

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22 JANUARY 2014 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
PART 1

PRESENT:
Councillors

Bottomer, B. (Chairman)

Bernard, J.D.

Morgan, C.W.J.

Johnson, J.

Pearson, A.

Jones, R.

Snape, P.A. (substitute for
Sutton, Mrs H.M.)

20. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs H.M. Sutton.

21. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

No Declarations of Interests were made in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members' Interests.

22. Minutes

Councillor Johnson queried if there had been any progress in respect of Redbrook Lane (Minute No. 16 refers)?

The Environmental Protection Manager replied that an update had not been received from the Environment Agency as to when the waste would be removed, but the Council was undertaking regular monitoring of the site to ensure there were no pest control issues or unauthorised access occurring.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed.

23. Environment Priority Delivery Plan 2013/14

Consideration was given to the Environment Priority Delivery Plan 2013/14 quarter two performance (Item 4.1 – 4.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Indicator - undertake an information & motivational campaign to increase recycling

The Head of Housing and Waste Management informed Members that following a question raised by Councillor J. Bernard at the previous meeting, additional text had been provided for the indicator to show specific collection amounts for garden waste and dry recycling compared to the same quarter for 2012-13.

Performance Measure - 'residual household waste per household – target 412kg'

The Head of Housing and Waste Management reported that there had been an increase in waste collected during quarter two compared to quarter one for the third year in a row. This trend was not consistent with other authorities in Staffordshire, so it was difficult to understand why the increase was occurring.

Councillor J. Bernard queried if there had been any impact on waste collection services as a result of the increase?

The Head of Housing and Waste Management replied that no impact had been felt, as the additional waste was still collected as part of the normal rounds.

Councillor Johnson queried if the increase in waste collection for quarter two could be attributed to more garden waste being put into household waste bins, as a greater amount of such waste was produced during the summer months?

The Senior Technical Officer replied that the waste collection lorries carried a greater load (typically 10-11 tonnes) compared to the recycling collection lorries (typically 7-8 tonnes per load), so that waste lorries could cope with the additional amounts collected.

Performance Measure – '% of household waste sent for re-use, recycling and composting – target 54%'

Councillor R. Jones raised concern that recycling rates for the District appeared to be flatlining rather than accelerating.

The Head of Housing and Waste Management replied that the information and motivational campaign had been established to encourage more people to recycle, with the campaign particularly aiming to engage more school children in recycling.

Councillor R. Jones then commented that residents should be encouraged to apply for larger blue (recycling) bins, to improve the amount they can recycle.

Councillor Johnson queried if in future an extra collection of dry recycling could be scheduled for after Christmas each year due to the additional amount of such recycling produced?

The Head of Housing and Waste Management responded that it could be difficult to implement as waste and recycling were collected under different contracts, but it could be looked into anyway.

Indicator – ‘inspect and monitor all flood risk sites within the District each month and during periods of heavy rain’

Councillor R. Jones queried if there were any significant flood risk areas within the District?

The Head of Housing and Waste Management replied that flood risks were not on the same scale as seen in southern England, but there were a small number of properties which could be badly affected.

The Senior Technical Officer further replied that there were half a dozen sites in the District which were subject to regular monitoring, however the Council was responsible only for water courses on Council owned land, as private water courses were the responsibility of private land owners, and highways gully’s were the responsibility of the County Council.

Councillor Johnson queried that as Rugeley was particularly susceptible to flash flooding, would the installation of larger drains help to alleviate the problem?

The Senior Technical Officer replied that as the road/highways gulleys were all the same size, a different design/size of drain would not necessarily solve the issue.

The Chairman advised that it was the policy of the County Council to clean out the drainage system across the County on an annual basis, but could do more cleaning in the event of an emergency.

Councillor J. Bernard requested that details of all the flood risk areas within the District be circulated to all Members for information.

RESOLVED:

That

- (A) The Environment Priority Delivery Plan 2013/14 quarter two actions and performance be noted.
- (B) All Members of the Council be issued with details of the identified flood risk areas within the District.

24. Love Your Street Update

Consideration was given to the Briefing Note of the Head of Policy (Item 5.1 – 5.15 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Local Strategic Partnerships Manager informed Members that the ‘Love Your Street’ project had arisen out of residents’ concerns with their neighbourhood, particularly after dark, so the primary aims of the project were to improve residents’ perceptions about where they live, and improve the community feel.

Members were then given an overview of the second event of the project which had taken place in Chadsmoor, and had received very positive feedback from agencies, partners and the local community. A third event had also taken place called ‘Love Your Block’ which had been led by the Council’s Housing team.

Councillor Pearson noted from the report that some residents had refused the offer of home safety checks from Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

The Local Strategic Partnerships Manager responded that refusals did unfortunately happen, and it was often the case that those who refused the checks had the greatest need for them to take place.

Councillor J. Bernard commented that the event had been a great success for the area, and queried if any follow-up visits had been planned.

The Local Strategic Partnerships Manager replied that a visit would be taking place in February or March to conduct a further litter picking exercise and a general clean up of the area, although agencies such as the Police and Fire Service were making regular visits as part of their normal duties.

The Environmental Protection Manager reported that since publication of the report, the award presentation had taken place at Redhill Primary School.

Councillor Snape thanked the Officers involved in the project for helping to make it a success; in particular how well it was co-ordinated with partner organisations.

RESOLVED:

That the Briefing Note and update be noted.

25. Refresh of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Housing and Waste Management (Item 6.1 – 6.65 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet, at its meeting to be held on 20 March 2014, is recommended to approve the refresh of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (2007-2020).

Reasons for Decision

Consultation on the 'refreshed' updated Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy produced by the Staffordshire Waste Partnership (SWP) has been completed.

In overall terms, the results are considered to be positive and as a result only limited changes have been made to the draft strategy.

A final version has now been produced and is attached at Appendix 1 to the report. This has been recommended by the SWP and its partner authorities for approval, before ratification by the Joint Waste Management Board in April 2014.

It is therefore proposed that the updated Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy be recommended to Cabinet for approval.

26. Energy Recovery Facility Update

Consideration was given to the Briefing Note of the Head of Housing and Waste Management (Item 7.1 – 7.2 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Senior Technical Officer advised that despite operational issues experienced at the Four Ashes Energy Recovery Facility since it opened in November, the Council had been able to make daily deliveries to the Facility for at least the last fortnight. Members were then advised that in April, the Joint Staffordshire Waste Board were due to formally visit the Facility, after which time councils and schools across the County would be able to visit also.

Councillor J. Bernard queried if there were any targets in place for the amount of waste the Facility must collect and could any fines be imposed if those targets were not met?

The Senior Technical Officer replied that no targets were in place for the Facility, but for Staffordshire as a whole there was a target in place for 0% of waste to be delivered to landfill by the year 2020.

Councillor Snape queried that as a result of phased deliveries being lower than planned since the Facility opened, had the Council suffered any additional costs by having to deliver the waste to landfill instead, and had there been any

complaints from residents about adverse noise/smells coming from the Facility?

The Senior Technical Officer replied that any costs would be picked up by the County Council as the Waste Disposal Authority, and so far no complaints had been received.

Councillor R. Jones queried if waste fumes emitted from the Facility were analysed?

The Environmental Protection Manager replied that the Facility and Poplars Landfill Site were both regulated by the Environment Agency and issued with permits which detailed what should be in place to alleviate and reduce pollution.

RESOLVED:

That the current position regarding the disposal of waste collected by the Council at the Four Ashes Energy Recovery Facility be noted.

27. The Future of the Poplars Landfill Site

Consideration was given to the Briefing Note of the Head of Environmental Health (Item 8.1 – 8.12 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Environmental Protection Manager reported that as Biffa Waste Services Ltd were no longer handling municipal waste, they were looking into taking on commercial and industrial waste streams instead and that any issues raised in relation to the Poplars Site were reported to the Liaison Group which met twice a year.

Councillor Snape raised concern that by no longer taking municipal waste, Biffa could potentially take on any kind of waste, which could include hazardous materials.

The Environmental Protection Manager replied that the permit held by the Site would specify what types of waste could be accepted. If they were to consider taking on hazardous waste this would most likely require a special permit being issued and approval by the County Council in order to amend the Site's planning conditions.

Councillor R. Jones commented that he understood the Site was due to close down and there was an EU directive in place to stop certain types of waste disposal taking place from the year 2015.

The Environmental Protection Manager replied that the Council had very little involvement with the operation of the Site, as this was primarily the responsibility of the Environment Agency and County Council.

The Head of Housing and Waste Management further replied that page 12 of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy detailed the relevant EU

legislation in place in respect of waste collection/disposal and associated timeframes.

Councillor Pearson queried what impact other waste lorries visiting the Site would have on air quality in the area?

The Environmental Protection Manager replied that air quality had been improving, which was mainly down to provision of cleaner fuels and more efficient vehicle engines, however alongside this the Council was working with the Highways Agency to determine how road layouts in the area could be improved to further reduce impacts on air quality.

RESOLVED:

That the information provided by Biffa Waste Services Ltd and that in relation to the Poplars Landfill Liaison Group be noted.

28. Review of Work Programme – 2013-14 Municipal Year

Consideration was given to the Environment PDC Work Programme 2013/14 (Item 9.1 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the updated Environment PDC Work Programme for 2013/14 be approved.

The meeting closed at 5:05pm

CHAIRMAN