

WITHAM AREA PANEL

3rd May 2006

Present

Ian Marshall (Vice Chairman)
Richard Scott
Carol Hines

Valerie Ahern
Keith Bigden
Terry Worlledge

Apologies

Graham Eavery
Shelia Vincent

Miriam Clarke

Notes from previous meeting

Keith asked if his apologies could be included for the last meeting as these were sent to Richard but not received until after the meeting.
Notes agreed.

Witham Library Project Update

Richard explained about the recent move of the Witham Area Office to the library and Causeway House. The move has been completed however there are still a number of issues at the library that are outstanding and need resolving.

Discussion moved on to issues surrounding service delivery:-

1. Members experienced some difficulties in the automatic phone system picking up the names when requested.
2. Members would like the list of outlets that can accept payments, this to be included with the minutes.
3. Members were concerned that no parking was available for customers at the library, disabled drivers being specifically mentioned.

Implications of a no vote were raised together with what the Area Panels can do to become involved in offering information to secure a 'Yes' vote, some Members feeling that many elderly were happy with the condition of the property and did not want the upheaval of new kitchens and bathrooms.

The Government's Respect agenda was raised together with the importance of the community becoming involved in implementing this.

Environmental Improvements

Members received the report outlining the schemes that were completed last year together with those that were proposed this year. Members felt that it was more appropriate to carry out smaller schemes affecting larger numbers, rather than commit the budget to one large scheme.

The schemes set out in Appendix 2 of the report were approved for this year with Members asking that the lack of parking in St Andrews Hatfield Peverel be included as a future potential scheme.

Performance Indicators

These were discussed with the performance noted.

Any Other Business

Members requested that an update on the library comes back to the next meeting.

Date of next meetings

Wednesday 19th July 2006

Wednesday 18th October 2006

Ian Marshall
Vice Chairman