

ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

To members of the Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of Alresford Parish Council in the Pavilion on Wednesday 5 March 2008 at 7.30pm for the purpose of transacting the following business:

Mrs J Pettitt, Clerk to the Council, 27 February 2008

AGENDA

PUBLIC FORUM: Members of the public are invited to address the Council for a maximum of three minutes from 7.30 until 7.45pm

The meeting to be opened by the Chairman

03.08.1 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE¹

03.08.2 PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 6 February 2008 to be agreed and signed and matters arising to be considered :

- (i) *Ref: 02.08.7 PCSO Surgery Rota :*
Cllr J Robinson - 27 March.
Cllr N Fairbanks - 9 April – Nick.
Both surgeries are 20.30 - 21.30 in the Church.
- (ii) *Ref: 02.08.7 – Police contact flyers for inclusion in Alresford Advertiser*
- (iii) *Ref: 0208.0 – CCTV – copy specification details attached*
- (iv) *Ref: 02.08.31 – James Burrell project*

03.08.3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA²

03.08.4 TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

03.08.5 TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

1 Local Government Act 1972 Section 85(1) and (2)

2 Local Government Act 2000 Part III

03.08.6 TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM PCSO**03.08.7 COUNCILLOR PAGE**

Address and question time

Subjects suggested for consideration :

(i) Alcohol fuelled anti-social behaviour in villages - criminal damage - what action have others initiated and found effective?

(ii) What have other villages done to increase security (around village halls, playing fields etc) with what success?

(iii) Speed Limit Reductions on country roads/lanes - for example B1027 - how can we work together to achieve this?

(iv) Bye Laws

03.08.8 TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- (i) EALC re Insurance
- (ii) WI re Quiz 13.3.08
- (iii) Nicky Wells – Community Projects Officer
- (iv) EALC – re changes in legislation
- (v) ACRFC re finances
- (vi) TDC – re Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme – see attached copy (salmon)
- (vii) TDC – Draft Open Space Supplementary Planning Document (*passed to Cllr J Robinson for consideration*)
- (viii) Enjoy England - brochure
- (ix) ECC – Re changes to concessionary bus passes in Essex from 1 April

03.08.9 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND W/P's :

- (i) ENVIRONMENT, FOOTPATHS, TREES AND ALLOTMENTS – *RCCE Village of Year etc – see memo dated 8.2.08 and Playing Field Protection Scheme*
- (ii) FINANCE
- (iii) PLAYING FIELD AND VILLAGE HALL
- (iv) COMMUNICATIONS
- (v) HIGHWAYS

- (vi) PLANNING - *see appendix 1*
- (vii) HUMAN RESOURCES, PERSONNEL AND TRAINING
- (viii) HEALTH AND WELFARE

3

03.08.10 TO AGREE PAYMENTS AS LISTED BELOW :

Clerk's salary and expenses (DD)	1069.64
NI	83.15
Just Lamps – Monthly maintenance - January	71.16
C & C Cleaning (invoice 660)	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice 605)	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice 715)	28.20
C & C Cleaning (invoice 530)	28.20
EON – street lighting (DD)	122.00
EON – Pavilion and floodlighting (DD)	122.00
M&J Green – felling Coach Rd tree	940.00
Parish Plan (to be repaid once grant has been paid)	1,000.00**
EALC – Chairmans Day	50.00
Alresford Advertiser	100.00
Tree and sundries	46.25
Travel – clerk	22.10
MacMillan Nurses – donation in Memory of Mr James	25.00
Clerk – Wyvale – tree and sundries	46.25

*** £2,000 set aside in 2007-8 budget for Parish Plan contingency*

03.08.11 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

To receive financial statement for January 2008

03.08.12 TO RECEIVE REPORTS OF MEETINGS AND COURSES ATTENDED BY MEMBERS SINCE THE LAST MEETING

- (i) House of Lords – Chairman and Clerk

03.08.13 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

To finalise arrangements.

03.08.14 AFFORDABLE RURAL HOUSING

Progress report

03.08.15 CIVIL RECOVERY PROCEDURES

To consider action to be taken to recover costs of vandalism around the village. *Please see Appendix 2*

4

03.08.16 PLAYING FIELD

Extract from budget : Year One 2008-9

- Put all equipment onto a maintenance plan.
- Treat and repair the perimeter fence.
- Complete the Toddler equipped area with 2-3 pieces of equipment.
Fence the Toddler Area off from the main area complete with no-slam, finger-trap proof gate complete with Child Lock
- Bench to Toddler Area
- Path from Play area gate to Toddler area gate if funds allow
- Extra Bin in play enclosure

Estimated cost £5,000 against which we would hope to raise £2,000 of grant funding

03.08.17 PLAYING FIELD PROTECTION SCHEME

To further consider proposals put by Mr Paul Allen at July 2007 meeting see minute extract below :

Ref : 07.07.7 NATIONAL PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION PROTECTION SCHEME (NPA)

Address by Mr Paul Allen - Fields Protection Officer of the NPA. Mr Allen said that he travelled the country talking to councils regarding the long term future of open recreation spaces. The national status of playing fields was generally regarded as not being a problem for Councils who owned their playing fields and did not want to release them for development, but, he said, future administrators may feel differently therefore some guarantee of security was required. The National Playing Fields Association (now also known as FIT – Fields in Trust) was formed in 1925 to protect and improve open recreation spaces but restrictive covenants had failed to protect these absolutely in perpetuity. Landowners had initially been invited to hand over ownership of their fields to the NPFA. Since that time a Deed of Dedication had been established which was much less costly to achieve and would result in all land being registered with the Land Registry at no cost to Councils. Absolute protection in perpetuity was guaranteed which would also help with achieving grant aid for various improvement schemes. Copies of the various deed documents and other materials were given to the Clerk who would pass these to the Playing Field Working Party for their consideration and a report to full Council later in the year. Cllr Green asked whether one parcel of land could be exchanged for another and was advised that if successor Councils were obliged to hand over a playing field at a future date because it became in some way unsuitable for recreational use, replacement by a better site in a more

suitable location was obligatory. Mr Allen was thanked for his attendance and advised that the Council would be in touch with him again later in the year.

03.08.18 ANNUAL CIVIC SERVICE FOR ALRESFORD

To re-consider the possibility of holding an Annual Civic Service at St Andrews

5

03.08.19 PARISH COUNCIL WREATH

To consider the possibility of instigating a Parish Council Wreath for the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday (item included on agenda at the request of Cllr S Carlsson Browne)

03.08.20 AYP/YOUTH SHELTER

Update and progress report – see attached extract from “The Playing Field”

03.08.21 PURCHASING ARRANGEMENTS FOR REPLACING EQUIPMENT

Review of procedures

03.08.22 PUBLIC/GREEN AREAS

Item added to agenda at request of Cllr E Osborne

03.08.23 CONSULTATION PROCESS

Review of procedures - when and how to consult residents about key issues. Item added to agenda at request of Cllr Belgrove

03.08.24 TCVS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

To consider nominations for this award – *e-mail dated 22 February refers*

03.08.25 PARISH EMERGENCY PLAN

To look at plan template in preparation for talk by Richard Warren at APM *see Appendix 3*

03.08.26 ANNUAL REPORT

Photographs and profiles to Clerk for incorporation into the Annual Report

03.08.27 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY AND ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA

(i) Marine Watch – *see appendix 4*

- (ii) Vandalism Report - see appendix : 5
- (iii) TDC Budget 2008-9 – see appendix 6

**The next meeting of Alresford Parish Council will be held
on Wednesday 3 April 2008 at 7.30pm in the Parish Council Pavilion**

6

APPENDIX 1

ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held in the Pavilion on Wednesday, 13th February at 7.30pm

Present: Jim Robinson (Chair), Ernie Osborne, John Richards, Simon Carlsson Browne.

Application No. 08/00109/FUL Proposed extension 155 Wivenhoe Road

This was for a single storey flat roofed extension to the rear of the property similar to one built on the neighbouring property. After full consideration the committee agreed they had no objections to this application.

Application No. 08/00163/FUL Proposed 2 storey extension 37 Heath Road

This was for a two storey extension to one side of this chalet bungalow following the lines of the existing building to provide a third bedroom and additional ground floor accommodation. Whilst Councillor Robinson lamented the loss of another small, affordable house from the Alresford housing stock it was agreed that this did not breach any current planning rules and the committee therefore had no objections.

Application No. 08/00002/FUL Demolition of existing barn and construction of a 2-storey detached dwelling and garage. Church Farm, Ford Lane.

This was a new application on this site that has had several previous schemes put forward and was for a much larger building than the last application to which APC objected. The proposed building is mainly outside the current village envelope between the listed farmhouse of Church Farm and the recently constructed Ellmore.

After much consideration and discussion the committee agreed to OBJECT to this application on the following points.

The development is outside the village envelope and no adequate reason has been put forward to go against this policy. The argument that the building is needed to complete

the street scene and fill in a hole between the two buildings is no justification as the only reason the building needs to be demolished is due to lack of maintenance and repair by the applicant. As this is on the edge of the village it is to be expected that there are gaps between buildings and it is felt that this argument is allowed here it could equally be applied to the land the other side of Church Farm resulting in ribbon development. A previous application on Main Road was rejected for this very reason last year.

As the site has now been divorced from the farmhouse it has reverted to agricultural land and no reason has been offered for change of use to building land.

7

The road immediately in front of the property is very congested at the beginning and end of the school day and the introduction of an additional entrance gate and the attendant traffic will increase the risk of accidents in this area.

As no drawings have been submitted of the existing or adjacent buildings including the listed buildings it is not possible to make any judgement on the appropriateness of scale. It is felt that the proposed building is much larger than previous proposals and appears to completely fill the plot and without any reference points it was thought it may be over-large.

There are a number of inconsistencies between the application documents and the Design and Access Statement. The DAS states 5 bedrooms whereas the form and the drawings show 4 bedrooms. The DAS refers to red brick garage walls and the drawings show part brick, part boarded. The DAS refers to the street scene and the appearance of the Church Farm complex being destroyed by the removal of the barn but this has already been destroyed by the removal of the outbuildings on the highway boundary.

The proposed development does not provide any benefit at all for the village of Alresford, which needs more smaller, affordable homes. It was felt that if the TDC planning officers and committee were minded to grant approval for this against their own policy then a contribution should be made via a section 106 agreement for the benefit of the local community.

There being no more business the meeting was concluded at 8.20pm

7

APPENDIX 2

CIVIL RECOVERY

Original Message- - - -

*From: lindabelgreve@yahoo.co.uk
[mailto:lindabelgreve@yahoo.co.uk]*

Sent: 06 February 2008 12:58

To: Robert Taylor; Lynda McWilliams

Subject: Civil Recovery

Would you possibly be able to tell me anything about Civil Recovery? As you know we have had a lot of vandalism and I would like to find out what we can do to recoup some of our losses and of course put in place the deterrent that it will cost those who destroy other people's property.

Many thanks

Linda, Thresford

Lynda McWilliams (Lynda@hebsyn.co.uk) wrote:

Hello Linda

On the occasions when our PC or Police have been involved with vandalism and the culprits caught or known, we have found the best course of action is to ask for all relevant details - names and addresses - from the police. Normally they are very helpful when it is explained that you wish to recoup monies from the culprits. Letters are written from the Clerk to either the offenders, if old enough, or the parents. To date we have had a good response, normally the parents are so embarrassed that the sum of money is forthcoming. Obviously if there is more than one offender for a particular incident the total cost is divided. This form of action can act as a deterrent to others and worked for some time until the next generation came along. It may be worth asking the Police about the process of keeping a diary for ASBOs to be issued. It occurs to me that sometimes the property vandalised may not belong to the Parish Council and is privately owned. I think this is where the property owner may need some assistance from you to proceed with action.

Hope this is of help to you.

Lynda

Hello Lynda

Thank you very much for the info. How strange that yesterday I spoke to our PC and PC Jo Bennett about the same thing. May I forward your e-mail to the rest of the Parish Council?

Regards

Linda

Hi Linda

8

Yes of course you may. Thought you may be interested in the following.

I attended our PC meeting this evening, there had been an incident in the village during the summer when one of our litter bins was set light and destroyed, as you know these are expensive to replace and the PC know through the Police the address of one of the offenders. As the offender has not yet been forthcoming with the monies, as he believes that the others involved should share the cost and PC do not have their details, it was agreed that it is the one offenders responsibility to retrieve the monies from the others and if this is not done within 15 days from the date of the letter sent, it is to be pursued through the small claims court, which costs £30.

Could be interesting!!

Hope this makes sense and helps.

Lynda

APPENDIX

Parish Emergency Plan

The purpose of the plan is to provide a guide to the resources available within the community to support it in a crisis. It also details the procedures to be followed by Parish members for an emergency incident, especially if the emergency services or relevant local authority support is delayed in responding due to the scope and nature of the emergency.

This document neither implies nor intends any formal role for parishes, towns or any part of the community (collectively called the 'community') in the response to, or recovery from emergencies.

There is no role implied or intended for the community in support of the emergency services in their own response to incidents.

The completion of the plan template in part or in full is entirely voluntary and is the responsibility of the local community.

While the local community has no formal role, there is widespread recognition of the value of planning from the lowest practicable level upwards to help cope with potential local emergencies.

Tendring District Council Emergency Planning Service will provide advice and assistance where requested, and where relevant, to support the completion of the plan.

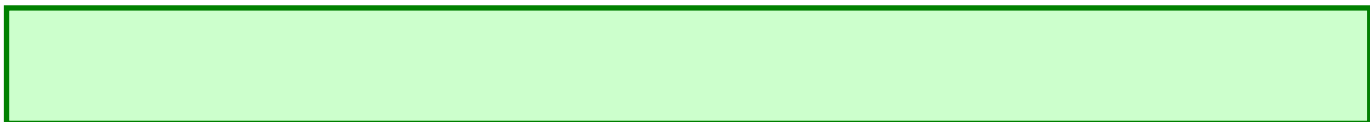
Tendring District Council Emergency Planning Service accepts no responsibility for the content of the completed template.

The local community should keep the plan accessible to residents. This will help ensure that they are aware of what the risks are, the resources that are available and how the community intends to activate the plan and respond to a crisis. A copy of the plan should be sent to the borough or district emergency planning liaison officer and the Essex County Council Emergency Planning Service. The County Emergency Planning Service will extract primary contact details and will then archive the plan for future reference if required in an emergency.

The community plan should be amended when circumstances change significantly, e.g. changes of contact details, resources available, changed risks, etc. Significant amendments to the completed template, especially changes in contact details, should be passed to both the borough or district emergency planning liaison officer and the Essex County Council Emergency Planning Service. However, responsibility for the completed template remains with the local community.

Definition of an Emergency

An **Emergency** is defined as "an event or situation which threatens serious damage to **1**) human welfare¹ in a place in the United Kingdom, **2**) the environment² of a place in the United Kingdom or, **3**) war (or terrorism) which threatens serious damage to the security of the United Kingdom." (Civil Contingencies Act 2004)



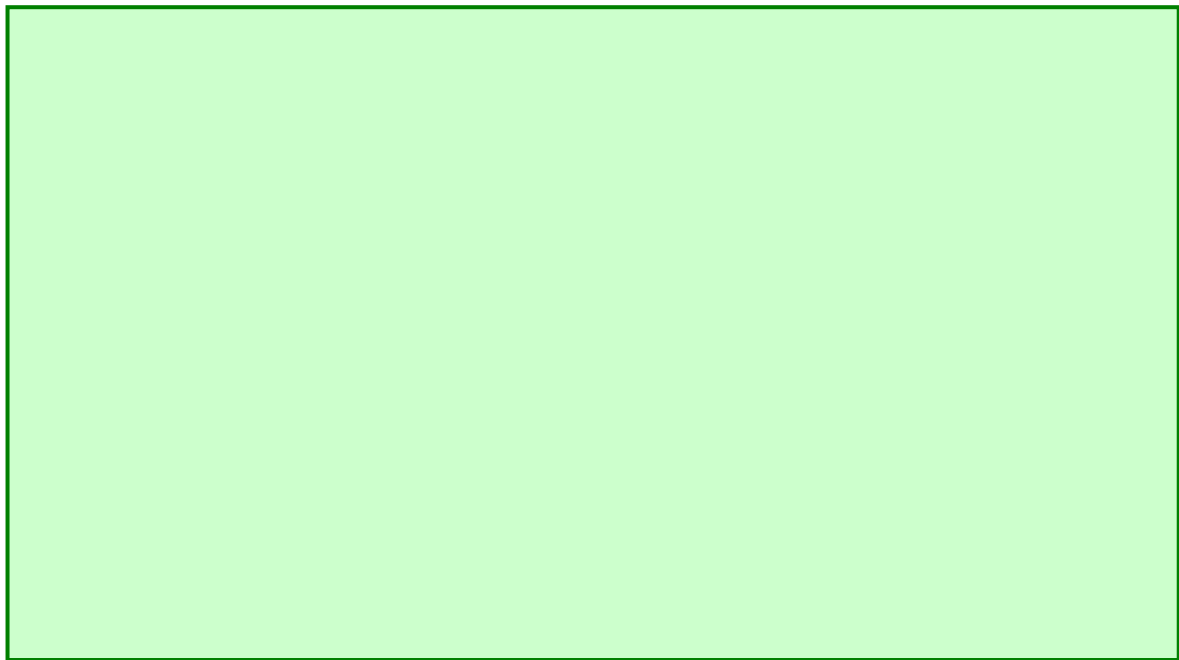
- **Primary Contact** responsible for the Emergency Plan (**Parish Emergency Co-ordinator (PEC)**) include name, address, contact numbers, email address etc

- **Parish Emergency Team (PET)** (maximum of ten, starting with the PEC) include name, address, contact numbers, email address

Name	Details	Name	Details
1)		6)	
2)		7)	
3)		8)	
4)		9)	
5)		10)	

- The District Council will contact ONE named person on the Parish Emergency Team list about the incident. Starting with number 1) the District Council will go through until 1 person is contacted.

- The district council will:
 - Give as much information as possible.
 - Advise on a course of action, if appropriate.
 - Request advice on the local situation, if appropriate.



- The Parish representative contacted will then have the duty of completing the call out cascade list if it is necessary to convene a meeting of the PET.

- The Parish Emergency Team will:
 1. Comply, if possible, with any advice or request from the District Council
 2. Establish a communications link with the District Emergency Response Centre and maintain it for the duration of the emergency.
 3. Consolidate and disseminate information to residents and outside organisations.
 4. In the event of the village becoming isolated, undertake co-ordination of effort to sustain the local community. **Meeting room/Control Centre** (Location, resources, contact numbers, opening/set-up procedure & possible backup)

- **Temporary Accommodation**

Location	Contact Details	Opening Procedure

Resources (available for use in an emergency)

Resource	Amount	Locations	Contacts
Tractor & Trailers			
Generators			
Public Address Systems			
Fuel			
Commercial/4wd vehicles			
Animal Care			
Food			

- **Doctors & Nurses**

Name	Details		Name	Details

Map of the Community

Ensure that a large scale Ordnance Survey or similar map is available in the event of an emergency.

Vulnerable People

Details of known vulnerable people will help to ensure they are given assistance early on in an incident

Contact numbers (external)

Organisation	Phone Number
Tendring District Council	01255 686936 / 01255 686971 (office hours)
Tendring District Council	01255 222022 (out of hours)
Essex County Council	01245 430378 (office hours)
Environment Agency	08708 506506
Environment Agency – Flood Warnings Direct	0845 988 1188
NHS Direct	0845 4647
Essex Education Helpline	01245 436231
Essex Police Tendring Division	01255 221312
Ambulance	01245 443344
Essex Fire Service	01206 574255 / 01277 222531
Tendring Hundred Water 24hr emergency number	01206 399200
EDF Energy	0800 783 8838
Anglian Water	08457 145145
BT 24hr self service line	0800 443 311
BBC Essex	01245 616000
Essex FM	01245 524500

15

A horizontal green line with vertical end caps at both ends and a single vertical tick mark in the center. The number '15' is positioned above the line, centered under the left half of the line.

Roles and Responsibilities of External Organisations

Organisation	Emergency Roles & Responsibilities
Tendring District Council	<p>Open and staff rest and reception centres</p> <p>Co-ordinate efforts of voluntary organisations</p> <p>Provide an information service for the public and media</p> <p>Give mutual assistance to adjoining district and borough councils where possible</p> <p>Respond to emergency service requests for assistance</p> <p>Assist Council Services in maintaining its critical functions</p>
Essex Police	<p>Police will take overall control and will co-ordinate the efforts of those responding at and around the scene of the incident</p> <p>Saving and protecting life and ensuring public safety</p> <p>Crowd and traffic management</p> <p>Preserve the crime scene in an emergency where a criminal act is possibly involved and collect evidence</p> <p>Establish and maintain cordons</p> <p>Should evacuation be necessary, the Police will be the organising body</p> <p>Acting on behalf of the HM Coroner, the Police will process information and identify and arrange for the removal of the dead</p> <p>The police will co-ordinate search activities on land if they are necessary</p>
Essex Fire Service	<p>The Fire Service will try to prevent further escalation by controlling or extinguishing fires, rescuing people and undertaking other protective measures</p> <p>Rescuing people trapped by fire, wreckage or debris.</p> <p>They will deal with released chemicals and contaminants to render the incident site safe</p> <p>Assist other agencies in the removal of large quantities of floodwater</p> <p>Assist police in recovering bodies and ambulance service with handling casualties</p> <p>If necessary the fire service can undertake mass decontamination of the general public (although the NHS is responsible for decontamination)</p>
Essex County Council	<p>To co-ordinate arrangements for dealing with emergencies which affect more than one district</p> <p>To provide assistance if required to any district in Essex which is faced with an emergency</p> <p>To assist in the provision of emergency feeding and welfare arrangements</p> <p>To co-ordinate voluntary assistance in an emergency affecting more than one district</p> <p>To provide mutual aid facilities to neighbouring counties.</p>
Essex Ambulance Service	<p>Working with the medical services, the Ambulance Service will try to save life at the scene and transport the injured to hospital</p> <p>Co-ordinate the NHS response</p> <p>Determine which hospitals the injured are taken to.</p> <p>Sustain life through effective emergency treatment at the scene</p> <p>Determine priority of release of trapped casualties.</p> <p>Transport the injured, in order of priority, to receiving hospitals</p>

Many other organisations can be involved in an emergency response; further information on emergency roles and responsibilities can be obtained from Tendring District Council Emergency Planning Unit. 17

APPENDIX 6

Mr Chairman

We stand today at a crossroads. This is a very different budget to those that this Council has seen before. It is a budget for change, it is a budget for economic prosperity and social well-being, it is a budget that draws on the positive experience of others and it is a budget that reflects the wishes of the many different communities in our area. Above all, it is a budget that deals with the present and a budget that deals with the future.

The decisions we make tonight will have effects that will be felt in the next 10 -15 years (and hopefully beyond), not only in economic and social terms, but in political and democratic terms as well. Above all else, we must make sure that those decisions are made solely in the long-term interests of all our residents, in all parts of our district, and not for any other reasons.

First, a little background –

As has been highlighted recently, we have pockets of deprivation (in various forms) within our District and it is also a fact that Tendring, because of its historic structural conditions, economically underperforms the rest of Essex and East Anglia.

Over and above that we face a very worrying economic outlook, both globally and nationally. Events outside of our control bring the very real threat of recession to our country and, given the seasonal nature of our local economy, to our district.

It paints a gloomy picture, but one that we all have to face up to. We can sit and watch it happen or, as I believe, we can take what's been described as a "once in a generation opportunity" to help soften its immediate effects, taking advantage of renewed and greater prosperity when the national economy turns the corner.

I am positive that, with the right vision and with the right leadership, we can change this. The budget before you tonight is a major step towards that change.

However, none of what I am going to propose tonight would have been possible without a solid financial foundation and, for this, I pay tribute to previous administrations who have worked closely with the management board and officers to bring us to this position - envied throughout Essex and recognised throughout the country. That work continues to this day.

Whilst this Council, in overall terms, has been rated a good council, with positive recognition of its direction of travel, there is much more to the story than that. Over and above those measures of performance, the National Audit Commission recently awarded us (on a grading of 1 to 4) an overall 4 use of resources rating, which

incorporated our financial stability, the robustness of our financial forecasting, our financial management and value for money.

18

If you think that over half the other Districts and Boroughs in Essex are struggling with a 2 rating or less, it clearly illustrates how strongly positioned this Council is and also how it did not happen by accident. Then remember that, combined with town and parish precepts, Tendring households pay the lowest taxes for their services within this District than any other District or Borough in the County and you will realise what an opportunity we possess. It is an opportunity we must not let slip through our fingers.

Nevertheless, nowhere in this budget will you read about cuts in, and cancellation of services. The same is not true elsewhere in the County, as some of our fellow councils struggle to balance their books, yet face severe criticism for poor services. There is even one area in Essex with a black hole of £1 million in its accounts; it is about to lose its CEO and risks being pushed into a forced marriage with the County Council. If you want to look for waste, for cutbacks and for financial mishap, then look elsewhere. If you want stability, continued improvements in services, value for money and opportunity for the future, then stay close to home.

Mr Chairman, I realise that it is all very well to use fine words, but let's look at three specific examples of how we manage our financial affairs well, how we operate our services efficiently, how we are able to create opportunities for economic and social wellbeing and how we still give outstanding value for money.

At the beginning of last year, TDC signed a new contract for waste disposal. Moving totally against the national trend and, more importantly, listening to what our residents told us they wanted, we introduced a weekly collection of recycling alongside the weekly collection of waste. A year later, our residents have responded magnificently and we are experiencing a substantial increase in the tonnage recycled. This obviously pays us a major and very pleasing environmental dividend, but there has been a significant financial one as well, since much less waste is now going to land-fill and we are being rewarded accordingly.

The second illustration arose when we were asked to explore joint working in the distribution of benefits, a major function of this and other councils and one that logically could benefit from economies of scale. However, it became quickly clear that our processing costs were much lower than being targeted as a result of joint working, underlining once again how real value for money is being delivered in this District.

The third example is the Clacton Town Centre. Just like any major change, it has been disruptive, controversial and has drawn its critics. But, like any major change, it needs to be judged over time. The signs are that some critics have already changed their minds and see the positive benefits, especially when they note that local and outside businesses are already investing new money into Clacton as a result of the much improved Town Square. However, it is still early to judge properly, especially in face of the difficult national economic scene, but this Council will not only continue to provide leadership and vision in transforming Clacton into a vibrant and prosperous community, but also will do the same in our other communities.

Mr Chairman, I am pleased to present a triple A (AAA) budget that is:

Affordable - with a 4% (or an average 11p) increase in Council Tax

19

Appropriate - after taking a tough but balanced look at both our priorities and the money that is available to manage them

Ambitious – giving us the resources to take a huge step towards the transformation of this District and its various communities, large and small.

As I said earlier, we did not get here by accident. We got here (starting this process in the early summer of last year) by not just looking at all our cost pressures, but weighing up all our ambitions as well. What is being proposed tonight is based on solid and sustainable financial foundations.

At this stage, I'd like to express my thanks to the Corporate Management Committee, under their Chairman Graham Steady, for their contribution to the budget scrutiny process. In two separate 2-day sessions, this cross-party committee put forward many financial recommendations, almost all of which you see in the budget today. In addition, the Committee provided many thoughtful suggestions for future discussion and these will all be looked at over the coming months.

Returning to the budget, at the public meeting of the Cabinet in December, we made specific recommendations to this Council in terms of our spending. I don't propose to repeat them once more as they have been published already and are listed in the document in front of you. Nevertheless, you will see that some of the larger items are conditional on bringing in substantial funding from other sources. It was the Cabinet's wish to extend this principle much further and much wider, leading to the introduction of Project Tendring.

Project Tendring is all about regeneration.

Over the last few months, a tremendous momentum of belief has been building up between senior members and officers that the very exceptional needs of Tendring demand a step change in the delivery of real regeneration. This includes not only economic development but also the physical, social and environmental transformation of our district. We are now at the stage where the question is now not whether it can be done, but how it can be done.

Project Tendring is all about local communities and partnership

It recognises the disparate needs of different parts of the district and the necessity of engaging with individuals, partners and groups in the diverse communities of Tendring. It is also a powerful way for the Council to make its contribution to the delivery of the aspirations set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy, co-authored and co-owned by Tendring's Local Strategic Partnership. Through regeneration we, together with our partners at Essex County Council, the Police, the Voluntary Sector and the PCT (to name but a few), can address the themes of health, economic development, children and young people, crime and disorder, deprivation and environment that we have put down as our collective challenges between now and 2016.

To help achieve this, there are five main components to Project Tendring, three of them reflecting the wider geography of the District.

- Harwich and the Stour Valley
- Clacton and the Coastal Towns
- Brightlingsea and the Villages of Mid Tendring.

20

Over and above that, we need to help improve the quality of life for all our residents, through culture, sport and other social activities. This goes under the name of Dynamic Tendring, it affects all areas of the District and, accordingly, it will be coordinated centrally.

Finally, we need to address the very specific and complex issue of Jaywick and I am pleased to say we have had near cross-party support in our proposal to provide £1 million of expected future capital receipts in the next few years as our contribution to this major task. There has generally been a positive reaction to that first step and I am heartened to hear, albeit through unofficial sources, that Essex County Council are minded to make a £3 million contribution which, if true, is a very welcome vindication of this Council's initiative and leadership. Hopefully, this money comes with no significant strings attached and is as clear and unequivocal a contribution as our own.

More specifically, what is the approach to Project Tendring ?

- As I announced in December, there are four guiding principles

(i) Locality based.....

Tendring is not a homogeneous unit with the same needs throughout the whole district. Project Tendring reflects this. It recognises that the needs of Harwich and the Stour Coast – the north of Tendring – are different from those of Clacton and the coastal towns to the south of the district. In turn, the requirements of both are very different from those of the rural areas inland. And people across the whole district will benefit from a strong collective focus on the improved quality of life and participation agenda enshrined in the Dynamic Tendring project.

The scale and requirement for a closer, more individual focus on the different communities of Tendring has become more apparent during the visits I have made to nearly all of Tendring's 27 town and parish Councils over the past few months or so, drawing my attention to projects like the Brightlingsea Youth Club, the Lawford Football Pavillion, the Hamford Water Nature Reserve, Dovercourt Town Centre and the Wrabness Village Hall to name but a few. Project Tendring is designed to help bring these community aspirations closer to reality.

(ii) Whole Council.....

The successful regeneration of the district will be achieved more effectively and more quickly if the whole Council unites and works to drive these projects forward for the benefit of the people who live and work in Tendring. Such an over-arching project, the first stage of which will take 10-15 years, also takes us through several electoral cycles and it is important that the work, once started, continues to completion.

With that in mind, the project delivery boards for each project will be set up with members of opposition groups on the Council, as well as other partners of the Council, invited to join them. More than that, we want all Members, as a first step, to be engaged themselves, both by contributing ideas and directly through the provision of a budget for each member of the Council to spend for the benefit of the people of their ward.

21

It is also vital that the thinking and commitment to the regeneration and reshaping of our district contained in these five project segments become the driving culture throughout the work of the Council itself so that staff and members are able to contribute wholeheartedly to the overall aim of regenerating the district through their various day to day roles and activities.

(iii)With partners.....

It is quite evident that the regeneration and/or transformation of Tendring is not something the Council can begin to achieve on its own. Joined up service delivery with our partner public service providers is something we have been working on for some years and we are getting better at it. But we also need to work more closely with the groups who are closer to the communities than we are – voluntary and community based organisations and groups, such as the Older Persons Forum, which I now meet regularly with.

A core part of the approach is to work with individuals, partners and community groups to achieve impacts on the ground in their areas, to support them with the capacity – time, knowledge and skills – to help themselves. In essence, we are looking to engage and involve people and communities to work with us in partnership.

(iv)Leveraging in finance (and expertise)....

Each of the five projects has, at its heart, the aim of bringing additional resources into Tendring, to meet the needs of and provide benefits for the people of Tendring. Experience elsewhere shows this can run into 10's of millions of pounds and perhaps much, much more. We shall work hard to win extra resources for the district, whether through new investment delivering better housing, living environments, town centres and jobs or through targeted grants which require work to develop bids and to support the implementation of projects when successful. As a very relevant example, the Cabinet and Senior Officers have already had a very constructive discussion with English Partnerships, a major national source of regeneration funding and expertise, and looks to develop that relationship more intensively in the coming months and years as English Partnerships becomes part of the new Homes and Communities Agency.

The approach to Project Tendring – how is this likely to take shape?

I have asked officers to bring forward proposals to the Cabinet in March which will include the following:

The structural options for delivering Project Tendring.

A widened and more inclusive membership – with the possibility of inviting opposition leaders to join

The provision of nearly £1.3m of financing over three years to ensure sustainability in getting Project Tendring off to the best of starts. This, in the main, will be used to employ expert staff and give us the capacity for regeneration. It is well recognised that this approach leads to extra external funding being made available, potentially adding anything up to £5 million to the overall budget. 22

True and lasting success will only be achieved by creating vital capacity which we do not currently have – people with the specialist skills and, equally importantly, the time to dedicate and focus on delivering the various projects, all supported by the Leadership and Membership of the Council and the whole staff of the Council. This means allocating and moving resources – money, people and time – to support this top priority issue for our Council and for our District

The creation of three area boards – also proposing the inclusion of opposition members as well as other representatives and partners, although numbers will be limited to ensure focus and efficiency.

Examination of the various options that can be effectively used to manage the key staff and successfully deliver on all the individual and collective projects

Focus on driving regeneration and community transformation projects, large and small, across the district.

Development of community forums to feed into the Area Boards. This could entail creating new small area forums under the leadership of our Town Mayors or may, more simply, be based on our current network of town and parish councils with, of course, an alternative solution for our un-parished areas.

Mr. Chairman, for good house-keeping's sake, this exciting and ambitious approach to the transformation of the District will obviously entail a rebasing of our Corporate Strategy and I am similarly asking officers to produce the necessary reports and recommendations to support this. Whilst this will take a little more time, proposals for the delivery of Project Tendring should be put before you at our meeting on March 26th.

In the meantime, it is my intention (in consultation with my colleague the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration) to allocate £50,000 of the voluntary sector funding identified in the recommendations before you to Tendring Community Voluntary Services and £50,000 to Tendring Citizens Advice Bureau in the coming year. This is in continued recognition of the valuable work that both these organisations do within our community.

Also, I have recognised the call for even greater clarity and simplicity in the operation of the Members' Small Schemes Grant Fund. In the short term, it is my intention to increase that fund to £120,000 this year, allocating £2,000 to each ward member to utilise at his or her discretion, in consultation with their local community. This will give every member the ability to make a tangible contribution to their own areas and, as such, I hope this is welcomed by everyone in this Council.

The rules will be simple (probably using a basic pro-forma system) and flexible. The money does not have to be spent this year and can be rolled up with future grant

allocations, it can be combined with other members' allocations to create the opportunity for larger projects and/or it can be used as seed corn capital to draw in new funding. I shall invite one of our O&S Committees to suggest the best way forward.

Finally, when I look at the major task ahead of us, the various projects and schemes that Project Tendring (with the guidance of our different communities) will spearhead, it is quite obvious that much more than time and capacity is required. In my recent visits to our towns and parishes, very many individual projects, large and small, came to light.

23

With Project Tendring, we shall be aim to provide the expertise and the support to help these communities help themselves, but what would also be of tremendous help is to find financial support as well.

As such, I am proposing that a further £1.5 million of potential future capital receipts is allocated to Project Tendring, spread over the coming years, but with a mechanism to ensure there is an even-handed approach in place that is eventually fair to everyone. The more mathematically astute of you will recognise that this equates to a benchmark of £25,000 per member, meaning that all communities, great and small, could benefit.

Once again, there would and should be no pressure to spend all this money as soon as possible. In fact, the reality of the situation is that the resources put behind the projects will need to be prioritised

However, by earmarking funds, this allows communities that do not have ready or urgent projects to hand to take their time in deciding and planning them, using their money well and using it wisely.

All of a sudden, the building of a new football pavilion in Lawford to support the activities of more than 300 children could tonight take a closer step to reality, the purchase of the 4youth centre building in Brightlingsea could tonight become less of a dream or the long-awaited redevelopment of Dovercourt Town Centre could tonight move significantly closer to inception.

However, it is not for me to say what projects our communities should put forward, in what priority and how such capital should be spent within the framework of Project Tendring – this is a matter for members and our other community representatives to decide on and to contribute their ideas and proposals over the coming years.

Nor should we fool ourselves that it will be easy, as the sale of assets can often be an emotive issue, not just an economic one. Likewise, the timing of sales to release funding is a hard matter to call, leading to delay and frustration. It's quite obvious that there will have to be some hard and fast rules about how this is all managed, but with the right input and a good consensus, I believe it is eminently achievable.

Mr Chairman, I have spent some time this evening outlining this Administration's vision for this District, a vision fed not least by the aspirations and ideas of the various communities and local organisations that I have made contact with in the last six months. I have also introduced the democratic methods and professional resources through which we shall achieve our individual and collective goals.

Finally, I have ensured that we put the necessary financial backing in place (potentially amounting to some £5 million), not only to provide the launch pad for a new, ambitious and enterprising way of working for this Council, but also to give all our communities a

meaningful financial capability to make a significant improvement to their individual ways of life.

As such, Mr. Chairman, I present this budget for 2008/9 and beyond. In doing so, I look for all members' support and help, not only tonight in terms of their vote, but for many years to come in taking an active part in the major transformation and regeneration of our District. In endorsing this budget, I can do no better than quote the Council's motto

24

"Pro bono omnium" – For the Good of All.

Mr. Chairman, I call on this Council to support this budget and, in doing so, support the people of Tendring.

A BUDGET FOR THE GOOD OF ALL IN TENDRING

Residents across Tendring can look forward to continued improvements in services, value for money and opportunity for the future.

Tendring District Council last night agreed its annual budget and Leader David Lines promised its effects would be felt over the next 10-15 years and beyond.

He called it a Triple A budget which was Affordable, Appropriate and Ambitious.

The budget would add just under 11p a week to the average Council Tax bill but would see the authority move forward with its priorities and provide the resources to take a significant step towards transforming Tendring and all its various communities.

Cllr Lines said that Project Tendring was at the very heart of those plans and would deliver real regeneration.

"This includes not only economic development but also the physical, social and environmental improvement of our district," he said.

"Project Tendring recognises the disparate needs of different parts of the district and the necessity of engaging with individuals, partners and groups in the diverse communities of Tendring."

The Leader said there were five main components to Project Tendring:

- (v) Harwich and the Stour Valley
- (vi) Clacton and the coastal towns
- (vii) Brightlingsea and the villages of Mid Tendring
- (viii) Addressing the specific and complex issue of Jaywick
- (ix) Improving the quality of life for all residents through culture, sport and other activities under the banner of Dynamic Tendring.

Cllr Lines said that a proposal to provide £1million of expected future capital receipts for Jaywick had received cross-party support. He also believed that other bodies may be looking at making a financial contribution to Jaywick.

He added that he had become acutely aware of the different needs of different communities within Tendring, and Project Tendring would address the individual needs of each area.

25

He hoped that the initiative would get the backing of the whole Council in the interests of speed and efficiency. Therefore Members of the opposition groups would get the chance to be involved with project delivery boards along with outside partners.

As a first step in an effort to engage all Members they will each get a budget of £2,000 in 2008/9 to spend for the benefit of people living in their ward.

The Leader was quick to point out the major regeneration and transformation could not be achieved by the Council on its own. It would need to involve partner public service providers and closer working with voluntary and community based organisations.

“In essence we are looking to engage and involve people and communities to work with us in partnership,” he added.

Additional resources from outside will also be required and the aim will be to lever extra cash to deliver better housing, living environments, town centres and jobs.

Cllr Lines said that new proposals will be put before Cabinet in the next month on the practical steps to get Project Tendring underway.

He also proposed that a further £1.5million of potential future capital receipts could be allocated to Project Tendring over the coming years and shared out around the district.

That work would work out to around £25,000 per Councillor to help make a real impact in their communities. That might be shared out among villages – where a Member represents more than one – or added together where a ward has more than one Member and used to lever extra investment from outside.

“The building of a new football pavilion in Lawford, the purchase of a 4youth centre building in Brightlingsea or the redevelopment of Dovercourt Town Centre could move a significant step closer to reality,” said Cllr Lines.

The Leader said the budget which had been agreed was very different to those which had been put before the Council in the past.

“It is a budget for change, it is a budget for economic prosperity and social well-being,” he said. “It is a budget which deals with the present and a budget that deals with the future.”

20/2/08

APPENDIX 4

It was reported at ACBOA's Annual Meeting last night that on the previous evening a boat had been broken into, items stolen including an outboard motor. The thieves had entered the creek on what is thought to be a Rib and made their get-away along the Colne. The police were alerted and SIX response cars attended at the various locations of Alresford, B.Sea, Mersea, Rowhedge and Wivenhoe. Two of these were 'dog units'. We have yet to confirm whether any other boats were affected in the Creek. By sheer luck the Marine Police Officer I was talking to mentioned their Marine PCSO's patrols---- it transpires that we have very regular patrols carried out along the Creek and onto Wivenhoe. I spoke at length with PCSO Ben Mearing who is now going to liaise with me so that we can set up our own Marine Watch. He will come and give a presentation on the benefits of the scheme when I have made arrangements with ACBOA and any interested parties.

I will keep you informed of developments

Linda

APPENDIX 5

To keep you undated - three windows smashed at VH, damage caused inside because of broken glass/brick!, bottles broken over car park, rubbish bins emptied. Bus Shelter also being kicked etc. Doctors surgery *vandalised (I don't have details of that yet)*. *Damage* to Station including bins ripped from walls, building broken into and wheelchair ramp dragged out. There were eleven calls to the police including one 999. Officers did attend but again I have no details as yet. (9.2.08)

