

GIDEA PARK AREA COMMITTEE (Pettits and Squirrels Heath Wards) AGENDA

7.30 p.m.	Thursday, 12 July 2007	St Edward's Primary School Havering Drive Romford RM1 4BD
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Members **6**: Quorum **3**

COUNCILLORS:

Kevin Gregory (Con) Chairman

Edward Cahill (Con)

Ted Eden (Con) Vice Chairman

Eric Munday (Con)

Michael Armstrong (Con)

Michael White (Con)

For information about the meeting please contact: Grant Söderberg (01708) 433091

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Havering StreetCare staff will be available at the venue between 7.00 and 7.30pm
to respond to general queries



Your Gidea Park Area Committee

 telephone

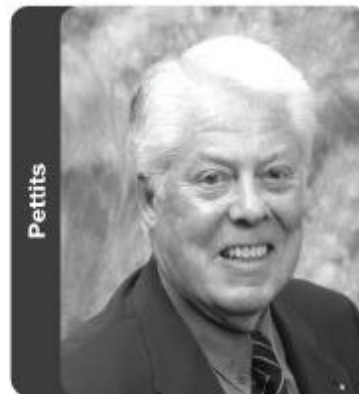
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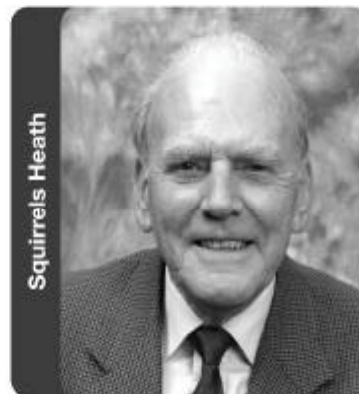
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NOTES ABOUT THE MEETING

1. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Council is committed to protecting the health and safety of all who attend its meetings or meetings of its Committees etc.

At the beginning of the meeting, there will be an announcement about what you should do if there is an emergency during its course. For your own safety and that of others at the meeting, please comply with any instructions given to you about evacuation of the building, or any other safety related matters.

2. MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES

Although mobile phones, pagers and other such devices are an essential part of many people's lives, their use during a meeting of the Council or one of its Committees can be disruptive and a nuisance. Everyone attending is asked therefore to ensure that any device is switched to silent operation or switched off completely.

3. CONDUCT AT THE MEETING

Although members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Council and its Committees, they have no right to speak at them. Seating for the public might on some occasions be limited and the Council cannot guarantee that everyone who wants to be present in the meeting room can be accommodated. At Area Committees, there is a public question time.

At all other times, the Chairman of the meeting has discretion to invite members of the public to ask questions or to respond to points raised by Members. Those who wish to do that may find it helpful to advise the Committee Officer before the meeting so that the Chairman is aware that someone wishes to ask a question.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE CHAIRMAN MAY REQUIRE ANYONE WHO ACTS IN A DISRUPTIVE MANNER TO LEAVE THE MEETING AND THAT THE MEETING MAY BE ADJOURNED IF NECESSARY WHILE THAT IS ARRANGED.

If you need to leave the meeting before its end, please remember that others present have the right to listen to the proceedings without disruption. Please leave quietly and do not engage others in conversation until you have left the meeting room.

Gidea Park Area Committee, 12 July 2007**Welcome to this Area Committee Meeting....****Some Frequently Asked Questions****What is an Area Committee?**

It is a formal meeting of all of the Councillors who sit for wards within the Area. Councillors are members of the Committee automatically; they are not appointed because they belong to any particular political party or group, or indeed to none.

What can it do?

The main purpose of an Area Committee is to enable local Councillors to meet with local people to deal with matters of local concern. Committees and other meetings at the Town Hall tend to deal with matters of borough-wide concern.

How many are there?

There are nine Area Committees, between them covering the whole of the borough. They are:

Area	Constituent wards
North Romford	Havering Park and Mawneys
Harold Hill	Heaton and Gooshays
Romford	Brooklands and Romford Town
Gidea Park	Pettits and Squirrels Heath
Emerson Park and Harold Wood	Harold Wood and Emerson Park
Upminster	Upminster and Cranham
Hornchurch	Hacton and St Andrews
Elm Park and Hylands	Elm Park and Hylands
South Hornchurch and Rainham	Rainham & Wennington and South Hornchurch

Each has six Members, three from each of its constituent wards.

Where does it meet?

Each Area Committee meets four times a year at a venue within its area, which it uses regularly for its meetings. Details for the coming meeting are usually published in "Living in Havering" or can be found out by asking Democratic Services at the Town Hall.

What will be on the agenda?

Generally, Area Committee agendas comprise five parts:

- The formalities of the meeting, including minutes of the last meeting

Gidea Park Area Committee, 12 July 2007

- A “surgery” at which the public can raise issues with Committee Members, representatives of StreetCare and of other services
- Reports on highways and other environmental issues
- Information report on issues of current local concern; and
- Future business and meetings.

The precise agenda will vary from meeting to meeting, depending on what needs to be dealt with at any particular time.

A major component of the current issues is schemes for improving the use of the public highway.

Who runs the meeting?

The Committee each year elects one of its Members as Chairman and he or she will be in control. There is a Vice-Chairman who will take charge if the Chairman is absent for any reason.

A member of Democratic Services staff is also present: his or her job is to assist the Chairman with the smooth running of the meeting, to take the Committee’s minutes and to deal with any issues that cannot be dealt with by anyone else.

Who can attend?

By law, Area Committee meetings are open to anyone.

Who will attend?

- The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and other Members and the designated Democratic Services Officer
- Officers from StreetCare, and from other departments that have reports that the Area Committee will be dealing with
- Representatives of other official agencies, such as the police, are also often in attendance.

How can I raise an issue?

There are two ways you can raise an issue:

- *Before the meeting:* contact the Chairman, or the Democratic Services officer who deals with the Area Committee
- *At the meeting:* raise the issue during the public question time period (which usually lasts 30 minutes but, at the Chairman’s discretion if there is time, can last longer)

Gidea Park Area Committee, 12 July 2007**RULES AND CONVENTIONS FOR AREA COMMITTEES**

1. Area Committee meetings will be treated as just one element of community engagement and be used as a means by which community engagement can be promoted.
2. Area Committees will be constituted under the Local Government Act 1972 and will have the purpose set out in Article 10 of Part 2 of the Constitution (as revised).
3. There will be nine Area Committees, each covering two electoral wards as set out in Article 10 of Part 2 of the Constitution (as revised).
4. Each Area Committee will decide the fixed venue where it will hold its meetings except in exceptional circumstances as determined by the Chairman. Additional meetings would ordinarily be held at the same venue.
5. Ordinary Area Committee meetings will start at 7.30pm.
6. Area Committees will meet four times a year, but will have the facility for holding special meetings. The Chairman may also arrange informal meetings of the Area Committee, alone or jointly with others, where to do so is conducive to dealing with particular items of business.
7. Area Committees should and can –
 - (a) consult the public to inform the decision makers;
 - (b) be used for the Council to inform the public;
 - (c) be used for non-Council agencies to inform or consult;
 - (d) be entitled to specifically invite appropriate people or organisations to meetings.
8. Area Committee Chairmen –
 - (a) operate under the Job Description, as agreed from time to time by the Governance Committee;
 - (b) take the role of steering committee and collective Member activity, and
 - (c) be required to report to each area committee meeting on their activities since the last meeting as well as an annual report to be submitted to the last ordinary meeting of the Committee of the Municipal Year.
9. In respect of Public Question Time -
 - (a) 30 minutes be allocated for questions from the public at each ordinary meeting, with the Chairman having discretion to modify that length of time, as the second part of the Agenda;
 - (b) Area Committee Chairman be responsible for dealing with questions and co-ordinate their replies.
10. Area Committee Members appointed to area-specific bodies on behalf of the Area Committee by the Governance Committee be required to report to the Area Committee at least once a year on their activities.
11. Area Committees shall –
 - (a) make decisions in respect of traffic matters or (the parameters to be defined) from time to time by the Governance Committee to be recommendation-makers to those taking the decisions;
 - (b) be allocated a budget of £5,000 and be delegated authority to spend on minor locally-focused environmental initiatives (on the basis of criteria established by the Governance Committee from time to time).
 - (c) be entitled to bid for an allocation from a £45,000 budget held on behalf of Cabinet, such bid to be accompanied by a business case.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman or a member of staff on their behalf will announce details of the arrangements in case of fire or other events that might require the meeting room or building's evacuation.

The Chairman will remind members of the public present, that Councillors have to make decisions on the basis of the facts before them. The Chairman will also remind members of the public that the decisions may not always be popular, but they should respect the need for Councillors to take decisions that will stand up to external scrutiny for accountability.

PART 1

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (If any) – to receive

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members are invited to declare any interests in any of the items on the agenda at this point of the meeting. (Members may still declare an interest in an item at any time prior to the consideration of the matter).

4. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

To elect the Chairman of the Area Committee for the Municipal Year 2007/08.

5. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

To elect the Vice-Chairman of the Area Committee for the Municipal Year 2007/08.

6. MINUTES

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17 April 2007, and to authorise the Chairman to sign them.

7. REVIEW OF PRIMARY EDUCATION - PRESENTATION

There will be a presentation by Children's Services staff. *(This item has been brought forward as the Lead Member for Children's Services needs to attend another Area Committee afterwards)*

8. COMMUNITY AND POLICE CONSULTATIVE GROUP

To appoint the Area Committee's Representative on the Consultative Group.

PART 2

*The time shown against this item indicates the expected duration and is given for guidance only. The meeting will close **no later than 10:00pm**, unless an extension is agreed at the meeting.*

9. PUBLIC FORUM AND SURGERY (30 minutes)

Ward Councillors and possibly other Council services and the Local Police where the Area Chairman has arranged, will be in attendance to give the chance for residents to raise issues with staff, the Police (if present) or Members.

PART 3

10. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

11. AREA COMMITTEE REVIEW - Report attached

An oral update will be given at the meeting

12. RISEBRIDGE GOLF COURSE

An oral report will be given at the meeting

PART 4

13. LICENSING OF GAMBLING ACTIVITY

The Committee are asked to receive a presentation from the Licensing Team

PART 5

14. FUTURE AGENDAS

Committee Members are invited to indicate to the Chairman items they would like to see on future agendas.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 10 October 2007** at a venue to be agreed.

16. URGENT BUSINESS

Other business can be considered at the meeting if the Chairman agrees that circumstances justify consideration on grounds of urgency. The reasons why the matters were considered will be recorded in the minutes.

CHERYL COPPELL
Chief Executive

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
GIDEA PARK `AREA COMMITTEE
St Edward's Primary School, Havering Drive, Romford
17 April 2007 (7.35pm – 10.00pm)**

Present:

COUNCILLORS:

Kevin Gregory (Chairman), Ted Eden (VC), Eric Munday and Michael White

A representative of the press and 17 members of the public were present.

The Chairman advised Members and the public of action to be taken in the event of emergency evacuation of the hall becoming necessary.

Councillor Gregory led those present in prayer.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Edward Cahill and were received on behalf of the police.

There were no declarations of interest.

Unless shown otherwise, all decisions were taken with no Member voting against.

27 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2007 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

28 PUBLIC FORUM AND SURGERY

The Chairman invited the public for comments on any of the items contained within Appendix 1 of the Minutes, or for any new issues. Several members of the public responded and raised other issues, as set out in Appendix 1.

The Public Forum concluded at 8.20pm.

29 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman gave a report of some of his activities on behalf of residents, such as:

- (a) The removal of concrete lamp-posts
- (b) The Romford swimming pool
- (c) Risebridge golf course – drainage issues

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- (d) Billposting on roundabouts
 - (e) Traffic calming measures for Rise Park
 - (f) A Greener, Cleaner Borough
 - (g) Parking for flats in Hare Hall Lane
 - (h) Refurbishment of facilities in Raphael Park
 - (i) The East London Law Centre
 - (j) St Edward's Trust
 - (k) The Augustine Land Trust and
 - (l) Other issues
- (See Appendix 2 for full text).

The Committee **accepted** and **noted** the Chairman's Report.

30 **ST GEORGE'S – FUTURE PLANS, Havering PCT - Presentation**

The Chairman introduced Ralph McCormack and Lesley Buckland of the Havering Primary Care Trust (PCT).

Mr McCormack of the Havering PCT thanked the Committee for the opportunity to explain the future plans for service provision at the St George's Hospital site.

The Committee was advised that it had been the intention of the PCT to relocate services from St. George's to an existing hospital site in Harold Wood. However, following detailed discussions it became apparent that the Harold Wood site was too big to accommodate the 60-bed in-patient facility which the PCT required. Accordingly, the decision to relocate was abandoned.

Members were advised that the PCT had subsequently decided that the existing site at St. George's could be re-developed in such a way as to accommodate the new facility. The existing facility was far too big and was not designed for modern-day rehabilitative care provision.

The existing hospital would be demolished and replaced with a much smaller 60-bed in-patient facility. The surplus land would be sold-off for redevelopment.

Members were advised that the plans to re-develop the existing site would firstly need to be ratified by the Strategic Health Authority and then planning permission submitted to the Local Planning Authority.

The Chairman thanked the representatives of the PCT for the presentation and invited Members of the Committee and the public to comment or provide questions on the proposals.

Questions were asked about mental health provision and delayed discharge. With regard to the former, the Committee was informed that the North East London Mental Health Team (NELMHT) had reconsidered their original

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position regarding siting a new mental health facility on part of the former Oldchurch site. The present proposal was that it should be integrated on the existing Goodmayes site.

In reply to the latter issue, Mr McCormack explained that delayed discharge (bed-blocking) was a national problem, not just a local matter. He elaborated on earlier statements concerning bed number requirements by stating that currently there appeared to be some 20+ patients in beds who ought to have been found places elsewhere. He added that attempts were being made to resolve the situation and that this would soon be rectified.

A Member asked why the last Health Overview and Scrutiny meeting had not actually addressed the problem. He was advised that the issues had been identified there and that measures were being developed to address the problem and that, in due course, the problem would be removed.

Members learned that the new structure for health-care delivery was not as it had been and that changes would need time to settle in. Members asked what provisions were being made to ensure that resources were efficiently employed, would there, for example, be moves to reduce nursing staff levels?

They were informed that nursing posts would be deleted— though it was hoped that redundancies would be voluntary - but that historically hospitals had carried additional staff and, with modern procedures, there was less need for these levels to continue. However, patients would not be placed at risk and although in order to meet targets, patients were being released earlier than before, there were far more effective monitoring methods to ensure that, in the event of complications, they could be speedily re-admitted.

31 BUS STOP ACCESSIBILITY (Routes 103/499, Pettits lane North and Havering Road)

A report was presented that outlined proposals by Transport for London (TfL) to provide funding for Bus Stop Accessibility (BSA) improvements through the London-wide Local Implementation Plan (LIP) based on annual bids by the London Boroughs.

The report stated that staff from Technical Services were working with TfL Bus Priority, London Buses and the Police (where required) on a programme of mainly route-based BSA improvements, although individual sites are investigated from time to time where there are particular problems.

The report recommends a series of BSA improvements for Pettits Lane North and Havering Road.

The Area Committee was invited to note that TfL have indicated that it would be willing to fund these works in addition to the 2007/08 allocation for BSA currently provided through the LIP.

Initial:

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In answer to questions from the public concerning the construction of bus shelters, Officers reported that TfL preferred glass panels for a number of reasons – including aesthetic and safety (higher visibility) – but that if a particular shelter became repeatedly vandalised, TfL would utilise “unbreakable” plastic and, as a last resort, a vandal-proof material which was, unfortunately, totally obscure.

The Committee also learned that part of the process was to extend the bus-stop length and also raise the kerb height to facilitate ease of access and egress.

The Committee:

RESOLVED:

To: note the Report and accept the recommendations

32 SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN – Parklands Junior School Proposed Highway Safety Improvements

A report was presented concerning School Travel Plans (STPs)” which is a Transport for London (TfL)-funded initiative seeking to make travelling to school by non-private car more attractive to pupils and parents.

The scheme gives assistance to schools to develop STPs and to use them as a tool to set and review targets for reducing school travel by private cars.

Highway Engineering remains an important part of the process, but local highway improvements are now led by the schools themselves, with the Council’s Traffic & Engineering Staff providing advice and working up designs for local highway improvements.

This report set out the background to the STP process and then proposed a series of highway improvements for the area around the Parklands Junior School site.

The recommendations before the Area Committee were that:

1. The following proposals be agreed in principle and approval granted to proceed with any necessary traffic orders, public consultation and statutory advertisements:
 - a) A zebra crossing to be installed in Havering Road immediately North of its junction with Collier Row Lane as shown on Drawing QE042/001.
 - b) A pedestrian refuge to be installed with associated road markings on Havering Road 15m North of its junction with Ashmour Gardens as illustrated on Drawing QE042/002.

Initial:

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- c) Additional 'School Keep Clear' restrictions be provided on the North side of Hamilton Avenue for operation from Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 9:15am and 2:45pm to 3:30pm opposite the school access as shown on Drawing QE042/003.
 - d) Additional 'At Any Time' waiting restrictions be provided along the Southern side of Hamilton Road from the existing 'School Keep Clear' markings to a point outside No 17 Hamilton Road, opposite the end of existing restrictions, as also indicated on Drawing QE042/003.
2. The approval process be delegated to the Head of Technical Services in consultation with the Chairman of the Area Committee, if changes are required to the proposals before it proceeds to public consultation.
 3. The approval of the final scheme following the results of the public consultation be delegated to the Head of Technical Services in consultation with the Chairman of the Area Committee.
 4. The estimated cost of £40,000 is met from the 2007/08 allocation for School Travel Plans funded by Transport for London through the Local Implementation Plan, subject to finance being available.

A member of the public observed that the plans were inaccurate as there was no school entrance next to 62 Havering Road. This was accepted, but that overall, it did not change the report in any material way.

A Member observed that STPs had been generally well received in Havering and were well supported with many children and parents choosing to walk or cycle. Apart from improving the health of residents and children, the environment was also benefiting. The Council was pleased to support the "Walk on Wednesday" initiative that was funded by TfL.

The Committee

RESOLVED:

To note the proposals as described in the context of this report:

33 MAIN ROAD (Between Balgores lane and Upper Brentwood Road) – Local Safety Scheme.

A report was presented concerning the Main Road – Local Safety Scheme, which was one of the schemes approved by TfL for funding. A feasibility study has recently been carried out to identify accident remedial measures along Main Road between Balgores Lane and Upper Brentwood Road and the following measures are proposed:

Initial:

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- Pedestrian refuges
- Relocation and upgrading existing zebra crossing
- Centre line hatched and slow road markings
- Vehicle activated sign
- Red surfacing

The report detailed the findings of the feasibility study. The recommendations before the Area Committee are that:

1. The Area Committee approves the following in principle:
 - (a) The proposals for pedestrian refuges, relocation and upgrading existing zebra crossing, red surfacing, centre line hatched and slow markings
 - (b) Authorise the preparation and advertising of a draft traffic notices to relocate existing zebra crossing
 - (c) Authorise staff to carry out a public consultation on the above proposals.
 - (d) Delegate the approval process to the Head of Technical Services in consultation with the Chairman of the Area Committee, if changes are required to the proposals before going to public consultation.
 - (e) Delegate approval of the final scheme in the light of the results of the public consultation to the Head of Technical Services in consultation with the Chairman of the Area Committee.
2. Also, to note that the estimated cost of £70,000 be met from the Transport for London's (TfL) 2007/08 financial year allocation to Havering for Local Safety Schemes.

Members asked what effect the measures would have on traffic flow along Main Road and expressed disappointment that the measures would indeed reduce overall speed. Members asked whether it might not be more appropriate to review traffic conditions along the whole length of road (from Gallows Corner to Romford town centre) and treat this as a single entity in order to ensure that traffic continued to move smoothly along its whole length whilst addressing specific safety issues.

Members asked whether the budget included funding that could be used for resurfacing the road, but were informed that on this occasion, this was not possible.

The Committee

RESOLVED:

To note the proposals as described in the context of this report:

Initial:

34 AREA COMMITTEE REVIEW

A report was submitted that outlined the need to establish a fixed venue for the year May 2007 to April 2008 for each of the Area Committees, in line with recommendations from Council, and to review and amend the present structure.

The recommendations before the Area Committee were that:

- That the Committee agree a fixed venue for their Committee meetings for the coming year and
- To note the change of the structure

Members expressed surprise that the Committee was expected to remain in one location for the whole year and they observed that they felt unable to endorse the report in its present format.

The Committee

RESOLVED:

Not to accept the report at this time and request that it be brought back to the Committee with further evidence to show where the authority lay in restricting the Area Committee's freedom to determine when it moved and where, in its area, it chose to hold its meetings.

35 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 11 July 2007. Venue: St Edward's Primary School, Havering Drive, Romford.

Appendix 1**Appendix 1****MATTERS RAISED AT THE MEETING BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Items (a) to (c) have been brought forward from the meeting of 18 April, but in a modified form.

(a) The Removal of Concrete Lamp-Posts

In response to further questioning, Members referred to the response from the Service that there was no programme in force for replacing all the concrete lamp-posts. What budget did exist was for the ad-hoc replacement of older cast iron lamp-posts and such concrete lamp-posts that became damaged.

It was agreed that a Report would be presented to the next meeting.

(b) Risebridge Golf Course – Drainage Issues

Residents continued to be critical of the manner in which the present management of the golf course appeared to be defying the Council and ignoring planning restrictions in its continuing programme of pouring ever more material onto the site. There were calls for a representative from Planning to provide an update on Council activity to date and answer concerns that wildlife was being sacrificed to profit. The Committee asked for the Head of Planning to report to it at the next meeting.

(c) Billposting on roundabouts

The Committee was reminded that despite StreetCare's claim, bill-posting was still happening faster than it was being remedied. The public were reminded that there were instances of legitimate advertising, but that unauthorised hoardings/banners were removed as quickly as possible.

(d) Other issues

- i. A member of the public reported that several of the speed cushions recently installed in the Marshalls park 20mph restricted zone, were causing damage to vehicles that drove over them. Technical Services were asked to investigate this claim and to rectify the fault.

Response:**Marshalls Park Local Safety Scheme**

Technical Services state that they have surveyed the speed cushions placed as part of the scheme and can confirm that they are **all** to regulations. Complaints had been received about parked

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cars obscuring some of the markings and markings have now been extended to cover the other side of the humps.

Interestingly, Technical Services has received complaints that the cushions are **not** severe enough to slow traffic down.

- ii. A request was made for the Committee to provide a comprehensive list of all grants and awards received by the Council for the period 2005/06. Members agreed that the figures would be made available at a future meeting, though they pointed out that much of the funding received by the Council was for specific purposes, as there appeared to be some misapprehension that cash received could be spent any way the Council wished. Members added that these figures were readily available, published in the Council's Annual Accounts, available on the internet and also could be found in the public libraries.
- iii. The Committee was asked why the Council had been allowed to sell off eleven of its houses for £9,000 each. Members replied that the decision had been made on sound financial advice at officer level. The questioner was also directed to a response on the subject made by Councillor Armstrong and published in a recent edition of the Romford Recorder.
- iv. Condition of trees in the Chase: Although a response had been made, there appeared to be some inaccuracy. Former Councillor Webster asked whether a diseased tree (stated to be healthy) would be removed.
- v. The Committee was asked to comment on the appearance of road markings along Havering Road. Members of the public were bemused at the extent of the markings (lane "splitting") especially in view of the number of vehicles parked along the side of the road and were anxious that the Council was wasting money. A member of Technical Services advised that the markings were not costing the borough anything and that they had been shown to have been effective in alerting drivers to hazards.

Response:

Havering Road Local Safety Scheme

The hatching has been provided on the sections of the street where Technical Services felt it could best influence driver behaviour in reducing the injury history. Hatching has not been applied on a blanket basis as it would mean there was more paintwork to maintain.

- vi. The Committee was asked about the repair and maintenance of a fence around Rise Park. £18,000 had been spent in repairs two years ago, but problems still needed remedying – especially in the vicinity of the Garry Close entrance.

Initial:

Chairman's Annual Report

MATTERS RAISED AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The following items have been brought to the Committee's attention from the first meeting of this committee in July last year followed by the further meetings in October and January:

1. The Removal of Concrete Lamp-Posts

It was confirmed at the last meeting that this was to be a long programme, but it was proceeding and the worst lamp-posts (and those that had been damaged) were being replaced first. The Committee was asked whether any further funds could be identified and directed to this as it presented a continued danger across the borough.

The 2007/2008 capital programme for street lighting improvements will concentrate on the priority of replacing the very old cast iron columns that exist within the Borough and major repairs to some of the centre island bollard sites.

2. Romford Swimming Pool

It was announced that the Cabinet at their meeting of 17 January 2007, had accepted a report concerning a swimming pool for Romford and that it would be near the ice rink. A member of the public asked whether the Council had considered using the ice rink's extracted heat to partially heat the pool, thereby helping to cut running costs and assist the Council's "green" commitment. Members replied that this would be taken into consideration by the architects.

3. Risebridge Golf Course – Drainage Issues

During the last Committee meeting residents expressed their dissatisfaction with the response from the Council and stated that they wanted action to be taken against the contractor for continuing to dump "waste". They claimed that it was not inert material as had been claimed.

With regard to material being brought onto the site in connection with planning approval P0836.05, the licensing authority is the Environment Agency – not the Council. They operate an incident hotline (no. 0800 80 70 60). Further information is available on their website address at www.environment-agency.gov.uk

4. Billposting on roundabouts

This issue was raised once again and claims were made that billposting was still continuing, despite being reported to the Council. In response a representative from StreetCare informed the meeting that if the problem had been properly reported and logged, any banners and the like – that had not received permission from the Council – were removed quickly and the offenders (where identified) charged with the cost of removal. It was noted, however, that certain publicity banners had been permitted – though their placement should not be a safety issue, nor should they impact negatively on the environment.

5. Traffic Calming Measures for Rise Park

Concerns were raised about traffic speed and volume by residents of Helmsdale Road and also Beauly Way. Residents called for a survey to determine how best to deal with the problem before there were any accidents. A member of staff from Technical Services responded by saying that funding was to be sought from Transport for London (TfL), failing that, there was no budgeted programme for 2008/09. I have requested a report however as of this date no report has been completed and I will be continuing my pursuit of this issue.

6. A Greener, Cleaner Borough

In the recent Audit Report conducted on Havering it showed an improvement in the environment from 2005. This report showed an improvement of 22% in the level of satisfaction residents have in the state of cleanliness within the Borough bringing it up to 63%. There was an improvement seen in the availability of recycling facilities throughout the Borough bringing residential satisfaction up to 70%. The Council are executing planning decisions more quickly and that the use of brown-field land for housing is amongst the best in the country.

7. Parking for Flats in Hare Hall Lane

On 18th January 2007 I signed off the first stage of seeing resident's parking for Geddy Court in Hare Hall Lane. The project may have to run into two terms to see it completely implemented from the £5,000 we have been allocated per committee term though we believe only part of the second funding would be used for the implementation but like all of these things costs may rise. The first stage has been agreed and the second stage will be a cost analysis of the project, the third stage will be the survey and consultation and the last stage which we will see all going well, the conclusion and implementation after the next committee meeting

8. Raphaels Park

I am happy in confirming that the two pavilions in the park close to the tennis courts have been granted funding for refurbishment and the decision has been taken to remove what remains of the shell of the disused toilet.

9. East London Law Centre

I am happy to confirm that the East London Law Centre of which I Chair was granted charitable status on 23rd February 2007. It is planning to have its Head Office in Havering with three sub offices located in Barking & Dagenham, Redbridge, and Newham. We hope that initial funding will be granted by the end of May with the Law Centre being fully operational by autumn.

10. St Edwards Trust

I am also the Chair of this organisation and the rent deposit plan has been provisionally agreed in principle with the Housing Corporation enabling potential funding to be allocated in the next round of Innovative and Good Practice grants.

11. Augustine Land Trust

I have been recently made Chairman of the Augustine Land Trust Ltd, an Industrial & Provident Society with not for profit status and charitable registration with the Inland Revue. Its objects are solely aimed at financially supporting home owners facing repossession, who if they qualify will give them the ability of freezing their mortgage payments for three years. However it's other arm is property building with social contracts, which will involve local tradesmen and women in building homes which are technically in keeping with the guidelines of the Energy Trust.

12. Other issues

In regards to the maintenance of pavements in the Wards, several members of the public raised issues about the poor and dangerous condition of pavements in their Wards; A StreetCare representative responded by advising members of the public to keep reporting problems and assuring them that each would be looked at and repairs made as quickly as possible. The Committee stated that there was a borough-wide programme of replacement and repair, but that it would take a long time to deliver.

Gidea Park Area Committee, 17 April 2007

The Council can now confirm that a list of suggested footways and carriageways for large scale repairs/renewals for 2007/2008 has been submitted, and Fairholme Avenue is not on this list.

Patching repairs were carried out to the carriageway in late 2006 in Fairholme Avenue. The footway and carriageway were inspected in December 2006 and two repairs carried out.

Cllr Kevin Gregory Chairman Gidea Park Area Committee

Gidea Park Area Committee, 17 April 2007



MEETING	DATE	ITEM
GIDEA PARK AREA COMMITTEE	12 July 2007	11

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SUBJECT: Review of Area Committees

SUMMARY

This report outlines the need to establish a fixed venue for the year May 2007 to April 2008 for all nine Area Committees, and to look at the workings of their structures and was originally presented to the Area Committee on 17 April.

RECOMMENDATION

- That the Committee agrees a fixed venue for their Committee meetings for the coming year.
- To note the change of the structure

REPORT DETAIL

Area Committee meetings are serviced by Officers in Democratic Services.

Venues for meetings

Best Practice advice from the IDeA and the Audit Commission encourages Councils to develop forms of local consultation and participation. For such meetings to be relevant to the Community and to encourage Community participation, Area Committees are held in public.

It was proposed and agreed by Council (7 December 2005, Minute 54- and set out in detail in appendix 2) that meetings would be held every three months in a fixed location at a fixed venue for a full year. The venue needs to be agreed by the Committee as this will help local people regard it as their meeting hall and help promote local identity. The single venue arrangements would also help with advertising in so far as some permanent signing might be possible.

The Council's decision is binding on Area Committees, who therefore do not have the option to agree other arrangements (such as meeting at a different venue each time).

There are budgetary advantages to staying in the same venue and arrangements need to reflect resource availability and capacity.

In the past year, the Committee has met at St Michael's church hall in Main Road and its present venue St Edward's Primary School. The former location, though midway between the two Wards and therefore "neutral" had a number of drawbacks, which led to the Committee relocating to St Edward's. This position provides far better access.

Members are now invited to consider whether they wish to continue meeting at the current venue, or meet elsewhere. It should be noted that with all venues, meeting arrangements are subject to the owner of the premises being willing to let the accommodation for Area Committee use on the days and dates required.

Structure of meetings

Following a meeting of the Area Committee Chairmen and the Democratic Services Manager and his officers, it was suggested and agreed that the structure of the agenda and meetings be changed to:

StreetCare having a surgery from 7pm where members of the public reported StreetCare issues to officers in an informal setting.

On the agenda and at the meeting:

- **Part 1** to deal with the apologies, declarations of interest and minutes from previous meetings.
- **Part 2** to be a public forum and surgery and **would last for 30 minutes**. It would be attended by Ward Councillors, Local Police (if invited and able to attend) and possibly other Council services where the Area Chairman had arranged this in advance. This would give residents an opportunity to raise any service issues with staff or Members.
- **Part 3** would be the formal decision making part of the meeting, dealing with traffic schemes on behalf of Transport for London and parking control requests. This section would also agree any new schemes and deal with requests for funding from the local environment improvement budget.
- **Part 4** would allow time for information presentations from both Council services and external partners.

- **Part 5** to pick up any other business, future agenda requests and the date of the next meeting.

Financial Implications and risks:

The arrangements for having the area committees at a fixed venue and the costs of any appropriate signage will be met from within existing budgets.

Legal Implications and risks:

None

Human Resources Implications and risks:

None

Equalities and Social Inclusion implications:

The proposals are designed to engage, liaise and consult with local communities of interest including local residents.

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CHERYL COPPELL
Chief Executive

Background Papers List

Area Committee review report to the Governance Committee 15 November 2005

