



BALA MAHENDRAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE BASILDON CENTRE, ST MARTIN'S SQUARE, BASILDON, ESSEX SS14 1DL. TELEPHONE (01268) 533333

## DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday, 25 October 2005

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Sullivan (Chairman)  
Councillor Bobbin  
Councillor S Buckley  
Councillor S E Hillier  
Councillor B Williams

**ALSO PRESENT:**

|                      |   |                                                 |
|----------------------|---|-------------------------------------------------|
| Councillor C Morris  | - | Wickford Ward Councillor                        |
| Councillor D Morris  | - | Wickford Ward Councillor                        |
| Councillor Mowe      | - | Wickford Ward Councillor                        |
| Councillor S Hillier | - | Cabinet Member for Environment                  |
| Councillor Horgan    | - | Cabinet Member for Development and Regeneration |
| Mr D Quirk           | - | Chairman of Wickford Business Association       |
| Mr C McLean          | - | Secretary of Wickford Business Association      |
| Mr A Coleman         | - | Vice Chairman of Wickford Community Panel       |
| Maddie Lock          | - | Staff Side Representative                       |
| John Knock           | - | Staff Side Representative                       |

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Head of Development, Property and Health Services, General Manager (Operational Services), Technical Support Manager (Operational Services), Scrutiny and Overview Manager, Economic Regeneration Officer and a representative of the Democratic Services Manager

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**563. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Mr J Newley, Chairman of Wickford Community Panel.

**564. MEMBERSHIP:**

Councillors S Buckley and Bobbin replaced Councillors Geddes and C Payn respectively for the duration of the meeting.

**565. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

There were no declarations of interest.

**566. MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2005 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

(For voting see Appendix, Column 1.)

**567. WICKFORD TOWN CENTRE MASTER PLAN:**

The Committee received a presentation on the Wickford Town Centre Master Plan and the current position in respect of the proposed arrangements for public consultation.

The Master Plan objectives were to establish:

- A vision for regeneration
- An identity and role
- Urban design standards
- A quality environment
- An approach to the development of key sites
- The Council's preferred development options

A baseline audit was completed in October 2004 and, following wide consultation, the draft Master Plan was endorsed by the Cabinet in April 2005. The next step for the Master Plan was to undertake a four week public consultation exercise in November 2005 with the results of the consultation being presented to this Committee for consideration before formal Cabinet approval of the final Master Plan was sought in early 2006. The Wickford Town Centre Master Plan would then form Supplementary Guidance to the Replacement Local Plan on its adoption.

The public consultation would include display boards for viewing at the Wickford Community Centre and The Basildon Centre. A summary of the proposals and questionnaires would also be available at other locations in Wickford and on line at the Council's website.

Wickford Ward Councillors and representatives of the Wickford Community Panel and the Wickford Business Association had been invited to attend the meeting and gave their views on the proposals.

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Committee Members discussed the issues and made the following general comments:

- The wider infrastructure, beyond the Town Centre, should be considered as part of the Master Plan exercise.
- Traffic calming measures for the High Street or restricted vehicular access times were alternatives to full pedestrianisation. Another option would be to retain a narrowed road for one way traffic with widened pavements for pedestrians.
- New community facilities should be in operation before existing facilities were closed.
- A good CCTV system and Bylaws (for example on drinking in public) were pre-requisites for the safety of businesses and Town Centre users.
- The provision of good quality buildings would attract desirable businesses. The possibility of awarding grants for the maintenance of the façade of business premises should be explored.

With regard to the proposed arrangements for public consultation, Members put forward the following suggestions:

- The questionnaire should include questions on the proposed additional housing.
- The questionnaire should be further developed in consultation with representatives of user groups to maximise the survey response rate.
- Posters advertising the consultation exercise should be displayed at primary schools and the Downtowner Youth Club.
- The age range for the consultation should be extended to include minors.
- Youth Officers should explore different ways of consulting with young people.
- Some flexibility should be exercised regarding the closing date for consultations.

#### **568. STREET CARE REPORT:**

Members noted the summary of enquiries and complaints dealt with by the Council's Street Care Team for the period June to September 2005. As agreed by the Committee at its meeting held on 25 June 2005, representatives from Operational Services attended the meeting to discuss in more depth the number and type of enquiries regarding various areas. It was agreed that future reports should include notes to explain erratic trends in the figures or large volumes of enquiries and complaints.

One issue of concern to Members was fly tipping. It was agreed that an officer report would be presented to the Committee at its meeting on 23 March 2006 to dovetail with the Street Care Quarterly Report. This would enable Members to devise a strategy for the prevention and swifter clearance of fly tipping.

**569. PERFORMANCE REPORT - APRIL-JUNE QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE UPDATE:**

The Committee considered a report on the Council's performance against Best Value and Local Performance Indicators during April to June 2005. It was reported that the CPA would in future consider performance in the context of value for money and customer satisfaction. In working towards this objective the Council had used the Audit Commission's value for money (VFM) online tool to present performance information. Further work was required on the analysis and presentation of the information generated by this tool. At their meeting on 10 October, Scrutiny Committee Chairmen and Vice Chairmen had discussed the style and content for future performance reporting to the Council's Scrutiny Committees and agreed the way forward.

It was requested that future performance information include an explanation of actual and target figures.

**570. WORK PROGRAMME:**

Members received the Committee's updated work programme for 2005/06. It was noted that the December meeting of the Committee would be held on 13 December 2005, and not 19 December as stated in the report.

As agreed at the last meeting, the Committee would undertake a review of the Bylaws covering the Council's Country Parks, Nature Reserves, Pleasure Grounds and Open Spaces at its meeting on 7 February 2006.

An item on the results of the Wickford Town Centre Master Plan consultation would be added to the work programme for a date to be decided. This would be prior to consideration of this issue by Cabinet.

As agreed during consideration of the previous item on the agenda, a report on fly tipping would be added to the work programme for 23 March 2006.

(During discussion of Minute No 2005/567, the meeting was adjourned for a short period to enable members of the public to express their views.)

CHAIRMAN

RECORDING OF VOTES

| Vote Number   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |  |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|
| CONSERVATIVES |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |
| Buckley S     | F |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |
| Hillier S E   | F |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |
| Sullivan S    | F |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |
| LABOUR        |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |
| Bobbin K      | F |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |
| LIB DEM       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |
| Williams B    | O |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |
| Vote Number   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |  |

KEY: F = In Favour  
A = Against  
- = Abstain  
O = Not present for vote  
P = Paired (abstained)  
\* = Chairman used casting vote in line with first vote

