

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MONDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2009 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Pearce, Mrs. L. J. (Chairman)
Bernard, J. D. (Vice-Chairman)

Alcott, G. Mawle, D.L.
Bullock, L.W. Williams, A.
Kraujalis, J.T.

(An apology for absence was received from Councillor M.R. Green).

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

Bullock, L. W.	Verdant Greenstar is a customer of his employer	Personal
Bullock, L. W.	Member has dealings with street cleansing sister company of Greenstar	Personal

6. Minutes

AGREED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the meeting held on 22 June, 2009 be approved as a correct record.

7. 2009/10 Quarter 1 Performance and Finance Report

Consideration was given to the Report of the Director of Service Improvement (Enclosure 4.1 – 4.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Mr. J. Heminsley, Planning Services Manager, reported on the Amber rating for Major Planning Applications and stated that the first quarter performance was 60% against an annual target of 81.6% which was the English District top quartile figure. He provided information to the Committee on what had been done to improve progress and also what was planned.

A Member raised concern that the Council was above average for refusing planning applications and asked if this affected the figures, and was also keen to know the percentage effect on figures

in relation to the refusal of applications by the Planning Control Committee and those appealed against. The Planning Services Manager provided information and stated that applicants had a further chance in which to submit a planning application, and indicated that the Government were planning to move away from time scale indicators. He also advised that there could be an effect in respect of the refusal of planning applications by the Planning Control Committee on appeal performance although the Committee was entitled to make its own decision. However, this did not impact on the overall performance of the planning application decision timescale indicators as only the period up to the Council's decisions whether approval or refusal was measured.

Members referred to the negotiation of a revised lease for Hednesford Hills Raceway and expressed their concern that there was no timescale implemented for this and a copy was currently with the applicants' Solicitor for signing.

AGREED:

- (A) That the performance outturn for Quarter 1 as detailed at Annex 1, be noted
- (B) That the exception reports, as detailed at Annex 2, which describe the actions taken and actions proposed to be taken by Lead Officers for any action or performance indicator classified as Red or Amber; be noted
- (C) That the financial outturn for Quarter 1 as detailed at Annex 3, be noted.

8. Climate Change Paper

The Planning Services Manager gave a presentation to Members on Planning for Climate Change.

He reported that more extreme weather conditions and hotter, drier summers were expected as part of the predications for the climate in the UK. This was happening as a result of carbon dioxide, greenhouse gases and methane. He advised on the consequences of this and what people were needed to do to try and help the situation.

The Planning Services Manager then reported on the role of the Planning System, National, Regional and Local Policy.

Members were then provided with information on Sustainable Construction and BREEAM which was the system for commercial buildings which meant there was a need for monitoring systems and a more sophisticated whole development approach.

Members were then provided with details on transport, green spaces, water and flooding and the national indicators relating to climate change.

A Member made reference to the Core Strategy and was keen to know if there had been any public consultation. The Planning Services Manager advised that where major new housing would be allocated within the District, it would need to be in areas of open space. He also advised that a draft would be presented to all Members in October and a meeting with key stakeholders.

9. Environment Enforcement Action Plan 2009/10

Mrs. K. Sulway, Environmental Health Manager reported that all the actions had been carried out although some were not within the allocated timescale which was beyond the department's control.

Objective 1 – Determine Duty of Care ...

Action (i) – It was reported that compliance visits had been scheduled to start week commencing 28 September, 2009 and the database would be reviewed around October and January 2010.

Objective 2 – Work with Partners to ...

It was reported that Officers had engaged with the Police and carried out exercises on vehicles capable of carrying waste. 13 vehicles were stopped, 3 Notices were served, one subsequently applied for a licence and the others were given 10 days in which to apply for one.

Objective 3 – Raise awareness of Duty of Care ...

Action (i) – It was reported that all DIY outlets supported the 'raising awareness of Duty of Care' initiative.

Action (iv) - It was reported that leaflets would be distributed between the end of September and beginning of October.

Action (v) – It was reported that this initiative with respect to Parking Enforcement Officers would be reviewed next year.

Objective 7 – Reduce Incidence of Dog Fouling

An agency had been appointed to provide covert surveillance of hot spots across the area where people were allowing dogs to foul. Members raised concern that an agency had been appointed to undertake this task. The Environmental Health Manager advised that a permanent employee could not be removed from their role to fulfil this task and advised that there were only limited hours for it to be carried out.

The Environmental Health Manager stated that she would raise the issue concerning the sign at the Poplars Tip at the next meeting of the Poplars Landfill meeting.

10. Update on Recycling Wheeled Bin Trial

Consideration was given to the Briefing Note of the Head of Environmental Services (Enclosure 7.1 – 7.8 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Mr. L. Neate, Waste and Engineering Services Manager presented the report to Members.

He stated that the trial commenced on 16 March, 2009 and was currently ongoing. He referred to Annex 6 of the report and provided details on the comparison of contents prior to the trial and during the trial.

A Member was keen to know if households would have the option to purchase blue recycling boxes. The Waste and Engineering Services Manager advised that the boxes were not normally sold through the Council and brown and green wheeled bins were currently hired.

Members raised issues around health and safety when the Council's Refuse Collectors were carrying out their duties. Members were advised that the Health and Safety Executive carried out reviews every 2 years and had advised that the Refuse Collectors could carry a maximum of 55 litres.

Members discussed the possibility of reducing the size of bins, however the Waste and Engineering Services Manager reported that this had been considered whilst the trial was taking place and it was not really feasible.

AGREED:

- (A) That the contents of the report on the outcome of the first three months of the Recycling Wheeled Bin Trial, be noted.
- (B) That a further report on the final outcome of the trial which will run until October 2009, be received at the next meeting.

CHAIRMAN