared personal interests with regard to the information contained in the briefing note on the Spread Eagle, Witham, for reasons of them being Members of the Licensing Committee.
- Councillor Abbott declared a personal interest with regard to the information contained in the briefing note on the Spread Eagle, Witham, for reasons of him being a member of the Witham and Countryside Society.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, all Members remained in the meeting during the discussion thereon.

22. Minutes

The minutes of meeting held on 17th July 2007 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendments:-

- That the membership list be amended to show that Councillor Mitchell had given his apologies;
- That minute 16 be amended in accordance with the comments made by Councillor Abbott to show an additional bullet point which reads "That consideration be given to replacing existing lighting on nearby and connecting paths to the same high environmental standard as set out in the report";
- That minute 17 be amended in accordance with the comments made by Councillor Abbott to include the following additional issue " Improving pedestrian facilities, particularly in rural areas by improving and extending roadside footways and public footpath networks".

Councillor Walters, Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability, reported on the issues raised regarding the West Area Waste Management Joint Committee following a request at the last meeting and a debate ensued involving Members and the general public.

ACTIONS: That the Locality Co-ordinator makes the necessary changes to the minutes and to the list of priorities.

23. Public Question Time.

The following members of the public addressed the Committee:-

- Simon Attwood spoke on anti social behaviour in the area where he lives together with the problems associated with an alcohol licence in respect of a nearby establishment.
- John Palombi spoke on the issues relating to the Spread Eagle establishment.
- Councillor Lucy Barlow read out a statement from Town Councillor Phil Barlow on the extension of CCTV coverage in the Witham area.
- Sally Carpenter spoke on anti social behaviour and also the merits of attracting new businesses into the town.

24. Question & Answer Session – “Anti-Social Behaviour in the Witham Locality”

Councillor Mrs Schmitt, Cabinet Member and Charmaine Dean, Head of Public Protection and Healthy Living, were in attendance for this item and responded to a number of questions and statements made by both members of the public and members of the Committee. Comments were made by members of the public specifically regarding the anti-social behaviour which goes on in the area of the River Walk, Witham and the apparent lack of police presence.

ACTIONS: That diary logs/packs be made available to the Locality Co-ordinator for distribution to those who request them at the next meeting of the Committee.

25. Local Priorities.

The Committee considered a list of local priorities as compiled by the Locality Task Group at its meeting on 23rd August 2007 and presented by Councillor Barlow.

RESOLVED: The Committee decided to:

- (1) Endorse the Action Plan whilst recognising that it is a 'live' document' which will be constantly updated;
- (2) Delegate authority to the Witham Locality Co-Ordinator to amend the Action Plan, as appropriate, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Witham Local Committee;
- (3) Establish two Action Groups to investigate further the issues relating to Anti-Social Behaviour [Councillors Barlow, Meyer and Rose] and Roads and Traffic [Councillors Abbott, Elliott and Hughes];
- (4) Agree that the topics for debate at the next two meetings of the Witham Local Committee be 'Parking in the Witham Locality' [6th November 2007] and 'General Facilities in the Witham Locality' [10th January 2008].

Post meeting note:- A request has been made for a swap between two Councillors appointed to the above-mentioned Action Groups. Members will be kept informed.

ACTIONS: (1) That the Locality Co-ordinator ensures that the appropriate Cabinet Member is invited to the next meeting of the Committee to debate the issue of Parking in the Witham

locality.

- (2) That the Locality Co-ordinator ensures that the findings of any actions from the list of local priorities are fed back to the Members of the respective Action Groups.

26. Corporate Action Plan & Budget Consultation.

The Committee received and noted the timetable for consultation on the budget and corporate action plan.

**27. *Create a Better Place to Live, Work and Play:*
Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme [HERS].**

English Heritage offer funding through a partnership scheme for improvements to the built environment in Conservation Areas. Braintree District Council in partnership with Essex County Council is intending to submit a bid for funding for a scheme for the Witham Newland Street conservation area and the Committee was requested to support the scheme and to commit a contribution to it.

RESOLVED: The Committee decided to support the bid for a Heritage Improvement Scheme for the Witham Newland Street conservation area and agreed to make a contribution of £15,000 for this year and the same sum for the next two years subject to the funding being available to the Local Committees in future years.

**28. *Clean and Greener District:*
Guide for the Enforcement of Fly Posting.**

The Committee considered a report which is to be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 15th October 2007. Copies of the leaflet and guidance referred to in the report were circulated at the meeting.

RESOLVED: The Committee decided that it should be **recommended to Cabinet:-**

That the draft Guide to Tackling Fly-posting in the Braintree District and the draft advisory leaflet entitled 'Temporary Advertising of Events Held for Charitable Purposes' be endorsed and published.

**29. *Create a Better Place to Live, Work and Play:*
Witham Memorial Gardens**

The Committee considered an application for funding from the Royal British Legion, Witham Branch, for modifications to be made to the hardstanding in front of the war memorial at Witham Memorial Gardens to safely accommodate additional standard bearers during Remembrance Sunday and on other special occasions. The costs would be between £3,000 and £3,500.

RESOLVED: The Committee decided to agree to the request and fund the works in full.

**30. Create a Better Place to Live, Work and Play:
Witham Park**

The Committee considered a proposal for the establishment of a Management Advisory Group to assist the development of Witham Park and the preparation of a bid for grant aid to achieve this aim. The proposed composition of the Management Advisory Group was set out and the nomination of a Braintree District Council representative was put forward.

RESOLVED The Committee decided that a Management Advisory Group should be established and that Councillor Money be appointed to it.

31. Information

Members were reminded that a report had been sent advising on the proposed transfer of assets to Greenfields Community Housing (GCH) and identified the process for members to be involved.

32. Future Items

The Committee were referred to section 5 of the Agenda regarding items for the next meeting.

RESOLVED: The items set out under section 5 of the Agenda were noted.

33. Additional Item of Information - Spread Eagle

The Committee considered a briefing note on the latest position with regard to the change of name in respect of the establishment known as the Spread Eagle in Witham.

At 10.15pm it was, in accordance with paragraph 8 of Part 4 of the Constitution, moved, seconded and subsequently resolved that the meeting be extended until the completion of business.

34. Private Session Item - Witham Riverview.

The Committee considered a confidential report on Witham Riverview.

RESOLVED: The Committee decided that a Sub-Group should be established and that Councillors Abbott, Howell, Lager and Money be appointed to it. The Sub-Group will be consulted and they will be invited to report back to the Committee at future meetings.

ACTION: That the Locality Co-ordinator ensures that this item is included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Committee.

T J W FOSTER
(CHAIRMAN)