

**NOTES OF A MEETING OF THE MID ESSEX AREA FORUM HELD ON
4 MARCH 2010 AT CHELMSFORD CITY FOOTBALL CLUB.**

Membership

* *Present*

Essex County Council (20)

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

Partner Organisations

Braintree District Council (2)

Cllr G Butland	- Leader
Chris Fleetham	- Director

Chelmsford Borough Council (2)

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

Maldon District Council (2)

* Mrs A N Warr	- Councillor
	- 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	- NHS Mid Essex
Ruth May	- Mid Essex Hospitals Services NHS Trust

Essex Police (2)

Chief Superintendent
Michelle Dunn

Essex Fire Service (1)

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

Judy Cuddeford - Braintree DVSA
Lorraine Jarvis - Chelmsford CVS

Paul Murphy - Maldon and District CVS

Also Present

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

Roger North – CART, Tony Shrimpton – Maldon Town Council, Stephen Savage, Philip Davies – Althorne Parish Council, P Ward – ESAB, Margaret Otter, Denise Rigby – Chelmsford Weekly News, Harry Clacey – Danbury Parish Council, Graham Bushby – Hatfield Peverel Parish Council, Chris Siddall – Braintree District Council, I Cousins, Stuart Jennings – Maldon District Council, John Harrison, Carl Pullen – Essex Fire & Rescue, Peter Parker, Andrew Luce – Food on Friday / Torch, Ken Edwards

Officers Attending in Support

Samantha Awcock - Committee Assistant
Ian Myers - Committee Officer
John Symonds - Mid Area Co-ordinator
David Forkin - Area Highways Manager

12. Welcome and Introduction of Members and Officers

The Chairman welcomed Members to Mid Essex Area Forum.

13. Apologies

The Committee Officer noted that apologies had been received as follows:

Essex County Councillors

Rt Hon Lord Hanningfield
P J Martin
D Finch
M Mackrory
M Miller
M Lager
R Bass
R Walters
M Hutchon
R Boyce
J Aldridge
P Channer

District Councillors**Other Organisations**

Divisional Officer Moulson – Essex Fire Service

Lew Schnurr – Heybridge Parish Council

14. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

15. Minutes

Following the meeting it was established that it had been inquorate.

This being the case, the minutes of the meeting held 11 January 2010 were noted. These minutes, together with matters of accuracy will be re-presented to the next meeting of the Forum for approval and signature.

16. Public Questions

Mr Tony Shrimpton asked if the County Council could adopt a policy of integrated kerb drains on cycle paths. In response, David Forkin, Area Highways Manager agreed to investigate and report back.

In relation to this, Mr Philip Davis asked for a policy statement on the installation and maintenance of footways.

David Forkin informed members of the forum that officer contact numbers at the Mid Area Highways Office remain unchanged.

Andrew Luce sought clarification on funding for the Partnership Action Group involved with the 50+ sector. John Symonds advised the Forum that this could be a legitimate bid from the Area Forum funding budget and that a paper would be presented to the next meeting. In addition, members noted that the Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) was for capital funding only.

Councillor Tom Smith-Hughes requested when the decision on the roll out of the street lighting pilot was to be made. He also asked if additional funding was to be made available to cope with the unprecedented number of pot holes following the winter weather. David Forkin confirmed that additional funding had been made available.

Further Highways related questions on the positioning of drains resulting in blocked gulleys and the temporary replacement of kerbstones with tarmac were also raised.

The Chairman asked that Members of the Forum with highways related questions speak with David Forkin at the conclusion of the meeting.

The delays to the A12 road works at Hatfield Peverel and the damage caused to the bridge by a crane were raised. The Chairman reminded members that this was a matter for the Highways Agency but assured the meeting that this would be raised with Councillor Norman Hume.

17. Safeguarding Adults

The Forum received an oral presentation from Paula Ward Essex Safeguarding Adults Board, outlining the role of the Essex Safeguarding Adults Board and the work undertaken related to safeguarding of vulnerable adults. A 'Safeguarding Adults Staff Hand Book' was made available to those attending the Forum together with information on the Ask Sal helpline.

The Forum was advised as follows:

- Essex Safeguarding Adults Board was hosted by Essex County Council and funded jointly by Essex Police, Primary Care Trusts and Local Authorities.
- The Board had a high profile in the media, and had run a radio advertising campaign and provided appropriate posters and information.
- The Board raised awareness and promoted the welfare of vulnerable adults.
- The Board ensured appropriate guidelines were in place, across all related services across the Essex area, (including the unitary authorities).
- The Board ensured there was effective training and communications and ran a pioneering helpline called Ask Sal, for people with concerns. The line was similar to the renowned Child Line but this was for adults.
- Anyone needing to access social care departments could do so directly or alternatively the Safeguarding Unit would deal with the concerns
- The Ask Sal line provided information and advice and referred any concerns to the Essex County Council Social Care Services
- The Board also had a quality assurance role and carried out investigations if necessary.
- The Ask Sal website contained full details of guidance and procedures of what to do in cases of abuse.

18. Area Forum Scrutiny Review

The Forum received a progress report on the review of Equality of Access to Health Services in Mid Essex, from John Symonds, Mid Essex Area Co-ordinator.

The Forum noted that a date for the first meeting of a task group is presently being arranged. The role of the task group being initially to scope the topics to be reviewed.

Membership of the group was noted to be:

Joe Pike (Chairman); County Councillors Maureen Miller, Bob Boyce and Sandra Hillier; District Councillors Tony Shelton, Jean Murray and Alison Waugh; Parish Councillor Lew Schnurr; Directors from the CVS in Braintree, Chelmsford and Maldon; Chairman of Essex & Southend LINK; Officers from Essex County Council and the PCT's.

To assist the scoping exercise the PCT has been requested for information on:

- Range of provision
- Numbers and locations
- Waiting times
- DDA standards of buildings
- Joint planning issues with Cambridgeshire and Suffolk
- Rural isolation issues
- Transport provision
- Centralisation of services

The Chairman reminded the Forum that it was the duty of the County Council to review local health provision and in order to achieve this, the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee had delegated part of its responsibility to the Area Forums.

A full report on progress will be made at the next meeting of the Forum.

19. The Local Area Agreement Performance Reward Grant Projects

The Forum received an update from John Symonds on the projects in Mid Essex funded from the LAA Performance Reward Grant.

The Forum noted the number of projects and associated funding to be:

Braintree	6 projects	£515,896
Chelmsford	14 projects	£601,201
Maldon	9 projects	£227,851

Projects discussed included:

Braintree	Village Agents / Business Advice and Mentoring
Chelmsford	Activity for Older People / Cycling Development
Maldon	Maritime Apprentices / Hospital Link Worker

It was noted that improvements to internet broadband access were not available through this grant.

Concern was also expressed over the value for money of Village Agents

20. Response to Great Baddow Cycle Route

The Forum received report (AFM/05/10) giving details of the response from the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation to a question raised regarding Baddow cycle route at the Forum meeting held 11 January 2010.

21. Highways Panel

The Forum received report (AFM/06/10) minutes to the Highways Panel meeting held on 12 February 2010 for information.

The Chairman suggested that as this was a lengthy report, it should be read outside of the meeting with any questions being referred to the Mid Area Office.

22. Date of Next Meeting

The Forum was advised that the next meeting would be held on 24 June 2010 with the venue to be advised.

John Symonds informed members that forward look items will include:

- I. presentation on Policing in Mid-Essex
- II. local transport plan review
- III. update on health scrutiny plan review
- IV. Community Initiative Fund and Area Forum budget

There being no urgent business the meeting closed at 3.15pm

Chairman