SOUTH HORNCHURCH & RAINHAM AREA COMMITTEE

AGENDA

| 7.30 pm | Wednesday 31 March 2010 | South Hornchurch Community Hall Rainham Road Rainham RM13 7RD |

Members 6: Quorum 3

COUNCILLORS:

Tom Binding (C)                  Coral Jeffery
Michael Deon Burton (VC)         Mark Stewart
John Clark                       Jeffrey Tucker

NB: HAVERING STREETCARE STAFF WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE VENUE FROM 7:00pm TO RESPOND TO GENERAL QUERIES

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South Hornchurch and Rainham Area Committee

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For details of Area Committee meetings and other Council meetings contact Democratic Services on 01708 433076 or email committee.services@havering.gov.uk or go to www.havering.gov.uk and click ‘What’s On’
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.
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. MINUTES

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 27 January 2010, and to authorise the Chairman to sign them.

PART 2

The time shown against this time 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.
5. PUBLIC FORUM AND SURGERY (30 Minutes)

Ward Councillors, officers from Street Care 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

6. CHAIRMAN’S ANNUAL REPORT

Report attached

7. COMMUNITY AND POLICE CONSULTATIVE GROUP REPRESENTATIVE’S ANNUAL REPORT

Report to follow

PART 4

8. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM - UPDATE

An update on the work of the Safer Neighbourhood Team will be given at the meeting.

PART 5

9. FUTURE AGENDAS

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

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The dates for future meetings have not yet been set. They will be announced at Annual Council (26 May 2010) and will be advertised shortly afterwards.
11. 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
Present:

COUNCILLORS:

Tom Binding (in the Chair), Michael Deon Burton, John Clark, Coral Jeffery, Mark Stewart and Jeffrey Tucker

A representative of the Press and eighteen members of the public were present.

On behalf of the Chairman, the members of the public were advised of action to be taken in the event of emergency evacuation of the building becoming necessary.

There were no declarations of interest.

Unless otherwise indicated all decisions were agreed with no member voting against.

13. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2009 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman with the following amendment.

Item 1 (Appendix 1) Should read that no survey had taken place.

14. WILDLIFE IN HAVERING

Tony Gunton of Havering’s Wildlife Partnership gave a presentation on the wildlife in Havering. Mr Gunton spoke about Havering’s endangered creatures and insects and showed slides of the flowers and trees that existed in the Borough. Mr Gunton also explained that plans existed to open a new visitor centre at the Hornchurch Country Park. Members
noted that the cost of the new visitor centre would be in the region of £1.7 million.

Mr Gunton was thanked for his presentation by the Chairman and the Committee.

15. LOCAL NATURE RESERVE STATUS FOR LAND AT RAINHAM MARSHES

Members were presented with a report which proposed the declaration of all Council owned land at Rainham Marsh as a new Local Nature Reserve (LNR).

Members noted as well as the declaration that funding of £5 million pounds was due to spent at the site. The funding would go towards improving access to the site, the surrounding highway to Rainham Village and work by the Council and RSPCB to link the marsh sites either side of the A13 road.

It was also reported that by declaring the site a LNR it would help to protect the marshes wildlife habitats and natural features and make it possible to apply by-laws to manage and protect the site and help build relationships with nature conservation organisations.

Members noted that Rainham Marshes would be the Council’s seventh LNR and would bring the total land covered by LNRs to 400 hectares.

Committee members welcomed the report and commented that it showed the Council’s commitment to protecting its open spaces.

It was AGREED that the Committee endorsed the proposal to declare the area of Council owned land at Rainham Marshes, as a statutory LNR, which would be the subject of a further Cabinet decision.

16. BRIDGE ROAD ROUNDABOUT RAINHAM – PROPOSED CYCLE FACILITIES

The report was considered as an urgent item under Section 100(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 as a delay in agreeing the report could have resulted in the loss of funding from Transport for London (TfL).

Members considered a report outlining details to improve existing cycle facilities across London. Following a review of the cycle route linking Rainham with the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham several measures were identified to improve cyclists safety.
The report proposed widening to pavements and crossing areas at each of the junctions on the roundabout to allow room for both cyclists and pedestrians to cross together.

Members discussed the impact of narrowing the roadway to allow widening of the pavement and the possible impact this could have on motorists. Members asked that officers gave consideration to narrowing the central reservations to avoid narrowing the roadways too much.

Members also asked if any further consideration had been given to the introduction of a one-way system in Rainham Village. An officer advised that the scheme was still being considered and that there would be an update in due course.

Following discussion it was AGREED that the proposals to extend and convert existing footway to shared use facility (pedestrians and cyclists) were agreed in principle at the following locations:

**Bridge Road/Viking Way/Lamson Road junction – south west corner of roundabout**

That the proposal to extend the existing footway from 2 metres to 3 metres (max) to a shared use surface under sections 65 & 66 of the Highways Act of 1980 was agreed in principle.

**Bridge Road/Viking Way/Lamson Road junction – south east corner of the roundabout**

That the proposal to extend the existing footway from 2 metres to 3 metres (max) to a shared use surface under sections 65 & 66 of the Highways Act of 1980 was agreed in principle.

**Bridge Road/Viking Way/Lamson Road junction – south west corner of the roundabout**

That the proposal to extend and convert the existing footway from 2.5 metres to 3.3 metres (max) for a shared use surface under sections 65 & 66 of the Highways Act of 1980 was agreed in principle.

That the proposals to extend the lengths of existing traffic islands on safety grounds were agreed in principle at three locations.

1) Bridge Road, situated on south side of existing roundabout.
2) Lamson Road, situated on west side of existing roundabout.
3) Viking Way (entrance to TESCO), situated on east side of existing roundabout.
it was noted the estimated costs of £100,000 would be met from the Transport for London’s allocation to Havering for the development of the London Cycle Network+ in the borough for 2009/10 financial year

That the occupiers in the immediate vicinity of the proposals be consulted. If there are any objections received, the Head of StreetCare Services, in consultation with the Chairman of South Hornchurch and Rainham Area Committee be authorised to decide whether the proposals should go ahead as advertised, be amended as considered necessary, or a further report be submitted to the Area Committee.

17. FUTURE AGENDAS

Committee members asked that a Havering Local Information Network (LINk) representative be invited to the next meeting to give a presentation on the workings of the LINk.

It was also suggested that an update on the roads that had been prioritised for parking restrictions be given at the next meeting.

The Chairman undertook to arrange for the aforementioned items to be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Wednesday 31 March 2010 at 7.30pm at the South Hornchurch Community Hall in Rainham Road, South Hornchurch. Future meeting dates to be agreed at Annual Council following the Local Elections (Thursday 6 May).
PUBLIC FORUM

The following matters were discussed.

(i) Palliser Drive - Parking

Several residents of Palliser Drive requested yellow lines be introduced to prevent drivers from parking outside their homes for the period of one hour in the morning. The residents who had previously submitted a petition to the Council, advised that commuters were leaving their cars all day which were causing problems for other users of the road.

The Chairman advised that he had attended a meeting last week, with the Principal Engineer from StreetCare, to discuss prioritising roads in the area that needed parking restrictions. It was hoped that Palliser Drive would be selected from the review and a scheme proposed for public consultation.

(ii) A1306 – Landfill Site

A resident advised that the A1306, from the junction with Lambs Lane South and Lambs Lane North up to the junction with Wennington Road, was covered in mud deposited by lorries leaving the landfill site.

The Chairman advised that the lorries were supposed to use a wheel wash before leaving the site. The Chairman undertook to contact StreetCare to see what could be done.

(iii) Wennington Road – Parking Review

A Committee member requested that a parking review be carried out in Wennington Road particularly near the Post Office area. Due to the lack of front garden spaces and the existing waiting restrictions, local residents were experiencing parking difficulties near to their properties. Local residents had expressed interest into possibly introducing a resident’s parking scheme.

An officer present undertook to see if Wennington Road could be included in the current parking review.
(iv) **Rainham Marshes**

A Committee member requested that residents report any suspicious activity on Rainham Marshes to the Council. The member advised that the Police had recently caught people pheasant poaching in the area.
The work of the Area Committee since July 2009 can be summarised as follows:

**Road Safety Improvements**

In July 2009, the Committee approved a traffic calming scheme to introduce a 20mph zone in the Lowen Road area, following a successful bid for funding from Transport for London.

During the course of the year, residents in both Palliser Drive and Wennington Road raised concerns over residential parking. It is hoped that both areas can be included in a feasibility study, which will then go out for public consultation.

At the Area Committee Meeting on January 27th, Members considered a report from Transport for London detailing improvements to existing cycle facilities across the Capital. It was agreed that proposals to extend and convert footways for use by both pedestrians and cyclists should be implemented at the Bridge Road roundabout and public consultation on this initiative is now underway.

**Country Parks & Nature Reserves**

Tony Gunton from Havering’s Wildlife Partnership gave a presentation to the Area committee on 27th January and explained plans to open a new visitor centre in Hornchurch Country Park.

The Committee endorsed plans to declare land at Rainham Marshes a statutory Local Nature Reserve. A sum of £5million is to be spent on improving access to the site from both sides of the A13 road. The status of Local Nature Reserve will give nature conservation organisations more legal powers to manage and protect wildlife habitats on the marshes.
Healthcare

Mr Chas Holloway from NHS Havering gave a presentation to the Committee on future healthcare in the Borough. Of particular interest to the local community were plans to open a polyclinic adjacent to the new school in Rainham village and a GP satellite unit on the Mardyke estate by 2010.

Riverside Regeneration

Officers from the Council’s Regeneration department gave a presentation to the meeting on 14th October 2009, outlining plans for the Riverside Regeneration. The plans include improvements to housing, healthcare, green spaces, business, cultural and community facilities in the area. A new station at Beam Park is proposed and the final reclamation of Mardyke Farm Landfill Site which is still ongoing was also explained by an officer at the meeting.

Streetcare

Since last July, several Streetcare issues have come before the Area Committee. Council Officers are still investigating residents’ concerns about speed humps in Philip Road, which have proved ineffectual in calming traffic.

Complaints about speeding cars in the Cherry Tree Lane area have been passed to the Safer Neighbourhood Team, as this was considered a matter for police investigation rather than the Area Committee.

The Walkway adjacent to the Tesco store in Viking Way has now been re-furbished and re-opened and appears to be working successfully.

The vehicle activated signs in Lambs Lane South have now been re-positioned in Lambs Lane North and the speed signals corrected.
The Chairman undertook a site visit with Council Officers and concerned residents to investigate traffic problems in Dagenham Road. Mutual agreement has been reached as how best to proceed with this matter.

Overhanging trees in the Rainham Road/Stanley Road area have been pruned back outside the new flats, following complaints from local residents.

Lorries leaving the landfill site left muddy deposits on the A1306. In response to complaints from the public, Officers visited the site and appropriate action has now been taken to remedy the matter.

Unfortunately, no action can be taken to prevent the amount of HGV’s using Rainham Road, as the road is classified as an “A road” and is therefore open to use by all types of vehicles.

**Area Committee Community Spend**
This year, the Area Committee agreed to donate £395 to the Metropolitan Police for the purchase of bicycles, £2000 for a commemorative bench and plaque in the pathway opposite Castle Avenue in memory of former Councillor Len Long and £2605 for road safety works at Newtons roundabout.

Councillor Tom Binding