

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EAST ESSEX AREA FORUM HELD AT
THE VENTURE CENTRE LAWFORD ON 2 NOVEMBER 2010**

Membership

***present**

County Councillors:

A Brown Vice Chairman	* J Jowers
K Bentley	* J Lucas
L Barton	* S Mayzes
* R Callender	L Mead
S Candy	* M Skeels
* C Griffiths	* M J Page (Chairman)
* Mrs M Fisher	* D Robinson
Mrs T Higgins	* Ms A Turrell
	* Ms J Young

Partner Organisations:-

Tendring District Council

Neil Stock	Leader
John Hawkins	Chief Executive
Mike Badger	
* Chris Kitcher	
Cllr Nick Turner	
* Cllr Robert Bucke	

Colchester Borough Council

Ian Vipond,	Executive Director
* Cllr Tim Young	Cabinet Member
* Ann Wain	Executive Director

Essex Police

Jason Gwillim	Superintendent Essex Police
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Essex Fire & Rescue

Essex County Council Officers:

* Jane Gardner, Area Co-ordinator for East Essex
* Ian Myers, Committee Officer
* Samantha Ball, Committee Assistant
* Lesley Stenhouse Minerals and Waste Planning Manager
* Clare Hardy Senior Manager Executive Office
* Jennifer Gudka, Highways Liaison Officer

Parish & Town Councils

* Mike Brown	Frating PC
* Michael Talbot	St Osyth PC
* Joan Parker	Myland PC
* Jane Chinnery	Myland PC
* Lee Lay-Flurrie	Manningtree PC
* Susan Sykes	Lawford PC
* Chip Abnett	Fordham PC
* Martin Rayner	Mistley PC

- * Linda Belgrove Alresford PC

Tendring E.A.L.C (Essex Association of Local Councils)

- * Dave Halsey

Others Represented

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

- * Frank Baker Member of the public
- * Mark Platt TENBAC
- * Beverly Davies CIF
- * Edmund Chinnery Resident
- * Andy Day May Gurney
- * J Robertson Walton Residents Group

38. Welcome and Introductions, Members, Officers and Invited Representatives of Partner Organisations

The Chairman welcomed those present and set out a summary of the business for the meeting.

39. Apologies

The Committee Officer reported apologies and substitution notices as follows:

Apology	Organisation	Substitution
Cllr Anne Brown	Essex County Council	
Cllr Theresa Higgins	Essex County Council	
Cllr Lyn Barton	Essex County Council	
Cllr Nick Turner	Tendring District Council	
John Hawkins	Tendring District Council	
Cllr Neil Stock	Tendring District Council	
Paul Watson	NHS North East Essex	

40. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman requested that Members declare an interest in an item as appropriate.

41. Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting held on 14 September 2010 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

42. Public Questions

The Chairman invited questions from the public on matters within the Terms of Reference of the Forum and not related to substantive agenda items. The following questions and responses were made:

- Mr Frank Baker raised a question concerning the cost of family court fees to the County Council and how much could be saved if the fees were scrapped altogether

Councillor Jowers was not able to confirm exact figures but did confirm that all potential cost savings would be investigated and supported where appropriate.

- Mr Alan Large from Great Holland asked if Members were aware of the traffic problems in Little Clacton Road caused by, in his view, a lack of pavements, high hedges and high traffic flows and asked if traffic calming measures could be introduced.

Mr Forest, resident of Little Clacton Road stated that many accidents are not recorded by the Police but asked they be taken into account when considering priority schemes.

Another resident of Little Clacton Road informed Members of many incidents that have occurred in Little Clacton Road including details of a personal accident.

Jennifer Gudka informed the Forum that a site visit had taken place and that traffic calming schemes could not be implemented although it may be possible for there to be priority working schemes implemented at certain times throughout the year.

Linda Belgrove from Alresford Parish Council added that the number of children being killed or seriously injured in Tendring was very high and speed restriction trials are being carried out outside a number of schools.

Cllr Fisher recorded her concern with the accounts given and added that, to her knowledge, police incident numbers should always be available.

- Linda Belgrove from Alresford Parish Council reported that road signs are being regularly stolen or vandalised and asked if there was anything the village could do to help.

Jennifer Gudka responded by saying that reporting of all such incidents is very useful and this matter will be investigated by the Highways Department.

- Martin Rayner from Mistley Parish Council asked what action is being taken regarding fencing in the Parish.

The Chairman reported that he was aware of issues with public rights of way but he agreed to investigate the matter.

Cllr Mayzes added that Tendring District Council was doing all it could to have the fencing removed.

- Martin Rayner informed the Forum that he had investigated the cost of vehicle activated speeding signs and if Parish Councils could pay for their installation. He was informed the cost was in the region of £3.5k but the site would need to meet the revised ECC criteria.

Both the Chairman and Cllr Jowers agreed to discuss this matter with Cllr Norman Hume.

43. Essex and Southend Waste Development Document –Issues and Options

The Forum received a presentation from Lesley Stenhouse, Minerals & Waste Planning Manager, concerning the Essex & Southend on Sea Waste Development Document, Issues and Options consultation paper and activities.

Lesley explained that the Waste Development Document which comprises of:

- A Core Strategy for the long term direction for waste management and disposal.
- Delivery plan
- Development Management policies
- Strategic Site Allocations

is currently out to consultation with the Districts and Parishes and that a decision on whether to produce the Non Strategic Waste Site Allocations document is yet to be made.

The Forum also noted that:

- The consultation started on 7 October and is due to finish on 2 December 2010.
- There has been full advertising in the press
- There has been liaison with all Consultees
- The document is available to view in libraries
- A series of road shows have taken place

From the very comprehensive presentation, the Forum noted specific details from the strategy that included:

- Waste requirements and gaps in existing capacity
- The management of waste arisings over the planned period
- Proposed vision
- Strategic objectives
- Spatial strategies

- Examples of the different types of recycling facilities required which include waste transfer, composting, construction and demolition recycling, treatment facilities and landfill

Finally, the Forum noted the next steps of the process to be:

- Completion of the consultation process
- Assess responses and suggested sites
- Prepare preferred approach
- Preferred approach consultation in November 2011

The Chairman thanked Lesley for her presentation and invited questions and comments from the Forum.

Cllr Derek Robinson commented that he believed a recent European directive stated that landfill must come to an end and the main policy should be to divert away from landfill. Cllr Jowers responded by saying that the EU has stated landfill can continue but the landfill escalator applies which would make it hugely expensive. He recognised this was an extremely complex issue and added that recycling was by far the best way to deal with waste. Whilst he was opposed to mass burn incineration he reported the Council was considering different options.

Cllr Robert Bucke, Tendring District Council, noted Cllr Jowers comments and asked if there was now a 'carbon footprint' case for closing some waste treatment facilities. It was reported that there is soon to be a ban on land filling untreated waste and there is a market for refuse-derived fuels (RDF).

Chip Abnett from Fordham Parish Council asked if there were initiative to support the relocation of waste facilities to more appropriate locations.

Cllr Jowers reported that Colchester Skip Hire has been offered every opportunity to relocate.

Ed Bennett felt that farmers would not want large scale composting facilities on their land as many of their sites are not on main strategic routes.

Cllr Michael Talbot from St Osyth Parish Council reminded members that issues related to waste were a shared function between the County and District Councils.

Finally, Lesley requested that members give their consideration to the consultation document and provide responses by the closing date of 2 December 2010.

44. Equality and Excellence: Liberating the NHS

The Forum received report EAF/04/10 from Clare Hardy, Senior Manager, Executive Office

The Forum was informed that four months ago the coalition government launched its white paper: 'Equality & Excellence: Liberating the NHS'.

The key headlines being:

- GP commissioning consortia reporting to national NHS Commissioning Board – replacing PCTs and SHA.
- Health improvement transfers to local authorities
- HealthWatch public involvement in health and social care replaces LINKs
- Local Authority Health & Wellbeing Boards responsible for joining up health and social care.
- Outcomes focus – move away from target based system.
- Independent flexible provider market.

Clare outlined the County Council's response in four key areas:

- HealthWatch – agree with proposal but need some stability to make work
- Integrated working – need statutory duty on both Local Authorities and GPs to work together
- Health & Wellbeing Board – need shared ownership, rejected proposals on scrutiny functions
- GP commissioning consortia – need to consider boundary issues

Finally Clare gave details on how the White Paper would be taken forward and the development and functions of the Health & Wellbeing Board.

Members of the Forum raised a number of questions and it was noted in particular that:

- The voluntary sector will sit on the Wellbeing Board and play a key role in commissioning.
- The PCT is still responsible for the funding of current services.
- GP's will be responsible for the forming of consortia.
- All GP's must be part of a consortia
- Funding will be allocated in a similar way to PCT's but will be dependant on the size of the cluster.
- There are no details on the costs to implement these changes as they are issues for the Department of Health. Although it was noted the financial impact on Essex would be minimal, Cllr Jowers did agree to try and establish the costs.
- The process has just commenced and, although there may be slight changes, Essex County Council is well placed to respond.

The Chairman thanked Clare for her presentation and requested that she return with an update to this item at a future meeting.

45. .East Essex Area Forum Funding Recommendations

The Forum received a report Councillor Mick Page giving details of proposed funding allocations. The Chairman reported that he had received 26 applications requesting funds totalling £119,000 which was £69,000 over budget. Members of the Forum were invited to approve the recommendations as set out in the report which was circulated at the meeting.

Members agreed and approved the Chairman's recommendations.

Cllr Mayzes declared a personal interest in item 13 and did not vote.

46. East Essex Area Forum Work Plan 2010/2011

The Forum received report EAF/05/10 the East Essex Area Forum work plan 2010/2011. It was noted that Transformation and the Local Transport Plan would be considered at the next meeting in January 2011.

The Chairman invited all Members to make suggestions for future items that may be added to the plan.

47. Date of Next Meeting

Members noted the next meeting was scheduled for 2.00 pm **WEDNESDAY** 26 January 2011 at the Venture Centre, Lawford.

There being no urgent business the meeting closed at 4.02 pm.

Chairman