

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (SOCIAL WELL-BEING) held in the Wren Room, Countryside Centre, Hinchingsbrooke Country Park, Brampton Road, Huntingdon, PE29 6DB on Tuesday, 2 February 2010.

PRESENT: Councillor R J West – Vice-Chairman in the Chair.

Councillors Mrs K E Cooper, J W Davies, J J Dutton, J E Garner, Mrs P A Jordan and P G Mitchell.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors S J Criswell and J M Sadler.

### **84. MINUTES**

Subject to the deletion of the word “blue” from the last line of the third paragraph of Minute No. 76 to be replaced by “all”, the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **85. MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Councillor Mrs P A Jordan declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute No. 87 by virtue of her employment in the NHS and left the meeting during consideration of this item.

Councillor P G Mitchell declared a personal interest in Minute No. 90 by virtue of his involvement with the Stilton Skate Park Project.

### **86. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000: FORWARD PLAN**

The Panel considered and noted the current Forward Plan of Key Decisions (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which had been prepared by the Leader of the Council for the period 1<sup>st</sup> February to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2010. In noting the addition of an item entitled Housing Enforcement Powers, the Panel requested sight of the report prior to its consideration by the Cabinet.

### **87. STUDY - PARKING AT HINCHINGBROOKE HOSPITAL**

*(Councillor T D Sanderson, Ward Member for Huntingdon West, Mr C Plunkett, Facilities Business Manager for Hinchingsbrooke Hospital and Mrs R Clapham, Mrs B Heather and Ms E Stubbs, Cambridgeshire LINK were in attendance for this item.)*

*(See Minute No. 85 for Members' interests).*

The Panel welcomed Mr C Plunkett, Facilities Business Manager for Hinchingsbrooke Hospital, who had been invited to the meeting to

discuss the Panel's study on parking at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. Having been reminded, with the aid of a report by the Head of Democratic and Central Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), of progress of the study to date, Mr Plunkett delivered a presentation on the operation of the car parks and the action taken to date by the Hospital to review its current parking policy.

Members were informed that a Working Group comprising representatives from Cambridgeshire LINK, Hospital employees and the public had been established to undertake the review. Proposals considered thus far included the provision of an additional 40 spaces for employees and 20 spaces at the front of the main entrance to extend the current pick up/drop off point and disabled parking provision. It had further been proposed that the charge for the shortest period of stay should be changed to £2 for two hours with the charge rising by £1 for every hour thereafter. Members were advised that the parking charges currently generated in the region of £500,000 for the Hospital each year, of which £30,000 was paid to a contractor to manage the car parks. The remaining income was utilised by the Hospital for car parking maintenance and to augment medical services.

Members discussed a number of matters including the possibility of introducing a pay upon exit system, alternative charging schemes, concessionary passes, the role of the contractor, the impact of parking on the surrounding streets, the Hospital's Green Transport Plan, the possibility of introducing a shuttle bus system and the impact of the Hospital's future governance arrangements on the current car parking management contract.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Chairman thanked Mr C Plunkett, Mrs R Clapham, Mrs B Heather and Ms E Stubbs for their attendance at the meeting and for their assistance with the study.

## **88. PETITION - HILL RISE PARK, ST IVES**

*(Councillor K J Churchill, Executive Councillor for Housing and Public Health and Mr M Rigby of Hill Rise, St Ives were in attendance for this item).*

Pursuant to Minute No. 55, the Panel was reminded that a petition had been received from Mr M Rigby of Hill Rise, St Ives, which drew attention to nuisance caused by anti-social drivers late at night in Hill Rise Park, St Ives. The petition has been signed by 16 residents. Mr Rigby addressed the Panel on the petition and was questioned by Members.

Having had their attention drawn to a report by the Chairman of the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), Members were advised that the petition had been referred from the Community Safety Partnership to the St Ives Neighbourhood Forum. As a result this matter had been adopted as a Policing Priority at the Neighbourhood Forum. On the basis of previous experience of similar problems in St Neots, a number of suggestions to resolve the nuisance were proposed for implementation. These included the adoption of a zero tolerance policy together with the issue of fixed penalty notices for anti-social

vehicle use in the area, the installation of CCTV cameras on site and the introduction of speed restrictions in the car park. In endorsing the proposals, it was suggested that the cost of providing a direct voice link from the CCTV control room to the site should be investigated and that the lights at the Skate Park should be programmed to turn off by an earlier designated time than at present. At the conclusion of the discussions, Members requested that a progress report was submitted to the Panel in six months time.

#### **89. STUDY - PARKING AT HINCHINGBROOKE HOSPITAL**

Pursuant to Minute No. 87 *ante*, the Panel resumed their deliberations on the study into car parking at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. In so doing, Members concluded that the Hospital should consider further reducing the length of the shortest stay by introducing an additional charging option of £1 for the first hour and by providing a greater number drop-off spaces on site. They also were of the view that a more rigorous market testing exercise should be undertaken into more cost effective ways of enabling visitors to pay for parking when leaving the Hospital. In addition, Members suggested that investigations should be undertaken into alternative ways that a shuttle bus service to the Hospital might be provided. In noting that the Hospital's Senior Executive Group would be considering proposals for changes to its car parking arrangements at the end of February 2010, it was

RESOLVED

that a report be submitted to the Hospital's Senior Executive Group containing the Panel's findings and recommendations on car parking at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital.

#### **90. MONITORING OF SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS (PLANNING OBLIGATIONS)**

*(Councillor C R Hyams, Executive Councillor for Operational and Countryside Services and Councillor T D Sanderson, Member of the S106 Advisory Group, were in attendance for this item).*

With the assistance of a report prepared by the Head of People, Performance and Partnerships (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), the Panel were updated on the receipt and expenditure of money negotiated under Section 106 Agreements by the Council. Having confirmed that the Panel's role would be to scrutinise the progress of allocated schemes and those schemes where maintenance Agreements existed, Members decided to pay particular attention to those schemes which had been completed earliest. Mr J Craig, Service Development Manager, outlined the criteria that were applied to new Agreements. He also reported that a formal written spending plan on the use of the funding would be required as part of an Agreement, together with an indemnity form signed by all parties concerned.

In noting a request to defer completion of the Agreement in respect of St Ives Golf Course, the Panel expressed the view that the request should not be granted. Having commented upon the kind of detail they might expect in the future report, the Panel

RESOLVED

- (a) that the contents of the report be noted; and
- (b) that further details on progress of the earliest outstanding schemes be submitted with in the next monitoring report.

**91. PLAY FACILITIES WORKING GROUP**

*(Councillor C R Hyams, Executive Councillor for Operational and Countryside Services, was in attendance for this item).*

With the assistance of a report by the Play Facilities Working Group (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), the Panel were updated with progress of their investigations. Members' attention was drawn to two approaches which the Working Group had identified to achieve the study's objectives. The Working Group had concluded that a funding arrangement should be offered to Parishes to help them to meet the revenue costs of their play facilities based on a 40-40-20% split between the District Council, Parish Council and the users of the facilities respectively. The only facilities that would qualify under the scheme would be skateboard ramps and multi-use games areas. Members were advised that the proposals had already been discussed with the Executive Councillor for Operational and Countryside Services.

The Panel were acquainted with the financial implications of the proposal, which included the fact that the cost of each facility would be in the order of £800. It was proposed that a bid for the District Council's portion of the costs would be made through the Medium Term Plan subject to only one Parish Council being permitted to join the scheme each year. Investigations into whether the Council could coordinate insurance for Parishes wishing to insure their facilities under a group scheme also were being undertaken. The aim of this was to achieve lower insurance premiums for Parishes.

Having expressed their support for the proposals, and in nominating Councillors P G Mitchell and R J West to attend the relevant Cabinet meeting to present the final report, it was

RESOLVED

that a report summarising the findings of the Play Facilities Working Group be submitted to the Cabinet.

**92. INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY PANEL MEMBERS**

*(The Chairman announced that he proposed to admit the following urgent Item in accordance with Section 100B (3) and (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 given the need for the Panel to consider it in advance of the Council meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010).*

Having been advised that the selection process for the appointment of two Independent Members had begun, Members were advised that the Appointments Panel would be interviewing the final candidate

later that week. In these circumstances, the Panel would not be able to consider the Appointment Panel's recommendations on the proposed appointments before the Council meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010. In that light, it was

RESOLVED

that the Appointments Panel be authorised to make recommendations to the Council on the appointment of two Independent Members to the Panel.

**93. CAMBRIDGESHIRE HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Councillor R J West reported that the Working Group appointed by the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee to consider future governance arrangements at Hinchingbrooke Hospital would be meeting on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

**94. WORK PLAN STUDIES**

The Panel considered and noted a report by the Head of Democratic and Central Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) reviewing the Panel's programme of studies and informing Members of studies being undertaken by the other Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

**95. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (SOCIAL WELL-BEING) - PROGRESS**

The Panel received and noted a report by the Head of Democratic and Central Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), which contained details of actions taken in response to recent discussions and decisions. Members noted that the Corporate Plan Working Group had met on 28<sup>th</sup> January to undertake investigations into the priority objective "A Strong Local Economy".

**96. SCRUTINY**

In scrutinising the 101st Edition of the digest of decisions taken by the Cabinet and the other Panels, etc, Members made the following comments:-

**Care Quality Commission** – Councillor R J West undertook to raise with Officers of the County Council whether the Cambridgeshire Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee would have sight of the Commission's annual performance summary report on the services provided by the County Council.

**Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)** – The Panel noted that a presentation on this subject had been delivered to Members on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

**Enforcement** – Members that the Development Management Panel had requested the Cabinet to review staffing levels in the Enforcement Team. This matter currently was being monitored by the Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy and Transport and the Head of Planning Services.

Chairman