

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**HELD ON THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER AT 4.00 P.M.**  
**IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**

**PART 1**

PRESENT:  
Councillors

Bottomer, B. (Chairman)

|                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Bennett, C         | Johnson, J. (substitute) |
| Dean, A.           | Jones, R.                |
| Freeman, Miss M.A. | Stretton, Mrs. Z.P.      |

**15. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs. H.M. Sutton (substituted by J.P. Johnson).

**16. 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.

**17. Minutes**

Minute No. 12 – Environmental Crime

Cllr. Bennett provided the Committee with an update on the recently launched 'anti-spitting' campaign which had been rolled out across the District, detailing that progress had so far gone well, with enforcement officers from Environmental Protection going out to schools and giving talks to pupils, and GP surgeries in Rugeley offering to provide information about the campaign on their patient information display screens. He then thanked the Environmental Protection Manager and his Team for the work they had undertaken in relation to the campaign.

Cllr. Jones commented that he had heard the talk given by Officers at Etching Hill School, noting that its message was backed up by the teachers and well received by the pupils in attendance.

Cllr. Stretton raised concern about the issue of chewing gum being 'spat' onto the pavement in Cannock town centre, and queried if the problems associated with this could be drawn to the attention of young people also.

The Environmental Protection Manager replied that existing provisions were already in place as part of dealing with the issue of dropped litter, however if someone was caught doing it they could be dealt with in the same way as someone who was spitting.

The Waste & Engineering Services Manager further replied that two years ago the Council had spent approximately £12,000 District wide on cleaning chewing gum from pavements etc., and following that, had bought a cleaning machine which could be used in future if necessary.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 October, 2014, be approved as a correct record and signed.

#### **18. Environment Priority Delivery Plan (PDP) 2014-15 – Quarter 2 Performance Update**

Consideration was given to the Environment PDP 2014-15 quarter two performance update (Item 4.1 – 4.4 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Cllr. Bennett raised he was pleased with the hard work and effort put in by Officers to achieve the performance indicators for the second quarter, and noted that the only indicator not achieved ('manage and deliver 'Heath Week' campaign') was as a result of long term sickness in the relevant team.

The Head of Housing & Waste Management further advised the Committee that although the indicator had not been achieved, no funding had been lost as the campaign was funded through normal service budgets.

RESOLVED:

That the Environment Priority Delivery Plan 2014-15 quarter two performance update be noted.

#### **19. Quality of Recycling Material**

Members received a presentation from the Waste & Engineering Services Manager on the following topics:

- "Recycling Isn't Rubbish – It's a Resource!"
- "Just because you don't want it, it doesn't mean to say it cannot be turned into something useful again"
- "Does it make sense to bury or burn something that can still be used again?"
- Why recycling matters
- Why certain items can't be put into the blue bins
- New Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) code
- Contaminated blue bins and Good blue bins
- What we're doing about it
- Objectives and How campaign will be delivered

Cllr. Freeman raised that she was still concerned about the management of waste and recycling facilities in communal areas, such as those located in social housing, blocks of flats etc., and queried what the Council was doing to speak to landlords about it.

The Waste & Engineering Services Manager replied that there was an ongoing challenge with social landlords to educate them about what should and shouldn't be done, and how they can put pressure on residents to keep communal areas well maintained. As the waste collection authority, the Council had a statutory responsibility to remove residual waste, but could remove 'extra' storage capacity for such waste if residents were not disposing of it correctly. Additionally, the Planning Department were providing help by allowing Waste Services to view and comment on planning applications which included provision for bin stores in communal sites.

Cllr. Dean queried why school visiting weren't listed as one of the ways in which the recycling campaign was going to be delivered given the concerns raised that they were less interested in recycling compared to their elders.

The Waste & Engineering Services Manager replied that it was primarily down to cost and lack of available resources, but school visits would be considered where feasible.

The Environmental Protection Manager further replied that his Officers were already attempting to make contact with schools as part of providing talks about littering etc., so there was the potential for recycling matters to also be covered.

Cllr. Stretton suggested that schools should be contacted to request they include waste and recycling issues as part of their social and health education lessons.

Cllr. Stretton then commented that in Germany residential blocks had separate communal waste and recycling bins in place for residents' use, and fines could be issued if they were not used correctly.

The Waste & Engineering Services Manager replied that this would not be practical to operate in the District as the Council's waste lorries only allowed for 'co-mingling' collections, meaning items were instead separated out at the waste delivery plants.

Cllr. Bennett raised that he would speak with relevant Officers separately about the schools issue and report progress back to the next meeting of the Committee.

## **20. Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014**

Consideration was given to the Briefing Note of the Head of Environmental Health (Item 6.1 – 6.3 of the Official Minutes of the Council) *presented by the Environmental Protection Manager.*

The Environmental Protection Manager advised that the report recommending changes to the Constitution's scheme of delegation would be presented to Cabinet on 18 December, 2014, for consideration instead of Council in January 2015 as was stated in the Briefing Note.

**21. Work Programme for 2014-15**

Consideration was given to the Committee's updated work programme for 2014-15 (Item 7.1 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the updated Environment Policy Development Committee work programme for 2014-15 be approved.

The meeting closed at 5:05pm

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CHAIRMAN