

MINUTES OF A SOUTH AREA LIAISON FORUM HELD
AT THE TOWN HALL, PEMBROKE, ON MONDAY, 7TH FEBRUARY 2005

Present: County Councillors John Allen-Mirehouse (Chairman of the meeting and Deputy Leader of the Council), Brian Hall, David Simpson and Peter Stock (Cabinet Members), Kate Beckton, Clive Collins, Pearl Llewellyn, Rosalie Lilwall and Arwyn Williams.

Town Councillors: Keith McNiff and Keith Nicholas (Pembroke)
Ron Watts (Pembroke Dock)

Community Councillors: Jean and Jeff Cox (Hundleton)
E Lawrence (Clerk of Angle)
Edward Morris (Stackpole)
C B Edwards (Castlemartin)
Ian White and P T Lewis (Clerk of Lamphey)
Mike Rowe and Gaynor O'Connor (Cosheston)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Sue Perkins and Town Councillor Dilwyn Davies.

There were no apologies for absence received from Councillors John Allen or Tony Wilcox.

2. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

Councillor Allen-Mirehouse welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that he looked forward to a full and frank exchange of views on a range of subjects.

3. PLAY AREAS

Councillor Stock expressed his wish for a meaningful partnership with the County Council to develop a maintenance agreement for play areas in the south. Currently, a policy directive on responsibility was awaited from the Welsh Assembly, however, in view of the need to move forward, the County Council had attempted to pre-empt this directive by forming its own policy. Therefore, the County Council had budgeted the sum of £20,000 per community for the formation of a play area, which it is expected to be match funded by individual Town and Community Councils. He stated that the County Council's Community Regeneration Unit was available to visit and help communities in their match funding bids to the Welsh Assembly. The County Council was also willing to assume responsibility for insurance of community play areas. Regular inspection and maintenance of the community play areas must be the responsibility of the individual communities, but again the County Council would assist with training individuals to undertake this task. Councillor Allen-Mirehouse added that £500 per annum is available towards painting items of equipment.

In reply to a question, Councillor Stock stated that the County Council was of the view that in the absence of the awaited directive from the Welsh Assembly, the County Council considered that some plans must be put in place and, therefore, this was the best alternative. The communities in North Pembrokeshire had been operating the system for some time.

4. COUNCIL TAX

A discussion took place on the impending increases in Council Tax from April 2005 onwards, some of which would be as a direct result of increases in banding which had recently been announced by the Valuation Office. Councillor Stock reported that 36% of dwellings within the

county would move up a band and possibly two bands, resulting in requests for increased payment, plus the Council's set annual increase. Councillor Allen-Mirehouse reported that a 5% increase in Council Tax is likely; in addition a directive had been received from the Welsh Assembly that local authorities had to make 1% efficiency savings. This latter directive would have an effect locally, when the 1% saving would have to be made in services. Representatives were informed that there would be an opportunity for householders to appeal against the new bandings. It was agreed that there appeared to be anomalies in the banding that were difficult to understand.

5. CLEAN, SAFE & TIDY (ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR)

Councillor Stock stated that he would welcome suggestions for improving the current situation, be it counteracting bad behaviour or vandalism, dog fouling, fly tipping, improvement of the refuse collection service, rodent infestation, etc.

Councillor Collins expressed his concern that whereas the majority of householders put out their black bags shortly before the weekly refuse collection, departing holiday makers were obliged sometimes to put out their black bags some days earlier. Councillor Allen-Mirehouse suggested that in instances of this nature, the landlord could provide mesh cages to hold the refuse bags until collection. Councillor Stock reported that this practice was already underway in some parts of the county.

Councillor White asked whether it would be possible to increase the frequency of litter collection and road sweeping in the rural areas, which he felt was currently poor.

Councillor Williams reported that a spate of vandalism and anti-social behaviour was currently occurring in The Green, Pembroke. A public meeting had recently been held between residents, the Police and local County Councillors in an attempt to estimate the problems and find a way forward. Councillor Williams urged representatives of the communities to report local incidents to the Police, in order for the Police to investigate whether a pattern was emerging prior to taking action. Councillor Allen-Mirehouse reminded representatives that only the Courts can impose anti-social behaviour orders and they could not be imposed without Police evidence; therefore, it is essential that incidents are reported.

6. RECYCLING

Councillor Hall reported that the orange bag recycling trial, first launched in Milford Haven and Rosemarket areas, would be extended in the coming months to Pembroke and Pembroke Dock. Next year the scheme would be rolled out to other parts of the county. He explained the reason behind the orange bag scheme, as opposed to any other type of scheme operated elsewhere in the UK. Councillor Hall reported that prior to January 2005 the paper bank recycling scheme had been operated by contractors, but the decision had recently been made by the County Council to bring the service back in-house, with the intention of making improvements.

Councillor Hall agreed with Councillor Morris that disposal of farm waste was a problem, but if waste can be delivered to the civic amenity sites the County Council would take responsibility for disposal from there.

Councillor Stock reminded representatives of the County Council's service line for day to day problems: 0845 602 1386 and urged people to ring and report problems, incidents, etc that require urgent attention.

7. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Referring to legislation under the Right to Buy rules, which had resulted in a lack of affordable housing, Councillor Allen-Mirehouse stated that a policy was now being formulated to deal with this situation. Representatives agreed that there is frequently resistance in communities to the building of affordable housing.

Councillor Cox stated that in Hundleton, the problem was more to do with people leaving the community to work elsewhere, houses were then bought by people from elsewhere at inflated prices, making it difficult for locals to afford to buy. Councillor Allen-Mirehouse suggested that the only way forward would be by government legislation

8. SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (COSHESTON TO BUSH COMPREHENSIVE)

Councillor Collins stated that there is immense pressure in Cosheston, which had been brought to the fore as a result of the road widening scheme on the A477 at the Slade Cross junction, for free transport to school for the children; currently only parts of the village are outside the three mile limit for free school transport. The comprehensive school headmaster, Pembroke Dock Police, the local MP and AM all supported the request for provision of free transport for the children. Councillor Cox stated that it had been discovered that Hundleton children had been given free bus passes on the grounds that their route to school is hazardous; therefore, under present circumstances, the children of Cosheston should be similarly considered. In reply Councillor Hall stated that he was looking into the problem. Meanwhile, a dual use footpath is being planned for Bangeston to Ferry Lane, together with a similar path from Lamphey to Pembroke.

It was agreed

That Councillor Collins will liaise with Cosheston Community Council in order to formulate a proposal for children's transport to the Comprehensive School from Cosheston.

9. PEMBROKE MILL POND

In response to questions from Pembroke Town Council, Councillor Hall reported that plans are in preparation for the dredging of Upper Mill Pond, which it was hoped would also slow the drift of silt into the Mill Pond. Representatives agreed that it was a problem, not helped by the number of swans living on the Mill Pond. Councillor Allen-Mirehouse pointed out that liaison should take place with the Community Association over the problem and its solution.

10. RELAYING THE COBBLES IN PEMBROKE DOCK

Councillor Watts reported that repairs to the cobble stones had been outstanding since the middle of 2004. Councillor Hall agreed that it is an unfortunate problem, but the repairs should be undertaken soon.

11. FUTURE ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA AT THE NEXT (SEPTEMBER) MEETING

- Future developments in South Pembrokeshire,
- Pembroke By-pass,
- Planning Issues,
- Highways Issues.

The meeting terminated at 9.00 pm



Your ref
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Please ask for
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22 February 2005

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The Proprietor/Owner

25 FEB 2005

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: **Contamination of Food Products with Illegal Dye Sudan I**
The Colours in Food Regulations 1995

Pembrokeshire County Council has been made aware that a large number of foods have been inadvertently contaminated with the illegal dye, Sudan I, which was in a batch of chilli powder used to manufacture Worcester Sauce.

Sudan I is not a permitted colour under the Colours in Food Regulations 1995. Sudan I could contribute to an increased risk of cancer and it is not possible to identify a safe level or to quantify the risk. However, at the levels present in these food products the risk is likely to be very small.

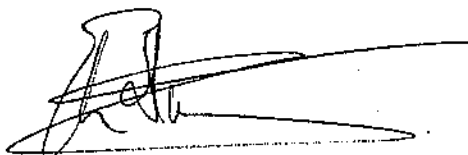
The foods affected, including soups, sauces and ready meals have been distributed widely throughout the food chain. More than 350 lines are currently known to be affected. We have included a list with the most current products known to be affected.

If you find any of the affected products listed please remove those products from sale immediately, and contact your supplier to discuss arrangements for removal.

For further information or an updated list of affected products please visit the food standards agency web site on www.food.gov.uk.

This letter is also available in welsh, if you would like a welsh copy please phone the above number.

Yours faithfully



Emma Hayes
Senior Environmental Health Officer
Public Protection Division



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Cyngor Sir Penfro - Pembrokeshire County Council

Sudan I product list 18 February 2005

This is a list of products that are currently known to be affected. Some products have now been reformulated to take out the affected ingredient, so you should look for the use-by/Best Before Date or the batch number to tell you if the product you have should not be eaten.

If in doubt you can contact the store you bought it from to check. The Agency has made this list relying on information given to us by manufacturers and retailers.

This list was last updated on 18 February 2005 at 13.25

	Product Description	Manufacturer/ Supplier	Batch Number	Best Before Date or Use By Dates (up to and including unless otherwise stated)	Product Type
1	Aldi Supreme Vegetable Soup 400g can	Aldi		Feb 07	Canned Food
2	Reduced Calorie Seafood 250mls	Asda		14-Jan-05	Sauce
3	Cumberland Sausage retail 170g	Asda		21-Feb-05	Chilled Foods
4	Cumberland sausage sandwich filling 170g	Asda		02 Mar 05	Fresh Foods
5	12 Mini Chicken & BBQ Bites	Asda		not yet known	Fresh Foods
6	8 BBQ Snack Rolls (chilled product 10 day life)	Asda		not yet known	Fresh Foods
7	Tomato and Bacon Bake 420g	Asda		06-Jan-06	Frozen Ready Meal
8	3 Bean Pasta Bake 500g	Asda		24-Jan-06	Frozen Ready Meal
9	Tomato & Pepperoni 500g	Asda		03-Feb-06	Frozen Ready Meal
10	Sausage Casserole 580g	Asda		27-Jan-06	Frozen Ready Meal
11	Bangers & Mash 400g	Asda		not yet known	Frozen Ready Meal
12	Shepherds Pie 4pack 4 x 170g	Asda		not yet known	Frozen Ready Meal
13	Corned Beef Hash 400g	Asda		not yet known	Frozen Ready Meal
14	Shepherd Pie 400g	Asda		not yet known	Frozen Ready Meal
15	Smart Price Cottage Pie 4pack 4 x 166g	Asda		not yet known	Frozen Ready Meal
16	GFY BBQ Chicken and Wedges 450g	Asda		not yet known	Frozen Ready Meal
17	GFY Cottage Pie 400g	Asda		not yet known	Frozen Ready Meal
18	GFY Chicken Hotpot 400g	Asda		not yet known	Frozen Ready Meal
19	Beef Stew and Dumplings 400g	Asda		not yet known	Frozen Ready Meal
20	TOMATO & BACON FAMILY BAKE 500g	Asda		not yet known	Ready Meal
21	Barbecue Chicken 330g	Asda		20-Feb-05	Ready Meal
22	ES Aberdeen Angus Cottage Pie 600g	Asda		23-Feb-05	Ready Meal
23	Value Cottage Pie 300g	Asda		23-Feb-05	Ready Meal
24	Traditional Cumberland Pie 1500g	Asda		23-Feb-05	Ready Meal
25	Traditional Cumberland Pie 450g	Asda		23-Feb-05	Ready Meal
26	Traditional Cumberland Pie 800g	Asda		23-Feb-05	Ready Meal
27	American BBQ Ribs 350g	Asda		23-Feb-05	Ready Meal
28	Traditional Shepherds Pie 450g	Asda		23-Feb-05	Ready Meal
29	Traditional Shepherds Pie 800g	Asda		23-Feb-05	Ready Meal
30	Traditional Cottage Pie 900g	Asda		23-Feb-05	Ready Meal
31	Traditional Cottage Pie 450g	Asda		23-Feb-05	Ready Meal
32	Traditional Cottage Pie 1500g	Asda		23-Feb-05	Ready Meal
33	Kids Shepherds Pie 300g	Asda		23-Feb-05	Ready Meal
34	Mini Classics Minced Beef Casserole and Dumplings 300g	Asda		23-Feb-05	Ready Meal
35	Vegetarian Cottage Pie 450g	Asda		23-Feb-05	Ready Meal
36	Vegetarian Spaghetti Bolognese 450g	Asda		23-Feb-05	Ready Meal
37	Vegetarian Lasagne 450g	Asda		23-Feb-05	Ready Meal
38	Vegetarian Vegetable Casserole 450g	Asda		23-Feb-05	Ready Meal
39	Traditional Steak and Kidney Casserole 450g	Asda		23-Feb-05	Ready Meal