

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
20th MAY 2008

- * Cllr. S.C. Pryde (Mayor)
- * “ A.L. James (Deputy Mayor)
- “ Mrs. P.C. Brooks
- * “ A.B. Clark
- * “ J.F. Collier
- * “ Mrs. R. Gadsby
- * “ W.J. Pryor
- * “ Mrs. S.A. Stavrou
- * “ A.P. Watts
- * “ Mrs. E.A. Webster

* Denotes Members present.

In attendance: Town Clerk and Recreation and Amenities Manager.

1045. **Welcome and Introductions:** The Mayor welcomed members of the public and introduced Members of the Council to the meeting.
1046. **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Mrs. Brooks.
1047. **Olympic White Water Course Presentation:** John Birch, Deputy Director of Leisure and Environment at Lea Valley Regional Park, gave a presentation in respect of the proposed Olympic White Water Course to be constructed on the overflow car park of the Lea Valley Show Ground in Station Road, Waltham Cross. Following the presentation Mr. Birch invited questions from the public.
1048. **Mr. B. Davis, South Place** – Mr. Davis asked what plans for access numbers on the four days of the Olympic event had been made and what provision would be made for car parking.

Mr. Birch replied that it was anticipated that 12,000 visitors per day would attend over the days of the event and following that 73,000 people per year would visit the site. Provision would be similar to existing but during the four days of the Olympic Games a Park and Ride System would be put in place.

Mr. Davis then asked were any of the electricity pylons throughout the Lea Valley being removed.

Mr. Birch advised that they would be removed in the area of the Olympic Park but not in this area.

1049. **Mrs. J. Church, Monkswood Avenue** – Mrs. Church asked what consideration had been given to the environmental impact on this tranquil area.

John Birch replied that the proposed built facility is minimal and the Park Authority did not intend to increase the buildings following the Games, the key focus being to retain the environment as at present.

1050. **Mr. D. Ellmore, 12 Abbey Court** – Mr. Ellmore asked if a presentation such as the one seen this evening would be presented to Local Education Authorities in the East End of London.

Mr. Birch replied that the ongoing legacy facility would cater for schools during the daytime and will be open from 2011, so there would be opportunities for LEA's to be advised..

1051. **Mr. V. Unwin, 25 Chequers Walk** – Mr. Unwin spoke of the four days of the competition and asked would there be competitions on site before the Olympics and was there the likelihood of a local White Water Canoe Club being formed.

Mr. Birch replied that a period of testing would be carried out during 2010 and that a test event to prove the course was fit for purpose would be held in 2011.

Mr. Unwin then asked was it yet known what the water pumping costs would be and were they excessive.

Mr. Birch replied that the costs were extremely high however robust business plan had taken these costs into account and there would be no impact on Local Council Tax.

Cllr. Pryde then spoke of the huge benefits for the Town and although the site is located in Waltham Cross geographically it is closer to Waltham Abbey and the Town Council will work with the Park Authority for the benefit of the Town.

Cllr. Mrs. Webster explained that the Park Authority is formed of Members of adjoining Local Councils and went on to say that the four days of the Olympics and the ongoing legacy of this course will have great benefit for the Town.

There being no other questions the Mayor thanked Mr. Birch for his informative presentation.

1052. **Annual Report 2007/2008:** Cllr. Mrs. Stavrou presented the Annual Report of Waltham Abbey Town Council for the Municipal Year 2007/2008 and then invited questions.

1053. **Mrs. M. Radcliffe, Breach Barns** - Mrs. Radcliffe asked what action was being taken about "A" frames in Sun Street.

Cllr. Mrs. Gadsby said she had taken this matter up with Essex County Council.

Cllr. Pryde went on to say that the Authorities were trying to resolve this situation in a way that dealt with those that caused problems and allowing unobtrusive "A" frames to remain.

1054. **Mr. B. Davis, South Place** - Mr. Davis congratulated the Town Council on their attempts to improve the appearance of the Town, in particular the Town Centre. However following the recently introduced smoking restrictions the pavement areas outside public houses were now littered with cigarette butts each morning. Could the Town Council ask publicans to keep these areas clean.

Cllr. Pryor informed the meeting that it was the responsibility of the publicans to clean their frontage and two licensees would be attending the next Neighbourhood Action Panel at which this could be discussed.

Cllr. Pryde went on to say that the Town Council might investigate sponsored ash bins fixed to the walls of premises.

Mrs. Radcliffe went on to say that Waltham Abbey Town Partnership was investigating the provision of sand filled buckets.

Cllr. Mrs. Stavrou stated that these could be a pedestrian hazard and suggested that fixed ash bins would be preferential.

1055. **Mr. T. Lane, Pie and Mash Shop, Market Square** - Mr. Lane said that the Council should look to the whole area of the Town being improved and it should be trying to bring people into the Town Centre.

Cllr. Watts replied that the Council had to look at both small and large issues.

Cllr. Pryde stated that the Council is constantly trying to improve the Town by additional street cleaning, reporting highways problems etc and investigating methods of attracting people to the Town either for tourism or retailing. Cllr. Pryde went on to say that the Council is proud of the Town but acknowledges that there are still issues to be dealt with and the Council will endeavour to make improvements by lobbying both District and County Council.

1056. **Mr. D. Ellmore** - Mr. Ellmore asked (1) what is the current situation regarding the installation of CCTV in the Cornmill Car Park and (2) does the Council know what is happening to the Old English Gentleman Public House.

Cllr. Pryde replied (1) that we are currently waiting for technical tests to be completed following which the installation would commence and
(2) the site of the Old English Gentleman Public House is within the Borough of Broxbourne however we will continue to monitor the situation.

1057. **Mr. D. Ellmore** - Epping Forest Distinct Council had agreed to install a temporary CCTV installation in the Cornmill Car Park but this had been delayed due to a fault with the equipment. Could Members advise of the current situation.

Cllr. Mrs. Stavrou informed the meeting that the equipment was still under repair.

1058. **Mrs. C. Akers, 2 Honey Lane** - Mrs. Akers referred to the concerns of residents of Harold Crescent at the condition of the highway and grass verges on that estate and also referred to sunken drains in the area of 20-21 Honey Lane.

Cllr. Clark replied that funding was in place for improvements to Harold Crescent however this had been deferred and he was currently waiting for further information. Together with Cty Cllr. Mrs. Webster he was seeking an explanation from the Highway Authority.

Cllr. Mrs. Webster went on to say that Harold Crescent was amongst a number of issues she had taken up with the Highways Authority and in early June she would be meeting with three senior Highways Officers to seek funding for the works required.

Cllr. Pryde informed the meeting that Cllr. Hume, the Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways, would be attending a meeting of the Town Council on the 12th June to answer Members questions.

1059. **Mrs. P. Withers, Mead Court** - Mrs. Withers stated that the greenhouse in her garden had been ruined by people using Town Mead Leisure Park. She was having a new greenhouse built and did not want it treated in the same way and asked why the Council would not accept insurance claims in respect of her greenhouse.

The Town Clerk explained that it was not possible for the Council to insure other people's property and Cllr. Watts went on to say that this was not an insurable interest of the Council's.

Cllr. Mrs. Gadsby advised that together with the Recreation and Amenities Manager she had visited Mrs. Withers regarding this matter.

1060. **Mr. S. Miller, Church Street** - Mr. Miller referred to the closure of Highbridge Street to facilitate works to Powdermill Bridge. He went on to refer to the loss of income suffered by retailers and asked why they had not been advised to make a claim against Essex County Council.

Cllr. Mrs. Webster said that the works were delayed by unforeseen problems with the gas supplies.

Cllr. Pryde then explained that as the works were classed as essential it precluded anybody from claiming against Essex County Council.

1061. **Mr. T. Lane, Pie & Mash Shop, Market Square** - Mr. Lane asked what plans the Council had for rejuvenating Waltham Abbey.

Cllr. Watts explained that the recently introduced "Power of Wellbeing" had given Town and Parish Councils greater powers to provide services subject to there being no additional cost to the Council Tax payer. The Town Council were in the process of forming a Steering Group and Committee which would comprise not only of Councillors but other interested parties in the Town, to create a Town Plan which would highlight the areas requiring attention and facilitate a programme of improvement.

1062. **Miss. S. Calvert, Brooker Road** - Ms. Calvert asked what opportunities there would be for employment during the construction of the Olympic course.

John Birch replied that jobs will be available during the construction and then post games there will be further construction works to the site preparing it for public use.

The Mayor then went on to say that we were in the very early stages and the Town Council recognised that it must work with other agencies to obtain the greatest benefit for the Town.

1063. **Mr. T. Lane, Pie & Mash Shop, Market Square** - Mr. Lane asked had the Town Council recognised what businesses would be left in the Town in four years time.

The Mayor advised that the Council was working with other local agencies including the Chamber of Commerce and referred to the response of Cllr. Watts earlier in the evening.

1064. **Mrs. V. Ellmore, Abbey Court** - Mrs. Ellmore referred to the area around the MacDonald's Fast Food Restaurant which was constantly littered by debris from MacDonald's.

The Mayor advised that the Council would contact MacDonald's regarding this matter.

1065. **Mr. T. Lane, Pie & Mash Shop, Market Square** - Mr. Lane asked why there was no longer a Christmas tree and Christmas lights in the Market Square.

The Mayor replied that in order to reduce disruption to the Market it had been decided to relocate the Christmas tree to the area in front of the former Roman Catholic Church in Sewardstone Road and that there had been no reduction in the festive lights provided in the Market Square.

There being no further questions the Mayor once again thanked John Birch of the Lea Valley Regional Park Authority for the presentation and closed the meeting.

S.C. PRYDE - MAYOR

