

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY, 12 MARCH, 2013 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
PART 1

PRESENT:
Councillors

Bottomer, B. (Chairman)

Anslow, C.	Rowley, J.
Ball, G. D.	Sutton, Mrs. H. M.
Jones, R.	Toth, J.
Pearson, A.	

15. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor A. Lovell.

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

With regard to Minute 14, Urban Forestry Strategy, the Head of Environmental Services explained that he had sought legal advice in relation to the query raised by the Environment Portfolio Leader regarding there being no mechanism within the Strategy to enable elected Members to consider residents concerns with respect to trees. Legal had advised that the Appeals and Complaints Panel hears requests for a review of a decision delegated to officers in respect of various housing issues. If Members of the Committee wished to proceed to be able to review officer decisions on tree matters they could make a request to Council for the Terms of Reference of the Appeals and Complaints Panel to be amended so that it includes the following:

“Dealing with requests for review of decisions made by officers in the Urban Forestry Section in response to requests to carry out work to Council owned trees”.

Members agreed to pursue this suggestion.

RESOLVED:

(A) That the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 December, 2012 be approved as

a correct record.

(B) That Council be requested to amend the Terms of Reference of the Appeals and Complaints Panel to include:-

“1.1(f) dealing with requests for review of decisions made by officers in the Urban Forestry Section in response to requests to carry out work to Council owned trees”.

18. Performance Outturn Update – Quarter 3

The Head of Environmental Services advised that the outcomes detailed in the Performance Outturn Updates were self explanatory.

Concern was raised with respect to the litter through the main Heath Hayes area from the Burntwood border at Five Ways Island and also along the A5 in Norton Canes. The Head of Environmental Services agreed to investigate this.

Further concern was expressed regarding advertising signs on the verges adjacent to the Highway that were appearing in a number of locations throughout the District. The Head of Environmental Services explained that fly posting on District Council land was dealt with by the Planning Enforcement Officer. If Members advised him of the locations he would pass this onto the relevant Officer.

RESOLVED:

That the performance outturn update for Quarter 3 be noted.

19. Waste Overview

The Waste and Engineering Services Manager provided Members with a presentation - Waste Management Overview within Cannock Chase.

He outlined the current kerbside service which involved a three bin system and a fortnightly collection of residual waste, garden and food waste and dry recycling and WEEE. The residual waste and garden and food waste was collected by the Direct Labour Organisation (internally) and the dry recycling and WEEE was collected externally by the Contractor (BIFFA). The collections were carried out all year round with only three bank holidays off per year (Christmas/Boxing Day and New Years Day). There were 62,000 properties serviced each week using 9 refuse collection vehicles (6 belonging to the Council and 3 belonging to the Contractor).

He further explained the other waste provision within the District which included:

- 7 x bring sites across the district
 - Textiles
 - WEEE
 - Books
 - Paper
 - Glass
 - Plastics

- Bulky Waste Collection Service (560 collections)
- Commercial Waste (135 customers)
- Schools Recycling Service (35)

With regard to the statistics for 2011/12 he advised that 38,000 tonnes of waste were collected, as follows:

- 18,000 tonnes of general waste (green bin)
- 11,000 tonnes of dry recycling (blue bin)
- 8,500 tonnes of garden and food waste (brown bin)
- 250 tonnes of litter
- 250 tonnes from bring sites

The Authority was in the top quartile for recycling and costs with a 52.2% recycling rate. It ranked 48th out of 352 local authorities and historically was the cheapest in Staffordshire (5th out of 10 in Staffordshire).

The aim within Staffordshire had been “Zero to Landfill by 2020”. With the development of the incinerator at Four Ashes, this aim would be achieved by 2014. Therefore, a Staffordshire Joint Municipal Waste Strategy Refresh 2013 had been developed with 6 key principles:

- Waste prevention
- Efficiency savings
- Resource recovery
- Carbon reduction
- Infrastructure and contracts
- Municipal waste (household and commercial)

The issues affecting the services were then outlined:

- Capacity – 1,400 bins/day/crew – considering a 7th refuse vehicle
- Extra journey time to incinerator – impact as just over 4 miles from the border
- Health and Safety – Dangerous drivers etc – ongoing operation with Police
- Major changes means day changes
- Increasing numbers of residents on pullout service
- Bins left out by residents – problem in certain areas – focus on education rather than enforcement
- Restricted access due to parked cars

He then outlined the possible options for the future delivery of the service which may be considered. These included:

Service Changes – suspend winter garden and food collection. However, if the service was suspended for 3 months there would be a loss of approximately £35k in recycling credits.

Container Options – Smaller containers for general waste so as to provide an incentive to recycle more.

Collection Options – Saturdays and later collections.

Members were advised that the contract for the service ran for ten years, with an option to change from 2015/16. It was anticipated that the DLO would apply for the renewal of the contract which consisted of:

- Kerbside Collection
 - Garden and food
 - General waste (residual)
 - Dry recycling
- Disposal
 - Materials recycling facilities (dry recycling)
 - In-vessel composting (garden and food waste) – County want CCDC to join their contract. (This would only be considered if there was no financial deficit to the Authority).

Following the presentation Members were offered the opportunity to ask any questions. The Chairman asked how successful the WEEE collection had been. Officers advised that WEEE was a collection of Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment for recycling. This had commenced on 7 January 2013 and had proved quite successful. It was planned to issue a further press release to advertise the service.

Councillor Jones asked whether consideration had been given to extending the green bin collection from 2 weeks to 3 weeks and sought clarification as to whether all the waste taken to the incinerator would be burnt.

The Waste and Engineering Services Manager advised that all options regarding changes to the service would be considered. However, as the current service worked well and residents were happy with it, it could prove unpopular to extend the collection by an extra week. He explained that all the waste taken to the incinerator would not be separated prior to being burnt. However, all the poisonous substances would be removed beforehand.

Members raised the issue of using smaller bins. The Waste and Engineering Services Manager advised it was not proposed to replace the whole of the bins in the District as this would be too costly. Consideration would be given to replacing any new bins with smaller bins, replacing lost bins with smaller bins and issuing smaller bins to residents who requested one. More promotion would be necessary so that residents were aware that smaller bins were available.

Members noted that the education of residents was important to ensure they were encouraged to recycle more effectively. Officers explained that school children had been involved in recycling events and this had proved successful as the children had educated their parents regarding recycling.

Councillor Pearson stated that there was no facility to recycle plastic at the Poplars landfill site. The Waste and Engineering Services Manager explained that he would ask the operator why there was no provision to recycle plastic.

Councillor Toth raised concern regarding the air quality from the additional traffic

that would be generated on the A5 as a result of the new incinerator facility at Four Ashes. Additionally he commented on the amount of waste that came to the Poplars Landfill site from all over the country along the A5. He explained that re-routing of vehicles would be considered.

The issue of residents leaving their bins out on the pavement was then discussed. The Head of Environmental Services explained that there were certain areas within the District where this was a problem. He made reference to Arch Street, Rugeley where bins were continually left on the pavement adjacent to the Highway and this caused problems for passing pedestrians and caused an obstruction for pedestrians with prams or using a wheelchair. It was agreed that action was needed to improve the situation in this regard.

Members discussed the issue of the brown bins being empty during the winter months. It was noted that the majority of residents put their food waste in their green bin due to there being very little garden waste during this period. The Waste and Engineering Services Manager explained that some survey work was to be undertaken which would look at what residents were putting in their bins. This would give an indication of what needed to be targeted.

Arising from the discussions regarding the possible changes to the service Members noted that it would be unpopular with residents if the option to recycle the food waste was no longer available. Additionally, if garden waste was chargeable Officers explained that this would discourage residents from using their brown bins. Members were advised that this was trialled in a London Borough a few years ago. Waste bins had been micro chipped, the waste weighed and residents invoiced for the removal of the waste. However, it had proved impracticable as residents had been using waste bins that did not belong to them. Councillor Toth commented that Cannock Chase residents paid their Council Tax and having their refuse bins collected was a service that was expected.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation on Waste Services be noted.

20. Other Item

Councillor Pearson raised the issue of litter bins outside bus stops. In particular, he made reference to the bus stop on the Rugeley Road, Hednesford and asked what the procedure was for getting a litter bin erected.

The Head of Environmental Services advised that the procedure was to replace damaged bins prior to erecting new ones. However, since the Council had taken over the contract there was more flexibility. If there was a valid case for a litter bin, one could be erected if practicable and when the budget allowed. He confirmed that the area referred to by Councillor Pearson was on the waiting list for a new bin.

CHAIRMAN

The meeting closed at 5.10 p.m.