

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE MID ESSEX AREA FORUM HELD AT  
MALDON TOWN HALL, ON 23 JULY 2009 AT 14:00**

**Membership**

\* *Present*

**Essex County Council (20)**

J W Pike (Chairman)	N Hume
* J Aldridge	* M C M Lager
R L Bass	D J Louis
G Butland	* M Mackrory
* R G Boyce (Vice-Chairman)	P J Martin
N Edey	* P Channer
D M Finch	Mrs M Miller
* M Hutchon	* T C Smith-Hughes
J Deakin	R Walters
Rt Hon Lord Hanningfield DL	J Baugh

**Partner Organisations**

**Braintree District Council (2)**

Cllr G Butland	- Leader
Sara Moutard	- Head of Policy

**Chelmsford Borough Council (2)**

Councillor Whitehead	- Leader
Katherine Eglington	- Strategic Property & Research Officer - LSP Lead Officer (Chief Executive's Nominee)

**Maldon District Council (2)**

* Mrs A N Warr	- Leader's Nominee
Steven Watson	- Chief Executive

**Local Councils (3)**

* Tony Hayward	- E.A.L.C (Braintree)
Cllr Cole	- E.A.L.C (Chelmsford)
Mrs R M Pink	- E.A.L.C (Maldon)

**Hospitals & Primary Care Trust (2)**

Sheila Bremner	- Mid Essex Primary Care Trust
Ruth May	- Mid Essex Hospitals Services NHS Trust

**Essex Police (2)**

Chief Superintendent Graeme Bull	- Central Division, Essex Police
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**Essex Fire Service (1)**

John Moulson	- Chelmsford Community Command
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**Councils for Voluntary Service (3)**

Judy Cuddeford	- Braintree CVS
Lorraine Jarvis	- Chelmsford CVS
Paul Murphy	- Maldon and District CVS

**Also Present**

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

C Davidson-Chelmsford Theatre Workshop, Roger North-CART Chelmsford, Phil Davis-Althorn Parish Council, Cllr Stephen Savage-Maldon Town Council, Jane Richards-NHS Mid Essex, C Kenton-Chelmsford Theatre Workshop, Tony Shrimpton-Maldon Town Council, Julie Martyn-ECC Mid Area Highways, John Harrison-Heybridge Resident, John Almond-Maldon Town Council. M Otter-Member of the public, Averil Price-Chelmsford Borough Council, Hazel Berrett-Maldon District Council, Andrew Luce-Food on Friday Torch Trust.

**Officers Attending in Support**

Kate Fox	-	Committee Assistant
Antoinette Mortley	-	Committee Officer
John Symonds	-	Mid Area Co-ordinator

**26. Welcome and Introduction of Members and Officers**

The Chairman welcomed new and existing Members to Mid Essex Area Forum and the first meeting of the new administration.

**27. Apologies**

The Committee Officer noted that apologies had been received from Councillor Joe Pike, Councillor Rodney Bass, Councillor Nigel Edey, Councillor Jude Deakin, Councillor Maureen Miller, Councillor Roger Walters and Rt Hon Lord Hanningfield,

Apologies were also received from Lorraine Jarvis-Chelmsford Council for Voluntary Service and Tilly Pink-Essex Association of Local Councils; substituted by Professor Lou Schnurr.

**28. Appointment of Vice Chairman**

The Forum noted the appointment of Councillor Robert Boyce as Vice Chairman to the Forum. Councillor Boyce acted as Chairman to this meeting in the absence Councillor Joe Pike.

**29. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Robert Boyce declared an interest in light of his membership of the Essex Police Authority.

**30. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting 5 March 2009 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**31. Public Questions**

Tony Shrimpton of Maldon Town Council spoke of the proposed vocational college to be built on Primrose Meadow and asked if the County would reinstate

'no entry' signs to the junction of High Street and Wantz Road and if signs at Limebrook which direct traffic to the Town Centre would be removed to avoid traffic passing the college site. In response Julie Martyn explained that this would form a Cabinet Member action for decision in the next 3 weeks, Julie will respond further to Mr Shrimpton directly.

### **32. Mid Essex Area Forum Member Induction**

The Forum noted AFM/06/09 and received a short verbal presentation from David Moses which outlined the Terms of Reference and remit of the Forum as well as the dates for future meetings in 2009/10. Councillor Lager noted the low attendance and questioned if the Forum met the needs of its members. David advised of the efforts to extend the scope of the Forums to encompass local scrutiny and communication; to benefit Towns, Boroughs and Partner Agencies. Professor Schnurr welcomed the opportunity to submit papers to be considered by the Forum and noted the need for this to be better communicated to promote inclusion and relevance to topics discussed. The Forum called for an update of the Maldon street lighting pilot; David advised that this would be discussed at committee in September and that the commitment will be reviewed by the Cabinet Member.

### **33. National Probation Service**

The Forum received a presentation from Anne Clarke of the Probation Service, the following discussions were noted.

The Forum heard that the probation service provides the labour for projects and that equipment should be provided by service users, with due consideration to the health and safety of the offenders and those in the areas of work. Links with Town and Parish councils were noted along with efforts to be represented equally across urban and rural areas. The Probation Service is not permitted to work for private businesses (with the exception of specific instances) and will remove their workforce in such circumstances.

The Forum responded with examples of these works in the Mid Essex Area and noted some positive outcomes.

### **34. Community Initiatives Fund arrangements for 2009/10**

The Forum noted report AFM/07/09 and received an update from John Symonds who advised of the Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) launch at the start of July 2009 and the £100,000 available to improve the quality of life for the residents of each district. The Forum were advised that the judging panels consisted of representatives from local community organisations and of the closing date for applications as 6 November 2009. It was noted that the CIF incorporates youth projects but that funds for Highways initiatives are being dealt with separately. Further to this John advised of an additional £100,000 being made available for a single flagship project to be decided by public ballot in each district over the next four years.

The Forum discussed the remit of the CIF and the possible extension of the terms to include revenue costs for organisations struggling in these difficult

economic times. John confirmed that this issue had been passed to Councillor John Jowers.

### **35. Area Forum Budget 2009/10**

The Forum noted report AFM/08/09 and received a short verbal update from John Symonds on the remit of the Area Forum Fund and the £50,000 available to any project. John highlighted that local councils and partner organisations were welcome to apply. Applications should be made direct to John Symonds by the closing date of 9 October 2009.

Councillor Smith-Hughes spoke as the representative of a un-parished area and called for assurance that the process would be fair. John explained that he would be writing to Districts, Boroughs and other agencies to get the word out.

### **36. Highways Panel report**

The Forum noted report AFM/09/09; minutes of the Highways Panel Meeting 22 May 2009 and were advised by Julie Martyn that a full list of all schemes is available on request.

The Forum queried why Localism Committees were not combined with the Highways Panels. Julie Martyn explained that Localism Committees cover each District and that the Highways panel covers all three Districts in Mid Essex area. Councillor Lager questioned if local panels were responsible for footpaths and pavements, Julie informed the Forum of the duty to meet National Standards and show improvements to the fabric of infrastructure. Carriageways and footpath pavements are frequently inspected and prioritised in order of decay and it is hoped that local panels will influence and advise on this.

The Forum sought to further investigate the progress of the local panels. Julie advised of her attendance in Braintree last week which is the first District in the Mid Area to set up a local panel. Julie explained that her colleague was looking to set up a panel in Chelmsford with the view that Chelmsford and Maldon will be the next Districts up and running.

The Forum discussed the problems with signage on the A120 to Chelmsford; Julie advised that the County are not responsible for all of the signs on this route but that they are chasing the Highways Agency for completion dates.

### **37. Bowel Cancer Screening Response**

The Forum noted the response AFM/10/09 from Jan Yates Director of Public Health , Mid Essex NHS Trust.

### **38. Policing Neighbourhoods Response**

The Forum noted the response AFM/11/09 from the Safer and Stronger Communities Committee. The Forum heard that Michelle Dunn replaced Graeme Bull as Chief Superintendant of Essex Police Central Division.

**39. Future Programme of Work**

The Forum noted the report AFM/12/09 the following recommendations were made:

- For the Forum to consider specific elements of the Local Area Agreements (LAA) including Community Strategies and Performance
- For the Forum to meet and welcome Michelle Dunn new Chief Superintendant of Essex Police Central Division
- For the Forum to investigate joint working with the three tiers of local government
- For the item on Great Leighs Racecourse to be removed from the list

**40. Date of the next meeting**

The Forum was advised that the next meeting will be held on 11 September 2009 the time and venue are yet to be confirmed.

There being no urgent business the meeting closed at 15:52.

Chairman