

MINUTES of the MEETING of  
the ENVIRONMENT AND  
LEISURE OVERVIEW AND  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held  
on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2009

(To be read in conjunction with the Agenda for the Meeting)

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| * Cllr Diane James       | * Cllr Patricia Ellis    |
| * Cllr Michael Goodridge | * Cllr Tony Gordon-Smith |
| Cllr Mrs Jean Arrick     | * Cllr Bryn Morgan       |
| Cllr Len Bate            | * Cllr Ken Reed          |
| * Cllr Maurice Byham     | Cllr Ian Sampson         |
| * Cllr Carole Cockburn   | * Cllr Jane Thomson      |
| Cllr Stuart Connolly     | * Cllr Ross Welland      |
| * Cllr Jim Edwards       | Cllr Andrew Wilson       |
| Cllr Brian Ellis         |                          |

Also in attendance: Councillors Richard Gates, Roger Steel and Peter Isherwood as a substitute.

\*Present

28. MINUTES (Agenda Item 1)

The minutes of the meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> September 2009 were confirmed.

29. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS (Agenda Item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brian Ellis, Stuart Connolly and Andrew Wilson. Councillor Peter Isherwood was in attendance as a substitute.

30. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS (Agenda Item 3)

The following declarations were declared at the meeting:

In relation to item 11, the Waverley Community Partnership performance monitoring report, personal interests were declared by Councillor Michael Goodridge as he was a Trustee of Godalming Museum, Councillor Diane James as she was friends with the Trustees of Disability Challengers and Councillor Carole Cockburn as she was an observer on 40 Degreez. Councillor Edwards also declared a personal interest in relation to item 8.1, Waverley's Role with Local Businesses, as he was a member of the FSB who were in consultation with Waverley Borough Council.

31. FORMAL QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (Agenda Item 4)

There were no formal questions asked by Members of the public.

32. EXECUTIVE FORWARD PROGRAMME [Agenda Item 5, Appendix A]

The Committee noted the Executive Forward programme.

Although it was under the responsibility of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Bryn Morgan raised concern with the Committee about the item on the forward programme in relation to the Devolution to Towns and Parish Councils. He asked that it be made clear to the Executive that transferring ownership and management of the Godalming Bandstand was a contentious issue and should be considered sensitively.

The Chair queried why the item named Local List had been delayed to February 2010 and was advised that the delay was due to the planning department's recent focus on the LDF and SPA work.

33. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME [Agenda Item 6, Appendix B]

Members received and noted the Committee's work programme.

The Committee noted the update in relation to Air Quality and agreed that they should receive the draft report in March 2010. Members were advised of an additional item specifically the issue concerning the extended closure of Cranleigh Leisure centre swimming pool due to the discovery of the structural defect. Members thanked officers for their communication programme to users concerning developments at Cranleigh Leisure Centre to both Councillors and residents and requested that this continue whilst works were still being carried out.

34. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT, QUARTER 2 (JULY – SEPTEMBER) 2009/10 [Agenda Item 7, Appendix C]

The Committee received the Performance Management Report for Quarter 2 and review of performance indicators and targets. Members noted that the report had been considered by the ELOS Performance Sub-Committee at its meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2009 and its comments had been circulated with the papers.

Councillor Edwards presented the Sub-Committees comments to Members and advised them that performance was overall good. The Sub-Committee had asked the Head of Planning to provide the Sub-Committee with information about the number of staff hours spent dealing with an average planning application. This information would be provided at the next meeting.

The Committee noted the performance report and RESOLVED that the comments from the Performance Sub-Committee be forwarded for consideration by the Executive as well as the following comments from the Committee:

- The additional paper analysing working days lost to sickness was a useful document but could be improved by providing the number of days lost per full time employee per department. Members noted that the new absence management system would be in place by the next

meeting but officers would see what they could do for the following quarter.

- In relation to planning appeals, to suggest that all planning appeals were lost because of a subjective assessment was a concern as it was not always necessarily true and could be due to when the Local Plan did not apply to the relevant situation. The minutes would be amended to reflect this comment.
- In analysing recycling rates, concern was expressed that it could be a speculative comment that rates were decreasing because of a change in materials used by manufacturers and people reading more magazines and papers online. Officers were requested that actual volume figures for each section of recyclable waste (i.e. glass, paper, plastics and tins) be provided as soon as practicable to justify the comments relating to the decrease in kerbside recyclables volume.

### 35. IN –DEPTH REVIEWS [Agenda Item 8]

#### 35.1 Waverley's Role with Local Businesses

The Committee received a presentation from the Head of Economic Development, Iain Lynch, concerning the 'Waverley's input to Economic Development in the Borough'. The presentation provided Members with a background to what support the council currently provided local businesses, the resources available and possible investment for the future. Members were asked to consider whether they required any further information prior to a Select Committee meeting proposed for the New Year and to identify any additional invitees to attend this meeting.

The Committee thanked officers for the presentation and raised the following points of concern which Members wanted to be explored as part of the review:

- the availability of broadband (and other similar electronic infrastructure) in rural areas and looking at ways to help and improve networking between small businesses.

In terms of the Committee's consideration of the report and presentation, members RESOLVED that the following further information be sought by officers:

- Find out how much the Council spends as a customer of local businesses by industry sector e.g. the creative sector
- what proportion of businesses were members of trade associations
- Map broadband speeds and find out the level of access to internet facilities including internet cafes across the Borough.

And, the following be invited to a Select Committee in the New Year:

- In view of the number of businesses located rurally, extend invites Rural Parish Councils,

- Slightly Larger Businesses to ensure that their views are also captured alongside those smaller businesses. Members were requested to propose such organisations
- The Surrey Rural Partnership as representative of the Surrey Hills Association

### 35.2 Transport Issues – Guildford-Cranleigh Rail Link

Members noted that there would be a meeting of the Select Committee taking place on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2009 to discuss the Guildford-Cranleigh Rail link with other interested parties and representatives from ATOC. The chair briefed members on the agenda and format for this meeting.

### 36. DRAFT THAMES BASIN HEATHS SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA AVOIDANCE STRATEGY [Agenda Item 9, Appendix E]

The Committee received a presentation from the Head of Planning on the background to and current position with the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance Strategy (SPA). Members were advised that the views of the Committee would be submitted to the Executive for its meeting of the 1<sup>st</sup> December.

The Committee considered the report and presentation and RESOLVED that the following observations be forwarded to the Executive:

- The Committee concurred with the views of Farnham residents and wanted to ensure that the character of Farnham was preserved and although rapid further development was not favoured, Members acknowledged that some smaller development was necessary in the town.
- Members agreed that the Council needed an Avoidance Strategy and although doubling the SANG at Farnham Park could be a solution possibly the better way forward for the Council, in the short term, would be to allow a small and slow release of some further SANG on Farnham Park (possibly 4hectares) and immediately pursue evaluation of the three other preferred sites which could be used in the medium to long term future once they became available. In particular, it was felt that the land at the East of Farnham Park and Alice Holt Park should be investigated further as soon as possible but in the long term also Farnham Quarry.
- There was some concern regarding the statistics Members had been given in reports concerning planning permissions/developments already agreed and Members requested reassurance that they were provided with real and reliable information. Although, Members noted that it was difficult to know what would have happened if they had not taken the steps that had already been taken.

- The Committee felt that this Issue had been held back by the Core Strategy and the LDF not yet being completed and Members agreed that Officers move ahead as quickly as possible with this work.
- The Committee was concerned about uncontrollable, inappropriate development if doubling the SANG at Farnham Park was allowed.

37. GODALMING LEISURE CENTRE PROJECT – UPDATE [Agenda Item10]

The Committee received an oral update from the Portfolio for Leisure, Councillor Roger Steel, on the developments regarding building a new leisure centre for Godalming.

The Committee noted that the oral report from the Portfolio Holder.

38. WAVERLEY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP 2009/10 INTERIM PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT [Agenda Item 11, Appendix F]

The Committee received a report on the performance of those organisations that had been awarded funding from the Waverley Community Partnership towards their ongoing running costs over the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 to 30 September 2009. Thanks were extended to officers for collating this information and to Councillor Morgan for recommending that this be done.

The Committee considered the report and RESOLVED that the following observation be forwarded to the Executive:

- To add to the report the inputs made through other grant awarding schemes such as the Voluntary Grants Partnership to give Members a more complete picture within the Annual Report.

39. IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW POWERS FOR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES [Agenda Item 12, Appendix G]

The Committee received a report at its last meeting on recent changes in legislation that provided new powers for overview and scrutiny committees. Members were presented with further information on these new powers, both in relation to the scrutiny of the Surrey Local Area Agreement and the scrutiny of the work of Waverley's Crime and Reduction Partnership. Furthermore, Members received an update on work that was currently being undertaken by the Surrey Overview and Scrutiny Officers Group to develop a framework for local authorities in Surrey to work together to carry out scrutiny of these and other strategic and county-wide issues of common concern.

The Committee considered the report and RESOLVED that the following observations be forwarded to the Executive:

- Officers would feed back to Members concerns about what could happen if the findings of the Joint Task and Finish Groups were not accepted by the relevant County Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee.

- There was concern that the Surrey Police Authority were not coming across as particularly happy about meeting with each of the Borough and District Councils to discuss issues.
- It was felt that there was a need to emphasis arrangements and clarify that ELOS could reserve the right to call in any issue for review if and when it felt appropriate.
- There was concern that this was a tentative arrangement which required input from all Councils and this may not be forthcoming. It was felt that these proposals should be reviewed after a relatively short period of two years.
- Arrangements could be made for borough and districts with similar interests and difficulties to consult together as a Joint Overview and Scrutiny exercise.

The meeting concluded at 9.30pm

Chairman