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**MEETING OF GORLESTON COUNCILLORS**

**26 September 2005 – 6.30 pm**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Page (in the Chair); Councillors Barker, Blyth, Burroughs, Collins, Watts, B Walker and Williamson.

David Law (Norfolk Police), Andrew Harrison and Peter Warner (Great Yarmouth Borough Council) also attended.

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Page was elected Chairman.

**2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Blyth was elected Vice-Chairman.

**3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and made reference to the original report to Council dated 5 April 2005, which detailed the purpose of the group and its composition.

The Chairman referred to the re-naming of the group from 'Gorleston Area Forum' to 'Meeting of Gorleston Councillors', and stated that this did not preclude future meetings from being held in public. She asked that any queries relating to attendance at the meetings be directed to the Chairman or Member Services Team.

**4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Walker and Cook.

**5. MAGDALEN WAY CROSSING**

The Chairman introduced David Law from Norfolk Police to talk about traffic related issues at the Magdalen Way Crossing. David reported briefly on the problem of vehicles parking on double yellow lines at the crossing and confirmed that the area had been subject to ongoing monitoring since 17 August. He stated that a request had been put to the County Council to consider a 'loading prohibition', which would prevent all parking at the location of the crossing.

It was noted that the 'loading prohibition' would be introduced some time next year, and that in the mean time Traffic Wardens would continue to monitor and address the problems, however, there were resourcing problems.

Members debated the issue, voicing their concerns at the time taken for the County Council to place the 'Loading Prohibition' Order and the limited number of Traffic Wardens for Great Yarmouth and Gorleston. The need for a 'pedestrian refuge' at the Links Road roundabout on the A12 was also highlighted.

**ACTION:**

**(i) That the request for a 'pedestrian refuge' at the Links Road roundabout on the A12 be put forward.**

**(ii) That Members concerns at the level of resourcing for Traffic Wardens for Great Yarmouth and Gorleston be put forward.**

The Chairman thanked David Law for his informative report.

**Councillor Watts declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in the following item.**

**Councillor Collins declared a prejudicial interest in the following item.**

## **6. RIVERSIDE PLANNING UPDATE**

The Head of Planning and Development referred to the attached document 'Rule 6' which was the pre-enquiry statement of intent on which the Applicant and the Authority had to provide the Secretary of State with full details for the Public Inquiry.

He confirmed that the Public Inquiry was to be held on Tuesday, 19 May 2006 and that all evidence had to be submitted before the Inquiry. The final decision of the Inspector would be received up to six to nine months after the Inquiry.

## **7. AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

The Chairman advised Members that a Special Executive Meeting had been set up to discuss Affordable Housing for 4 October 2005, and as such, recommended deferring this item until after the Special Meeting had taken place.

There was some debate about the required level of Affordable Housing on new developments and the 'pros' and 'cons' of creating 'mixed communities'.

**Members agreed to defer further discussion until a future meeting.**

## **8. PLAYGROUND APPLICATION FOR MARINE PARADE**

The Head of Planning and Development described the referral by Development Control Committee of this application, and confirmed that without the 4 metre high mast there would have been no need for planning approval.

Members debated the application in some detail, highlighting the following issues:-

- Safety concerns about children climbing the mast
- Concern over the location, adjacent to the ravine and public conveniences
- Limited use because of bad weather in winter.

ACTION:

**Members supported the proposal in principle, and asked that their views be reported to Development Control Committee.**

#### 9. ALLOCATION OF BEACH CHALETS ON GORLESTON LOWER ESPLANADE

The Head of Planning and Development referred to the need for an appraisal of facilities, and consideration of funding issues.

Members discussed various issues, including the type and style of Beach Huts, suggesting that quality structures with modern facilities and services would be appropriate.

ACTION:

**Members were supportive in principle with the allocation of Beach Chalets on Gorleston Lower Esplanade in conjunction with other developments in the area.**

#### 10. GORLESTON HIGH STREET AND SPENCER AVENUE

The Chairman stated that traffic and parking in these areas was a Norfolk County Council (NCC) responsibility and asked that L Granger (NCC), be asked to report to a future meeting.

#### 11. GORLESTON BEACH (SEA DEFENCES)

The Chairman referred to a recent letter from the Head of Environment and Health referring to both Halcrow and DEFRA having set up new teams to consider Sea Defence works. A meeting was planned in the near future.

ACTION:

**The Senior Member Services Officer undertook to distribute copies of the letter to Members.**

#### 12. PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

Members expressed some concern that it appeared that Section 106 funds were not distributed evenly across urban areas, and more specifically, there were shortfalls within the Gorleston area.

ACTION:

**It was agreed that the Environmental Strategy Officer be invited to a future meeting to provide a briefing and update on the allocation of funds, and that the minutes of the recent 'call-in' be distributed to Members.**

**13. RECYCLING CENTRE**

The Chairman gave a brief report on the Norfolk Waste Partnership, and their work on a review of needs for the whole of Norfolk. She stated that there were funding issues with Recycling Amenity sites costing £1m each.

There was some debate about the need for a site facility south of the river.

**14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Rubbish**

The level of waste/rubbish on the promenade was discussed.

The Chairman undertook to highlight this issue with the appropriate Officer.

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be arranged, (approximately six months).

**16. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The meeting ended at 8.15 pm.