

**POLICY REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL
9 NOVEMBER 2009**

Present :- Councillor Julie Young (Chairman)
Councillors Nick Barlow, Nigel Chapman,
Mike Hardy and Justin Knight

Substitute Member :- Councillor Sonia Lewis for Councillor Jill Tod

Also in Attendance :- Councillor Dave Harris
Councillor Henry Spyvee
Councillor Stephen Ford

16. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2009 were confirmed as a correct record.

Councillor Julie Young (in respect of her membership of Essex County Council) declared a personal interest in the following item pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 7(3)

17. 20 mph Task and Finish Group

Peter Lynn addressed the Panel, pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 5(1). He expressed his thanks to the Panel Chairman for her prompt feedback following the representations he had made to the Panel at its last meeting concerning the work and remit of the 20 mph Task and Finish Group. He also thanked Councillor Hardy for raising his concerns at the October meeting of the Task and Finish Group. He maintained that the Group's proposals did not go as far as he would have liked but he conceded they were a good step forward and was hopeful that they would be accepted and that the measures needed to deliver the proposals would be implemented. In particular he considered that the area wide implementation was to be recommended.

Councillor Harris attended and, with the consent of the Chairman, addressed the Panel. He stated that he had responded to the initial 20 mph consultation and he advocated the need for large numbers of residents to support the concept in order for the proposals to stand a good chance of success. He had undertaken his own consultation within the ward he represented, asking residents to indicate their support or opposition to the introduction of 20 mph zones in residential areas of Berechurch. He had collected 100 responses, 99

of which supported the proposal, which he intended to submit to the next meeting of the Cabinet. He requested that Berechurch and Shrub End wards be considered for inclusion within any future schemes and stated his commitment to the '20's Plenty for Us' campaign. He considered that the introduction of schemes to reduce speed, increase road safety and improve the environment would demonstrate that the Council was in touch with local communities. He concluded by congratulating the Task and Finish Group on its work and stated his commitment to speaking in support of the proposals when they were considered by Cabinet.

The Mayor, Councillor Spyvee, attended and, with the consent of the Chairman, addressed the Panel. He wished to express his personal view in support of 20 mph speed restrictions on the grounds of improved road safety. Subject to the views of the Police and Essex County Council, he was of the view that a town-wide / urban core of Colchester and Stanway scheme should be introduced. He considered that the roles of Essex County Council and Essex Police would be key to the success of the initiative but there may be a danger that expectations might be raised that could not be fulfilled. He further indicated the need for consultation with residents and that schemes should not be introduced where residents were opposed to it. He hoped that rural areas would also be included in the initiative, where possible.

The Panel considered a report by the Head of Strategic Policy and Regeneration summarising the work undertaken by the Task and Finish Group together with a detailed technical report on the potential introduction of 20 mph areas in Colchester. Also available were the notes of the two latest meetings of the Task and Finish Group held on 22 September and 13 October 2009.

Councillor Ford, the Chairman of the Task and Finish Group attended the Panel to assist members in their discussions. He explained that the Group had obtained considerable assistance from the seminar which had been held in Portsmouth in September. The main conclusion of the Group had been that the absence of speed lessens the chance of fatalities. He explained that it would be necessary for Essex County Council to include the Group's proposals in Local Transport Plan 3 and the support of Essex Police was essential. In Portsmouth widespread consultation had been undertaken in order to be confident that the public would want 20 mph zoning to be introduced. Nevertheless there was still a need for additional signage which had entailed some associated costs. If 20 mph zoning was introduced in Colchester, he felt that the town would be seen as a pioneer which would improve the quality of life for all.

Paul Wilkinson, Colchester Borough Council Transportation Policy Manager, undertook a formal presentation including information relating to the outcomes

of 20 mph zones elsewhere, accident statistics in Colchester, the Essex County Council road hierarchy, the situation in Portsmouth, the measures used elsewhere to successfully introduce 20mph zones, public views, enforcement and legal issues. The Group had concluded that to take the proposals forward further consultation and engagement work would be required. It was estimated that this work would cost in the region of £15,000 however no budgetary provision had currently been allocated.

Mr Wilkinson also confirmed that the technical report circulated to the Panel members had omitted details of one Key Stakeholder comment which had been submitted by the St John's Borough Council member on the Local Highway Panel. The comment, which was in favour of 20 mph zoning implementation, brought the total number of responses to 25. The details of the comment from the St John's member would be brought to the attention of the Task and Finish Group at its next meeting

The Panel congratulated the members of the Task and Finish Group on the work they had undertaken, discussed the findings of the Group in full and gave particular consideration to the following issues:-

- The need for any proposals to be self-enforced and the associated necessity for public consultation and engagement to be implemented;
- The possibility of seeking Essex County Council's support to pilot one or more 20 mph schemes in the Colchester area;
- The possibility of a standardised pro-forma being produced to enable individual Borough Councillors to undertake consultation in their own wards.

RESOLVED that the recommendations of the 20mph Task and Finish Group, as set out below, be endorsed:

- A 20mph policy be adopted for inclusion in Essex County Council's Local Transport Plan 3;
- In adopting a 20 mph policy and to deliver the necessary measures this Council will seek to work with Essex County Council, including the Highways Department, and Essex Police, to ensure their agreement in respect of policies, delivery, funding and enforcement resource levels;
- Comprehensive consultation and engagement with representative community groups and residents be carried out to confirm where 20 mph zoning is desired;
- In line with the findings of further community consultation and

engagement the implementation of a 20mph speed limit be delivered on an 'area wide' basis as set out in the proposals;

- In order to undertake consultation and engagement, funding of £15,000 and associated resources be allocated;

- The Task and Finish Group work be continued, setting out a detailed proposal to undertake further consultation, engagement and research work, reporting back to a future meeting of the Policy Review and Development Panel;

- The approach to delivery as set out in section 6 of the report of the Head of Strategic Policy and Regeneration be adopted to include the reinforcement and extension of the existing town centre 20mph zone, implementation in discrete residential areas such as Highwoods and Greenstead and in rural areas based on Parish Plans and Village Design Statements.

RECOMMENDED to Cabinet that the proposed measures set out in the resolution above be agreed.

18. Mayoralty Task and Finish Group

The Mayor, Councillor Spyvee, attended and, with the consent of the Chairman, addressed the Panel. He demonstrated to the members of the Panel the current state of wear and tear to the Mayor's Badge and Chain. The gold continued to be in very good order although the ivory inlay was slightly worn. He considered that, if a charge was imposed in respect of the Mayor Making lunch, that it would need to be borne in mind that this would attract VAT and that some guests, such as the Mayor's Chaplain, would need to remain exempt from any charge. He was of the view that either no charge be made or the lunch be abandoned altogether. In terms of a Civic Sub-Committee, he welcomed such an arrangement for meetings to be held when business required it.

The Panel received a report inviting the members to again consider the recommendations of the Mayoralty Task and Finish Group. The Group had met in July 2009 and had made recommendations as follows:

- The current arrangements to update the regalia book be noted and investigations be undertaken to establish a convenient location within the Town Hall to place the Book on regular display;
- No action be taken in respect of the Bulk Purchase / Setting up of a Wine

Book for Civic occasions;

- In view of the significant cost of purchasing a replica Mayoral badge, investigations be undertaken to find out the cost of purchasing a die of the badge;
- The Mayoral Officer be asked to find out what practice is adopted in neighbouring Local Authorities regarding the cost of Mayor Making events;
- The political groups be invited to consider the principle of introducing a charge on guests to the Mayor Making lunch and their conclusions be reported back to this Task and Finish Group after the political Group meetings on or around 7 September 2009.

The Panel had agreed that each of the political groups should be given the opportunity to consider the conclusions of the Task and Finish Group, the results of which was as follows:

- The Liberal Democrats Group decided that there should be no charge for the mayor making luncheon;
- The Highwoods Group had no problem with any of the report;
- The Labour Group discussed the Mayors Lunch and concluded that it should be funded by Councillors or scrapped. The group have no interest in the High Steward issue at the present time and did not have a view on the wine book issue;
- The Conservative Group believed there was a need for the guide book to the Town Hall to be updated and the possibility of upgrading it into a quality brochure, understood that the original concept of the wine book request was to ensure that a proper control of stock existed so that drinks were booked in when delivered and numbers consumed recorded at the end of an event, agreed with the minute regarding the replica badge, recognised the importance of the Mayor Making lunch to the newly elected Mayor and also to newly elected councillors and believed the format of the lunch should be the decision of the Mayor but the lunch could be simpler than it had been and a charge to those attending was acceptable, considered a return to the old style 'Civic sub-committee' would be beneficial.

Councillor Barlow confirmed that Councillor Hunt, the Portfolio Holder with responsibilities for civic matters, had indicated his willingness to chair an informal meeting to discuss civic issues, along the lines of the former Civic Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED that –

- (i) Councillor Hunt be invited to arrange an informal meeting along the lines of the former Civic Sub-Committee to discuss certain civic related matters with representatives from the political groups;
- (ii) The Head of Corporate Management be requested to review to her satisfaction the arrangements regarding the control of drinks delivered and consumed at civic events.

Councillor Julie Young (in respect of her membership of Essex County Council) declared a personal interest in the following item pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 7(3)

19. Waste Prevention and Recycling Options Appraisal Task and Finish Group

Nick Chilvers addressed the Panel, pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 5(1). He considered that it would not be sufficient for just one event to be held to launch the Waste and Recycling consultation exercise and suggested the staging of a number of mini road shows at various community locations. He was unclear as to what the public would be asked to comment upon and felt that a vote on the four options identified by the Task and Finish Group would be an appropriate way to gauge opinion. He suggested that separate arrangements should be put in place to ensure that Parish and Town Councils had the opportunity to indicate their views on the proposals.

Councillor Barlow, in his capacity as Chairman of the Task and Finish Group, indicated that he would take Mr Chilvers' comments to the next meeting of the Group and would subsequently respond in writing in full.

Paula Whitney addressed the Panel, pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 5(1). She did not support the principle of the Task and Finish Group conducting its business in private. She felt that a fifth option should be provided within the Waste and Recycling consultation exercise. She was in favour of kerbside separation of recycled materials and felt that the number of containers/bags needed to be increased to facilitate this. She was of the view that the WRAP report had clearly concluded that kerbside separation resulted in increased performance and greater economic returns.

The Chairman responded to the various points raised by Ms Whitney, in particular the fact that, by meeting in private, the Task and Finish Group had

been able to have open, honest, cross-party discussions and that the results of the consultation exercise would be submitted to the meeting of the Policy Review and Development Panel in March 2010.

The Panel received an update of the work of the Waste Prevention and Recycling Options Appraisal Task and Finish Group in the form of the notes of the most recent meetings held on 24 September and 5 October 2009.

RESOLVED that the notes of the meetings of the Waste Prevention and Recycling Options Appraisal Task and Finish Group be noted.

20. Work Programme 2009/10

The Panel considered a report from the Head of Corporate Management setting out the current situation regarding the Panel's work programme for 2009/10.

RESOLVED that the work programme for 2009/10 be noted.