

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Communities Overview Committee held at Knowle, Sidmouth on Wednesday, 12 November 2003

Present:

Councillors:

Mrs P A Stott (Chairman)
R C Peachey (Vice-Chairman)

Miss V Ash
Mrs K J Bamsey
P W Burrows
B H Clark
D J Cox
Mrs C E Drew
Mrs P A Graham
P Halse
H J Jeffery

D R A Key
A S Pascoe
T G Reeves
Mrs L A Roden
Mrs B O Taylor
P C Townsend
Mrs E E Wragg

Also Present:

Councillors:

Miss J M Elson
M J L Green
Ms S Merritt
A T Moulding
A T Wilkinson
Miss S M Randall Johnson

Apologies:

Councillors:

Mrs M L Hardy
D R H Hull
Mrs A E Liverton

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and terminated at 8.35pm.

*17 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of the Communities Overview Committee held on 3 September and 29 September 2003, were confirmed and signed as true records.

*18 East Devon Voluntary Service Association

Members welcomed a representative of the East Devon Voluntary Service Association, Ms S Tucker, who gave a report on the work of the Association and answered questions with regard to how grant aid for her organisation was spent in the district. Members requested that a new financial statement be provided by the East Devon Voluntary Service Association when this becomes available.

RESOLVED that the report from a representative of the East Devon Voluntary Service Association be noted

*19 Performance Monitoring Report – Quarter 2 2003/04

Consideration was given to the report of the Policy Officer in respect of the performance of functions which fell under the remit of the Communities Overview Committee. Members asked questions on a number of the performance indicators which were the responsibility of the Committee.

RESOLVED that the second quarter performance, 1 July to 30 September 2003, and the proposed remedial action against key performance indicators be noted.

*20 Travel and Transport in East Devon

The Corporate Director – Communities gave a presentation on Travel and Transport opportunities within East Devon.

During the subsequent discussion, the following comments were made:

- the importance of transport as an issue for social inclusion in east devon as it enables residents to visit friends and go to work;
- east devon transport network was generally good but it was necessary for this to be integrated to get the best value out of it;
- the need to work closely with Devon County Council on this issue as they had a far greater level of funding available;
- an important role for the District Council was assisting the County Council in ensuring money was spent most effectively ;
- the requirement to include existing voluntary transport groups in any future discussions on this issue;
- the possibility of the District Council taking its services to its customers rather than expecting them to come to the Knowle; this would include home working for staff;
- the need to progress further the staff transport plan, particularly in view of car parking problems at Knowle.
- the Corporate Director – Communities be thanked for his excellent presentation on Travel and Transport in East Devon

RESOLVED that a Joint Task and Finish Forum with members of the Environment Overview Committee be established to investigate Travel and Transport in East Devon.

*21 Beach Lifeguard Service

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Leisure & Lifestyles on whether the Council's Beach Lifeguard Service at Exmouth and Sidmouth should be extended to include Seaton Beach in the summer of 2004. Additional legal advice was given at the meeting in respect of queries raised by the Council's insurers concerning the methodology of the risk assessment carried out as part of the yearly safety review of all beaches within East Devon.

Members noted that the Council was a provider of an excellent quality of beach lifeguard service which also gave a valuable first aid provision. It was requested that an incident log for the past three years be provided.

*21 Beach Lifeguard(Cont)

RESOLVED that a Task and Finish Forum be established to carry out a review of the beach lifeguard service to aim to make recommendations for January 2004, but consideration also be given to incorporating this work into the Blue Flag and Byelaws Task and Finish Forums established by the Environment Overview Committee.

(Councillor Mrs P A Stott declared a personal interest in this item as her sons were involved with the lifeboat service and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon)

Chairman Date.....