



Chalkstone speed humps was absent from work, and there was no indication that the promises made that the work would commence by Christmas would be kept. Cllr Hanlon stated he would contact St Edmundsbury Borough Council to try to speed progress on the matter.

A member of the public enquired regarding repairs to Swan Lane. The Clerk advised that these would start in January but he was unaware as to whether it would be necessary to close the road.

A member of the public asked if the Town Council could approach the Police regarding the number of cyclists who did not display lights on their cycles at night. The principal cause for concern was cyclists from the industrial estate and the Town Council agreed to ask the Police to monitor cyclists exiting Hollands Road without lights. Cllr Graham added that there were also problems with cyclists riding on pavements.

A member of the public asked about the Cleales development and progress on the skatepark, and was advised that these were Borough Council issues and that the Town Council had not been advised recently of progress.

A member of the public felt that the Town and Borough Councils needed to promote their works more. Cllr Smith felt that with the Borough Council about to commit to a large investment in the town's facilities it would be helpful for the Town Council to be consulted at an early stage.

A member of the public asked whether the Town Council would consider holding a poll on taking over the trusteeship of the Town Hall Arts Centre, and was advised that previous public meetings had reaffirmed support for the Town Council's approach.

Cllr Graham stated he believed that the resident campaigning for the Chalkstone speed humps was doing a good job.

Cllr Pinker stated that the Clements Community shop would open in January, with landscaping works in Leiston Road planned for March.

A member of the public enquired about the statement in the Borough Council's Community News regarding a new retail warehouse off Duddery Hill, and was advised this was an option contained in the draft Local Plan. The Clerk advised that there would be a briefing for Members on the draft Local Plan at their January meeting.

A member of the public asked that investment in the environment of the Chalkstone Estate occur, similar to that being invested on the Clements Estate.

***(Full Council resumed after Public Forum)***

**6. Adoption of Committee Reports**

Planning Committee

Cllr Mrs Martin proposed, and Cllr Goody seconded that the minutes of the Planning Committee held 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 12<sup>th</sup> November and 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2002 be adopted, all being in favour.

Leisure & Environment Committee

Cllr Smith proposed, and Cllr Hanlon seconded that the minutes of the Leisure & Environment Committee held 15<sup>th</sup> October and 26<sup>th</sup> November 2002 be adopted as a true record, all being in favour.

Cllr Dane asked if the pine trees causing problems in Quendon Place could be cut down. Cllr Hanlon stated he would ask the Borough Council about the future of the trees.

**7. Town Hall Arts Centre**

The Council noted the decision by the existing trustees to transfer trusteeship of the Charity to the Town Council. The Council considered a report prepared by the Clerk regarding progress. Cllr Dane asked if members of the public could be co-opted onto a Committee overseeing the Arts Centre and was advised that they might be better in commenting via one of the various panels. Cllr Hanlon proposed and Cllr Dane seconded, all being in favour,

that:-

- a) Haverhill Town Council agrees in principle to take on the trusteeship of the Town Hall Charity (No. 288092), and confirms its intention to do so subject to a satisfactory structural report of the building, and agreement on a level of Grant funding for 2003/4 similar to that outlined in the Business Plan.
- b) In the event of an unsatisfactory structural report, provided agreement is agreed with the existing trustees regarding resolution of the defect(s), transfer will still proceed.
- c) Haverhill Town Council invites St Edmundsbury Borough Council to nominate up to four Members to serve on a Town Council Committee overseeing the Arts Centre, and to nominate its Festival Manager to serve on the Programme panel advising on the programme.
- d) That the Town Clerk be authorised to arrange a full structural survey once the Grant level for 2003/4 is confirmed.

**8. To Adopt the Model Publication Scheme for Local Councils (Core Classes only) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Cllr Smith proposed, and Cllr Goody seconded, all being in favour, that:-

- a) Haverhill Town Council adopt the Model Publication Scheme for Local Councils (Core Classes only).
- b) That a minimum charge of 10p per A4 page be charged for copies of the information requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000
- c) That the information already made publicly available on the notice boards and Haverhill-uk website continue to be made freely available

**9. Precept**

Cllr Gerry Kiernan proposed, and Cllr Smith seconded, all being in favour, that the precept for 2003/2004 be set at £144,917.

**10. To authorise urgent payments.**

There were no urgent payments to authorise.

**11. To receive urgent correspondence**

There were no urgent items of correspondence.

**12. Matters of report**

Cllr Hanlon reported that the trees in Linton Place were to be trimmed back this season.  
Cllr Hanlon reported that On-Track were trying to establish an area for young people at the rear of the Chalkstone Community Centre.  
Cllr Dane asked why the street lights were not working in Queen Street. The Clerk advised that this was a recurring problem associated with the erection of the Christmas lights and that every year the Town Council was advised that it would not reoccur. Members expressed their dissatisfaction with the Christmas lights, which had not been fully erected by the Christmas Lights Switch-On, nor by Late Night Shopping evening, and which had too many outages. The Clerk was asked to write to St Edmundsbury Borough Council accordingly.  
Cllr Graham congratulated all those householders who had contributed to the Christmas spirit by decorating their homes.  
Cllr Pinker raised the arbitrary limit on the number of bulky waste items that could be collected free of charge from properties. Some properties in multiple occupancy, in particular sheltered homes, were classed as one property, presenting difficulties in having bulky waste removed. The Clerk was asked to ask the Borough Council about the matter.

**13. Closure**

The meeting was closed at 9.25 p.m.