

WITHAM AREA PANEL

21st September 2005

Present

Graham Eavery
Richard Scott
Ray Horrell

Miriam Clarke
Kath Horrell
Ian Marshall

Election of Chairman / Vice Chairman

Graham Eavery was duly elected as the Chairman with Ian Marshall as the Vice Chairman.

Apologies

Neil Coughlan
Valerie Ahern
Keith Bigden

Concern was raised by the lack of Ward Members attending and it was agreed that these concerns are recorded in the minutes.

Notes from previous meeting

These were noted. Richard also explained that the meeting proposed for July had not taken place due to insufficient people attending.

Witham Area Office

Richard explained about the proposed move of the Witham Area Office to the library and Causeway House, outlining the principles and ideology. Richard agreed to add this item to the next agenda.

High Hedges

High hedges are now covered under Part 8 of Anti Social Act 2003. This lays down a process for dealing with disputes over high hedges. The process includes trying to reach an agreement first including mediation. If this is unsuccessful then an application can be made to the Council to resolve the problem. A fee of £400 is payable for this service. Leaflets are available explaining the process in detail from the Area Offices.

Neighbourhood Hot Spots

Richard outlined a scheme being used by other authorities where by pads are handed to residents to pick up and identify problems in their areas. The pads are preprinted and residents tick the appropriate box giving details of the problems, this is forwarded to the

Authority to look for a resolution. The Panel liked the idea and Richard agreed to investigate a trial in the Witham Area.

Performance Indicators

These were discussed with the level of rent arrears causing some concern.

Any Other Business

The Panel raised concerns about the increase in parking problems around the estates and particularly in the Forest Road area where commuters park.

Richard Agreed to bring a report to the next meeting updating the Panel on the current situation with Environmental Improvements.

The Panel Members requested that a copy of the estate inspection on their area is sent to the Reps once it is completed, Richard to arrange this.

Graham Eavery
Chairman