



Inspector Jepson stated that there had been problems with young people in Jubilee Walk and that by working jointly with Community Education these problems had largely disappeared. Shoplifting in the area had also decreased significantly.

Inspector Jepson stated that, in conjunction with Havebury Housing Partnership the Police, together with local community representatives, were to conduct an "audit" of all the estates to identify those areas where improvements could reduce the fear of crime and/or raise reassurance.

Inspector Jepson concluded by stating that since December there had only been thirteen reported incidents of public disorder.

Cllr Hanlon asked Inspector Jepson why the Police returned motorcycles to those from whom they had been confiscated for riding on areas such as Chalkstone Playing Fields. Inspector Jepson confirmed that legislation existed to permanently seize the motorcycles but that storage and disposal was an issue, so confiscation and return after warnings was preferred.

Cllr Dane stated that the Police Station continued to close at 5.00 p.m. on occasions. Inspector Jepson confirmed that staff absences would continue to force the public counter to close early on occasions, but that the public also preferred to see Police on patrol rather than manning a desk.

Cllr Dane indicated that he had been concerned about incidents between groups of young people and adults, but Inspector Jepson stated that the joint approach with Community Education had helped to disperse the young people and educate them about excessive drinking.

Cllr French expressed his concerns about cyclists riding at excessive speeds on the footpaths, sometimes without bells or lights on their cycles. Inspector Jepson indicated that the Police were working with schools to educate the younger generation to the dangers of riding on the footpath without proper care.

Cllr Smith asked how many prosecutions had taken place regarding the sale of alcohol to underage persons. Inspector Jepson stated that whilst no prosecutions had yet taken place the Police through their sources were aware of two establishments that may be selling alcohol illegally and would be working with Trading Standards to bring prosecutions if appropriate. Cllr Maggie Lee stated that national research showed that 50% of alcohol consumed by young people was obtained from their home.

Cllr Goody stated that the external telephone at the Police Station, to be used when the office was closed to the public, worked well when he had had cause to use it, and that it was better for Officers to be on patrol. Cllr Goody then raised the issue of parking in the High Street and Queen Street areas. Inspector Jepson advised that whilst there could be occasional purges, and that on a daily basis the Traffic Warden was committed to enforcement of the law, without constant Officer involvement there was little that could be achieved.

Cllr Gerry Kiernan congratulated Inspector Jepson in his success in reducing the public disorder issue.

Cllr Graham complained about cyclists travelling at excessive speed on footpaths.

6. **Mike Dawson, Acting Director, Environmental Health & Housing, St Edmundsbury Borough Council**

The Chair welcomed Mike Dawson, Acting Director of Environmental Health & Housing, St Edmundsbury Borough Council, who gave a presentation on the Borough Council's roles in respect of strategic housing, homelessness and liaison with Registered Social Landlords. Mr Dawson explained that the Borough's role as an enabler of new social housing was likely to be affected by changes to the Local Authority Social Housing Grant scheme which had been announced recently.

Cllr Maggie Lee asked why it took so long for residents to be approved for a statutory Disability Grant, with residents often caught in the conflict between Social Services and St Edmundsbury Borough Council about the extent of the Grant. Mr Dawson explained that there was a shortage of Occupational Therapists to assess the applicant, and that between the assessment and award of the Grant, applicants often reconsidered how the Grant was to be used, requiring further visits. St Edmundsbury Borough Council was however processing these Grants within the statutory six months timescale.

Cllr Dane stated that with 47% of the population of Haverhill aged under 25, he was concerned about the lack of affordable housing, and asked whether land in the Borough Council ownership could be released for building such houses, rather than relying on developers to fill the need. Mr Dawson stated that the Borough Council were aware of the problems faced by young people and were seeking developers to provide two-bedroomed houses as part of their 40% social housing requirement. There was a need to ensure a mixed and balanced community which would not be achieved by a mass build of social housing.

Cllr Jarred stated that the new properties at Blair Parade are to be welcomed but that other social housing provided by Registered Social Landlords needs upgrading.

Cllr Smith advised that he had encountered changed attitudes towards tenant issues from Havebury Housing Partnership than those formerly encountered prior to transfer of Borough housing stock. Mr Dawson explained that both St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Havebury Housing Partnership had a role to play in resolving tenant's issues. Cllr Gerry Kiernan reported that the specific matter referred to by Cllr Smith was being resolved by Havebury.

Cllr Goody asked Mr Dawson on the Borough Council's policy of key worker housing. Mr Dawson advised that key worker housing had not previously been identified as a problem but that it now seems to be for Haverhill. Mr Dawson added that shared equity schemes were being promoted in new developments. St Edmundsbury Borough Council was establishing a Key Worker Forum to review the need for key worker assistance.

Cllr Graham asked about St Edmundsbury Borough Council's control over Registered Social Landlords. Mr Dawson advised that the Borough Council was drawing up a monitoring scheme and have regular review meetings with each RSL. Cllr Dane stated it was hard for residents to influence them to undertake repairs, etc. Cllr Hanlon stated he had taken up one particular issue with St Edmundsbury Borough Council.

Cllr Pinker stated that a lot of promises had been made regarding re-establishing the Clements residents association but these had not yet turned into action.

***(Full Council adjourned for Public Forum)***

A member of the public complained about the continuing delays in effecting changes to the speed humps on the Chalkstone estate. Residents were still uncertain when these would occur. Cllr Hanlon stated he had received an email on the subject and that St Edmundsbury Borough Council were still looking at all the feedback they had received on their consultation, and that it would be at least two months before work commenced. Cllr Dane stated he was frustrated at the continual delays.

A member of the public asked if the Town Council could approach the Police regarding the existence of an emergency evacuation plan for the town. Mr Dawson advised that evacuation is a joint Police/Borough Council issue and that whilst generic plans existed these would be adapted to particular circumstances.

A member of the public asked if the Town Council would ensure that noise levels within the Arts Centre would be reduced so that there was no risk of hearing damage to the majority of the population. Cllr Maggie Lee stated that the Town Council, upon becoming Trustees, would review the existing Borough Council policy.

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

**7. Matters Raised by Councillors**

a) Cllr Dane – Dog Fouling

Cllr Dane advised that he was concerned about the level of dog fouling, particularly in the town centre. Cllr Mrs Mary Martin stated she was shocked at the extent of dog fouling on the Recreation Ground. The Clerk reported the action being taken to identify the owners responsible for letting their dogs foul High Street. Cllr Hanlon referred to Chalkstone Playing Fields and his suggestion for a dog exercise area there. Cllr Maggie Lee asked that this matter be referred to the next appropriate Committee.

**8. Adoption of Committee Reports**

Planning Committee

Cllr Mrs Mary Martin proposed and Cllr Goody seconded that the minutes of the Planning Committee held 17<sup>th</sup> February and 18<sup>th</sup> March 2003 be adopted, all being in favour.

Leisure & Environment Committee

Cllr Smith thanked the Arts & Leisure Manager, the Town Clerk, the members of the Leisure & Environment Committee and the Full Council for their support for the Committee's work during his time as Chairman, and the representatives of the press for promoting the Town Council's events. Cllr Smith proposed and Cllr Goody seconded that the minutes of the Leisure & Environment Committee held 11<sup>th</sup> February 2003 be adopted, all being in favour.

Personnel Committee

Cllr Maggie Lee left the meeting at the start of this item. Cllr Mrs Mary Martin proposed and Cllr Gerry Kiernan seconded that the minutes of the Personnel Committee held 11<sup>th</sup> March 2003 be adopted, all being in favour. Cllr Maggie Lee rejoined the meeting.

Finance & General Purposes Committee

Cllr Maggie Lee proposed and Cllr Hanlon seconded that the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held 11<sup>th</sup> March 2003 be adopted, all being in favour.

**9. Reports from the Council's Representatives on External Bodies**

In view of the lateness of the hour this item was deferred.

**10. To Agree The Recommendation of Finance & General Purposes Committee to Amend the Committee Structure, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2003**

Cllr Smith proposed and Cllr Gerry Kiernan seconded that the recommendation of the Finance & General Purposes Committee be adopted, all being in favour.

**11. Date of Annual General Meeting and Town Meeting**

Cllr Gerry Kiernan proposed and Cllr Hanlon seconded, all being in favour, that Standing Orders be varied to enable the Annual General Meeting and Town Meeting to be held in the Arts Centre auditorium on May 6th

**12. Precept 2003/2004**

Cllr Goody proposed and Cllr Hanlon seconded, all being in favour, that St Edmundsbury Borough Council be requested to pay over the precept for 2003/2004.

**13. To authorise urgent payments.**

Cllr Mrs Mary Martin proposed and Cllr Goody seconded that the payments shown on the list detailed below were approved for payment, all being in favour.

<b>List Date</b>	<b>Item Numbers</b>	<b>Cheque Numbers</b>	<b>Total Value for List £</b>
25.03.03	1-7	000240-000246	£1,605.29

**14. To receive urgent correspondence**

- a) St Edmundsbury Borough Council – Variation of Hours, Public Entertainment Licence, Rush Nightclub

The Council considered the application to vary the permitted hours as set out below:

- (1) Permission to operate normal trading hours on Maundy Thursday (17 April 2003) from midnight until 2.00 am the following morning
- (2) Permission to operate normal trading hours on Good Friday (18 April 2003) from 7.00 pm until 2.00 am the following day.
- (3) To extend the finishing hour of entertainment by one hour on the following dates:  
 Sunday 20 April 2003 from 2.00 am the following day until 3.00 am the following day;  
 Sunday 4 May 2003 from 2.00 am the following day until 3.00 am the following day;  
 Sunday 25 May 2003 from 2.00 am the following day until 3.00 am the following day;  
 and
- (4) To extend the finishing hour of entertainment on Christmas Eve 2003 until 3.00 am the following day (Christmas Day).

Cllr Dane proposed that the Town Council oppose all these dates. Cllr Graham seconded the proposal. On being put to the vote the matter was tied, with four abstentions. The Chair's casting vote was in favour of the motion to oppose all dates, which was declared carried.

**15. Matters of report**

Cllr Dane reported that a member of the public was compiling a schedule of roads and paths needing attention.

Cllr Dane asked whether the Town Council could press for the access road opposite Westfield School to be closed off.

**16. Closure**

The meeting was closed at 9.40 p.m.