

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SOUTH ESSEX AREA FORUM HELD AT 2.00 PM  
ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2010 AT BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH, HIGH ROAD,  
BENFLEET**

**Membership**

County Councillors:

* R C Howard (Chairman)	R A Pearson
D Abrahall	Mrs I Pummell
* S C Castle	* Mrs J M Reeves
Mrs T Chapman	* C G Riley
* W J C Dick	T Sargent
J Dornan	* J M Schofield
* Mrs E M Hart	K Twitchen
A M Hedley	* Mrs M J Webster
S Hillier	* B Wood
D W Morris	

\* present

**Also Present**

(in order of signing the attendance book – and as there described).

George Whatley - PAM, Mark Harman - Essex Police, Harry Tucker - Resident;  
John Sheaf – Essex Chamber of Commerce, Tony Wright – Southend & Essex  
LINK, Pat Tremain – Benfleet Cricket Club, Christopher Evans – BBWCVS, Jackie  
Brown – RRAVS, Michael White – CAVS, Heather Glyn – RPC, John Buchanan –  
EALC, Eoin Egan – CPBC, Martin Wakelin – Great Burstead & South Green PC,  
Trudie Bragg – CPBC, Glenn Caton – Essex Police, Andrew Sheldon – Rebecca  
Harris MP, Cllr Alf Partridge – CPBC, Sarah Calkin – Echo, Helen Philpott –  
Billericay TC, Ian Cousins – May Gurney, Cllr Pam Challis – CPBC.

**Officers Attending in Support**

John Zammit	Mid Essex Area Co-ordinator
Vivien Door	Committee Officer
Matthew Waldie	Committee Officer
Samantha Ball	Committee Assistant

**35. Apologies and Substitution Notices**

The Committee Officer reported the receipt of apologies from Councillors T Chapman, A Hedley, S Hillier, T Sargent and K Twitchen; Andrew Pike - Interim Chief Executive, NHS SW Essex; Cllr Terry Cutmore - Rochford District Council; and Pippa Doxford - Castle Point Association of Voluntary Services.

**36. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

### **37. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2010 were received and signed as a correct record.

The Chairman noted the statement by George Whatley of People against Methane about the Calor Gas Hearing at Basildon Crown Court, which was appended to the minutes, and expressed his appreciation on behalf of the meeting. The Council have taken note of this and will be monitoring the situation moving forward.

### **38. Public Questions**

The Chairman invited questions from the public on any matters falling within the remit of the Forum.

Some concerns were expressed about the

George Whatley, a Member of the Public, informed the Area Forum that the Health and Safety meeting taking place to interview Calor Gas under caution had not taken place as Calor Gas had not attended. A further

### **39. Preparations for the 2012 Games**

Councillor Stephen Castle, Cabinet Member for Education and the 2012 Games, and Barbara Mills, Hadleigh Farm Stakeholder and Delivery Manager, gave a presentation on preparations for the 2012 Games in Essex.

The London Olympic Games Organising Committee (LOGOC) oversees the whole Games. Under that is the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), which is responsible for the building of appropriate venues and for transport issues. There is also a Nations and Regions Group, comprising 12 representatives of interested parties across Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and 9 English regions. Each member of the Nations and Region Group chairs a task force bringing together representatives of interested parties across their own nation or region, each seeking to make the most of the Games. Councillor Castle chairs Nations and Regions East, comprising the 6 counties making up Eastern England.

There is an emphasis on on legacy at these games, not only with cultural and sporting elements, but also in economic opportunities for local businesses; and the "London 2012" marque has been designed to inspire people into legacy – these Games being the first to use a marque in this way. The Team Essex Ambassadors Awards will provide grant aid to 13 athletes who have the potential

to compete at the 2012 Games. These athletes will also serve as sporting Ambassadors to encourage young people to continue or get involved in sport and strive to be the best they can as a sportsperson and citizen. Over 10,500 Essex residents have registered with LOCOG; and it is hoped to engage those who are not selected as official helpers for the Games, as well as those who do. There will be an emphasis on youth participation, and the Essex volunteers will be modelled on the City Volunteers scheme, to encourage continuity and consistency of experience for those attending Olympic events.

The “all terrain cycling” is the only event taking part wholly in Essex. The course, at Hadleigh Castle, is expected to attract some 20,000 spectators on each day of competition, on 11-12 August 2012. There will also be a test event in July 2011, with top-ranking cyclists competing, and 5,000 spectators are expected to attend that. Improvements will be made to some local access roads, but there will be an emphasis on public transport for these events. Work has already begun on the site.

Specific sporting legacies for the county will not only be a mountain bike course and a 20% share in the facilities as part of Lee Valley Park. Essex wish to work alongside potential sponsors and can confirm two “AdiZones” to be built in the county (the first is already in use – in Southend). An AdiZone is a large multisport recreational venue, with basketball, football and tennis areas, a climbing wall, an outdoor gym and possibly some other facilities.

The organisers have also been working with Natural England and English Heritage, to minimise impact on Scheduled Monuments on the site, disturbance to ecology, and effects on the local visual amenity. Also, Hadleigh fire station will become a cultural centre during the Games, and consideration is being given to making this a permanent arrangement after the Games.

There will be several other parts of the legacy – one of the most important being Basildon Sporting Village, which is due to open in April 2011 and includes a 50 metre pool and other training facilities. It has the potential to be used as a training venue for athletes at London 2012.

There will also be events organised in schools and other venues across the county to encourage participation in sports and cultural activities. This provides a good opportunity to engage the public and the Legacy Team is working hard to make the most of this unique event, ensuring it brings lasting benefits to the people of Essex.

A question was raised about accommodation in the county. Councillor Castle pointed out that London has a huge stock of accommodation, much of which is pre-booked. He acknowledged that a lot of what was available in Essex was not up to standard and the Council has been encouraging the providers to act now, in order to benefit from the advent of the Games.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Castle for his interesting presentation and acknowledged the hard work that he and his Team were clearly putting into preparations for the events in 2012.

#### **40. Strategic Highways Schemes**

The Forum received a presentation on major traffic schemes, from Councillor Norman Hume, Cabinet member for Highways and Transportation. He introduced the item by pointing out that Essex has not only used its own resources but has also attracted significant funding from the Government. Work of this kind has been shown to be good for regeneration, and the South Area - where the need is greatest - has in fact benefited the most. Additionally, the Olympics are providing an opportunity and incentive to get certain things done,

Sadlers Farm. This links the A13 to the A130. It has cost £63m and has been under consideration since 2000. The completion date is spring 2012 – and this is unlikely to slip, as the government funding for this is time limited.

A13 Transport Corridor – Passenger Transport Scheme. This encompasses a number of improvements between Basildon and Southend, including the layout of the Tarpots junction, with it reverting to control by traffic lights, and the emphasis on improving public transport will mean improved bus stops and the provision of electronic information screens for passengers. The bus companies were consulted about these changes.

A127 Basildon Enterprise Corridor. Councillor Hume pointed out that this area is the biggest employment zone in the county, employing some 30,000 people. Good standards of access and transport play a large part in regeneration of areas and maintenance of industry and enterprise. Funding for this has been secured from the Community Infrastructure Fund.

Roscommon Way. Phase 1 of this is underway, also funded by the Community Infrastructure Fund.

These schemes should be completed in time for the Games in 2012 and many of them should have a direct positive impact on travel for those attending events, not only in Essex but in London as well.

One further scheme was mentioned: the South Essex Rapid Transit System. Although nothing more had been done on this, Councillor Hume was hopeful that the Government would revisit it in time.

Several particular issues were raised by members:

- The very heavy congestion experienced on the Sutton Road at Rochford
- The condition of the roads in Dutch Village, Canvey
- The mounting of gas pipelines under the roads at Roscommon Way.

Officers agreed to monitor these.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Hume and his Team for their presentation and all their continuing work on the road infrastructure throughout the county.

#### **41. Essex Police preparations for the 2012 Games**

The Forum received a presentation from Inspector Mark Harman, Essex Police, on the preparations for the 2012 Games.

The period of most activity, requiring greatest police presence, will stretch from late June 2012, with the opening of the venues, through to mid September, when they shut, following the Paralympics. However, police involvement will be substantial for some time before then, and increasingly so in the months leading up to the Games.

There are several particular areas of responsibility for Essex Police:

- Hadleigh Farm, the venue for the mountain biking events on 11 and 12 August 2012. Light fencing, similar to that used for the 'V' Festival, will surround the venue, and the security will be similar to that found in airports, although the temporary building used by the athletes themselves will require higher security levels. There will be particular issues of access through the various means of transport – predominately public. The overall strategy will be that used for counter-terrorism
- Lee Valley, venue for the White Water Canoe event, which is on the Essex border. Essex Police will not be responsible for the event as such but they will have an interest, particularly with regard to transport
- Torch Relay. The Flame will arrive in Britain on Friday 18 May 2012 and will be carried around the country before arriving in London the weekend before the games begin. It will pass through Essex at some point and, although the Metropolitan Police will provide core security throughout its journey, local police involvement will be required
- Stansted Airport. This will be the port of entry for substantial numbers of athletes, officials and spectators before during and after the Games; but it will also be "business as usual" for the usual thousands of holiday travelers
- Political protest. The Games in general can attract various political and activist groups wishing to obtain publicity by disrupting events, etc.

Inspector Harman pointed out that the Games will not present unusual problems for the police, but because they will be brought together during one brief period, much long-term planning and efficient use of resources will be required to ensure safe and successful events for participants and public alike.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Harman for his presentation.

**42. Scrutiny of the NHS South East Essex Strategic Plan**

The Forum received a brief update from the Chairman of the Panel, Councillor Hart. The Panel has met twice and has sought a written response from Andrew Pike, Chief Executive of NHS South East Essex, to certain questions on the Plan. He will be attending their next meeting, to address further questions directly.

**43. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

It was confirmed that the next scheduled meeting of the Forum would be held on Monday 15 November 2010 at 2.00 pm, at Benfleet Methodist Church.

The meeting closed at 4.20 p.m.

Chairman