



*St Edmundsbury*  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# A494

## **Cabinet** **10 February 2010**

### **Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 18 January 2010**

At this meeting the Committee also considered a called-in decision of the Cabinet and a separate report appears elsewhere on this Cabinet agenda. Due to the length of time taken to consider the call-in, Item 6 on the agenda, *'Support for Drug Users in St Edmundsbury'* was deferred to a future meeting of the Committee.

- 1. Councillor Call for Action Submission – Councillor Mark Ereira-Guyer Improving Resident Parking and Pedestrian Safety on the Howard and Mildenhall Estates**
  - 1.1 Under the provisions of the Constitution's Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) Protocol, Councillor Ereira-Guyer submitted the above CCfA to the Committee.
  - 1.2 The information provided to the Committee by Councillor Ereira-Guyer was that this CCfA concerned the increasing car parking difficulties experienced by residents of these two estates over many years. Other concerns included speeding vehicles and bus movements. Councillor Ereira-Guyer considered that the road layout of these two estates did not lend itself to dealing with the increased number of households with cars, as the estates lacked road space for sufficient on-street parking, resulting in inappropriate parking on grass verges or in front gardens.
  - 1.3 Councillor Ereira-Guyer had spoken to the Havebury Housing Partnership, the Borough Council and Residents' Associations regarding these issues for many years, and wished to see a thorough, comprehensive and consultative parking and traffic review on these estates. Such a review was supported by local residents, and evidence of this support was provided by Councillor Ereira-Guyer in the report.
  - 1.4 The Council's officers also provided information to the Committee, stating that such parking problems were not uncommon in many residential areas of the Borough, which had a number of causes. Officers felt that these issues would require detailed investigation involving surveys to determine patterns of use, questionnaires and detailed consultation. In November 2008 Members had requested a review of residents parking issues, and had agreed a priority list of areas awaiting investigation. Officers had suggested that the Howard and Mildenhall Road estates be added to this list of areas for investigation.
  - 1.5 The Committee's responsibility at this point was to decide whether it wished to take this matter further, to a CCfA hearing. The main criterion supporting this decision was whether the Committee, in holding a hearing, had the potential to produce recommendations which could realistically be implemented and lead to

improvements. Members questioned Councillor Ereira-Guyer and the Council's officers on a number of issues, including the location of work-places which led to commuter traffic parking on the Mildenhall Estate and to what extent this exacerbated the problems. Members also recognised that the Havebury Housing Partnership could potentially help resolve some of the issues identified. Equally, the Committee agreed it would be a major undertaking to attempt to resolve all areas of concern; therefore, should the CCfA be investigated further, it may be appropriate to prioritise and divide the issues into smaller, more manageable areas to enable tangible solutions to be achieved.

- 1.6 After considering all the evidence, Members concluded that there could be sufficient problems with parking on the two estates concerned to warrant further investigation. The Committee therefore resolved to take the matter forward to a full CCfA hearing at its next meeting in March 2010, where all evidence will be heard and relevant witnesses invited to take part.

## **2. Update on Councillor Call for Action considered on 8 July 2009: Stanton Grundle Flooding Remedial Action**

- 2.1 Cabinet will recall the recommendations brought to its 29 July 2009 meeting arising from the above Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) hearing which took place on 8 July 2009. The call-in period for implementation of these recommendations ended on Monday 10 August 2009, and at its 9 September and 18 November 2009 meetings the Committee received updates from officers. A further update was presented to this Committee meeting.
- 2.2 Since the last update, regular checks had been made of the Grundle and minor clearance of the screens undertaken as necessary. Additionally, with significant assistance from Suffolk County Council, officers had submitted a bid for Phase 1 funding of £24,000 from the Environment Agency to undertake the necessary studies into the flooding issue at the Grundle. The outcome of that bid should be known soon.
- 2.3 A second bid had also been submitted for property level flood protection, which if successful could be used to survey and make changes to those individual properties prone to flooding. The outcome of this bid should be known in March 2010.
- 2.4 Councillor Thorndyke presented photographs of The Grundle taken over the weekend of 16 to 17 January 2010, with updates taken on the morning of the meeting. The photographs indicated that following the previous clearance of the screens, the water was generally flowing along the watercourse satisfactorily; however, Members noted that debris and silt were beginning to accumulate within the screens forcing the water to flow over the top of the screen. In addition, the bank located behind the row of cottages at the higher end of The Grundle had begun to erode due to the pressure caused by water flow. The officers had indicated that further remedial action could be taken to rectify this situation.

### **3. Cabinet Forward Plan/Work Programme**

- 3.1 The Committee examined the Cabinet's Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period January to April 2010, but did not request any further involvement on this occasion.
- 3.2 Turning to its own Work Programme, the Committee was advised that the Review of the Council's Enforcement Policy would now need to be deferred until the next Work Programme in 2010/2011, as the Council is awaiting guidance on expected changes to the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, and it would be inappropriate to review the Enforcement Policy without including the new guidance. Having received this information, the Committee wished for the '*Support for Drug Users in St Edmundsbury*' item that had been deferred from this meeting to be considered at the next meeting on 3 March 2010, depending on the number of other items already allocated to this agenda. The Committee then carried out a short scoping exercise of the other items expected at its next meeting; however no specific requirements were identified for consideration.
- 3.3 Also considered under this agenda item was an invitation received from Suffolk County Council's Children, Schools and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee for a representative from this Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to take part in a joint investigation on education attainment. This meeting would take place on 22 April 2010, and Councillor Buckle was nominated to attend.

#### **Contacts:**

David Lockwood, Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, (01638-718002)  
Stefan Oliver, Vice Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, (01284-706172)  
Adriana Stapleton, Scrutiny Manager, (01284-757613)  
Claire Skoyles, Committee Administrator, (01284-757176)