

ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 1 February 2006
(7:00 - 7:47 pm)

PRESENT

Councillor W F L Barns (Deputy Chair in the Chair)

Councillor A Agrawal	Councillor J L Alexander
Councillor Ms M G Baker	Councillor Mrs J Blake
Councillor H J Collins	Councillor L A Collins
Councillor Mrs J Conyard	Councillor B Cook
Councillor R J Curtis	Councillor W C Dale
Councillor J Davis	Councillor J R Denyer
Councillor C J Fairbrass	Councillor M A R Fani
Councillor Mrs K J Flint	Councillor C Geddes
Councillor A Gibbs	Councillor D Hemmett
Councillor Mrs D Hunt	Councillor T J Justice
Councillor S Kallar	Councillor M A McCarthy
Councillor M E McKenzie	Councillor D S Miles
Councillor W Northover	Councillor R B Parkin
Councillor Mrs V M Rush	Councillor T G W Wade
Councillor P Waker	

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Mrs E E Bradley	Councillor G J Bramley
Councillor Mrs J E Bruce	Councillor Mrs D Challis
Councillor A C Clark	Councillor I S Jamu
Councillor F C Jones	Councillor R C Little
Councillor D O'Brien	Councillor B M Osborn
Councillor Mrs C T Osborn	Councillor J W Porter
Councillor Mrs J E Rawlinson	Councillor L A Smith
Councillor Miss N E Smith	Councillor A G Thomas
Councillor Mrs P A Twomey	Councillor L R Waker
Councillor Mrs M M West	

Apologies were submitted on behalf of a number of Councillors due to excessive traffic congestion.

82. Minutes (4 January 2006)

Agreed.

83. Petition - Proposed Nursery in 35 Strood Avenue, Rush Green - Traffic Issues

Received a petition opposing the conversion of the former doctor's surgery at 35 Strood Avenue, Rush Green into a nursery in respect of the effect on traffic and parking in the area.

Agreed, in order to address the concerns raised by petitioners, to:

1. Note that the Council has no powers to prevent the conversion of the former doctor's surgery into a nursery; and
2. A consultation exercise to be undertaken once the Nursery is operational in the area around the new nursery site to determine if there is resident support for a Controlled Parking Zone.

84. Local Issue - Borough Policing - Glancing Back, Looking Forward

Chief Superintendent Robin Hopes, Barking and Dagenham Police, attended to give a presentation on policing in the Borough.

The presentation included a personal perspective looking backwards at where the service had come from, where the service is at now and the vision for the future. The presentation also included statistical information on comparing performance across a number of indicators between June 2004 and June 2005.

85. Local Issue - 2004 / 2005 Joint Audit and Inspection Letter

Janette Whitfield from the Audit Commission was present to answer questions on the inspection element of the 2004 / 2005 Joint Audit and Inspection Letter, which was presented to the Assembly meeting on 4 January 2006.

Members of the Council asked questions covering the following areas:

- The level of involvement of Members in providing challenge to the efficiency and the value for money agenda;
- The services and actions required to meet the community's expectations and how well we are placed to address these
- What services need further improvement?
- What does "improving adequately" really mean?

Janette Whitfield's responses identified that most services were in a robust state and those that needed improvement were included in her report. She was also comfortable with the Council's direction of travel.

86. Customer Services Report

Received a presentation by Jeremy Grint, Head of Regeneration, Regeneration and Environment Department on Customer Care in the Planning and Transportation Division.

87. Report of the Executive

Amendments to the Remit of the Development Control Board

Agreed to amend the Council's Scheme of Delegation in respect of the remit of the Development Control Board (Section E, Part C of the Constitution), to include responsibility for determining the following applications:

- All conversions of residential properties to flats; and

- Erection of single, infill, dwelling houses which, in the opinion of the Head of Planning and Transportation, would have a detrimental impact on the amenity of the surrounding locality.

88. Report of the BAD Youth Forum

Noted the regular report on the work of the BAD Youth Forum summarising the activities of the Youth Forum in December 2005, including the challenging programme of work planned for the various sub-groups.