

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**HELD ON THURSDAY 22 AUGUST 2013 AT 4.00 P.M.**  
**IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**  
**PART 1**

PRESENT:  
Councillors

Bottomer, B. (Chairman)  
Toth, J. (Vice-Chairman)

Bennett, C.	Pearson, A.
Jones, R.	Snape, P. (substituting for Johnson, J.)
Morgan, C.W.J.	Sutton, Mrs. H. M.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J.D. Bernard and J. Johnson.

Councillor Johnson had given notice that Councillor P.A. Snape would be attending the Committee as his substitute.

**2. 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.

**3. Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2013 be approved as a correct record.

**4. Environment Priority Delivery Plan 2013/14**

Consideration was given to the Environment Priority Delivery Plan 2013/14. Members referred to enclosure 4.15 and questioned why the baseline and target information was not included. The Senior Technical Officer advised that this information would be emailed to Members following the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the Environment Priority Delivery Plan 2013/14 be noted.

## **5. Environmental Crime**

Members received a presentation from the Environmental Protection Manager and consideration was given to the Environmental Enforcement Action Plan 2013/14 (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The presentation outlined the outcomes during 2012-13 and intentions for 2013-14.

### **Outcomes:**

#### **Duty of Care**

- Tyre fitting and waste contractors – 16 assessed and properly regulated
- Food businesses – 334 assessed to be compliant
- Industrial sites – 5 new installations brought into regime

#### **Waste Carriers**

- stop and search operations – 4 undertaken with Police, VOSA and HMRC
- Working with other Council's – information sharing initiative with Walsall

#### **Awareness Raising**

- Re-launch the £100 reward initiative for information on fly tipping that leads to a successful conviction
- Maintain and renew signage at hotspots

#### **Reduce Fly Tipping**

- Fly tipping incidents reduced from 336 previous year to 318 in 2012-13
- Liaison with businesses for CCTV footage of incidents
- Covert CCTV deployed to investigate incidents

#### **Reduce Littering**

- Complaints increased from 153 to 185
- Patrol hotspots – 154 fixed penalties issued and 5 successful prosecutions
- Publicity campaign with bus companies
- Promotional work with High Schools – Year 7 pupils at all schools received littering presentation
- Press releases issued

#### **Reduce Dog Fouling**

- Incidents reported reduced from 230 to 185

- Patrol of Hotspots – 23 Fixed penalties issued and one successful conviction
- Campaign to promote responsible dog ownership
- Signage displayed and maintained

### **Intentions 2013-14:**

#### Highlights:

- Duty of care focus on landscaping, gardening and waste services
- Implementation of Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 2013
- Display of signage – new banners for littering/dog fouling
- Mix of High visibility and covert patrols
- “Responsible dog” education at primary schools
- Work with community/voluntary groups on dog fouling
- Micro-chipping initiatives to tackle strays

Following the presentation Members were offered the opportunity to ask any questions. Councillor Pearson made reference to waste carriers carrying skips that had not been netted. This had resulted in bricks dropping off the skips and an accident had occurred whereby a cyclist had fallen off his bike. The Environmental Protection Manager asked Members to make a note of the registration number of any vehicle carrying a skip which was not netted and this could be pursued through the DVLA. Furthermore an advisory letter could be sent to waste carriers operating in the area reminding them to net their skips.

Councillor Toth referred to manhole covers being stolen for the scrap metal value and considered that it would assist in catching the culprits if there was a log of where scrap metal ended up. The Environmental Protection Manager advised that Scrap Metal Dealers had to record what they received and sold but there was no log of the end user. Councillor Toth also asked whether extra resources would be provided to assist in the new legislation regarding Scrap Metal Dealers. The Environmental Protection Manager advised that a series of compliance checks were programmed in throughout the year although no extra resources would be provided.

Councillor Toth also considered that if copper had to be registered it would make it more difficult to steal. The Environmental Protection Manager commented that the Police had powers in this respect. The conditions of the Scrap Metal Dealers Licence would be breached if there was no record of where the copper had come from.

#### RESOLVED:

That the Environmental Crime presentation and Environmental Enforcement Action Plan 2013/14 be noted.

## **6. Urban Forestry Strategy**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Commissioning (Enclosure Item 6.1 – 6.4 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Head of Commissioning explained that this was the third time this Strategy had been considered by the Committee. He confirmed that the Terms of Reference of the Appeals and Complaints Panel had been amended to enable the Panel to deal 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.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet be recommended to adopt the Urban Forestry Strategy 2013-18, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

## **7. Recycling of Waste and Electrical and Electronic Equipment**

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

Members considered that the service should be better publicised as the Scrap Metal Merchants were collecting any scrap metal left out by the public. It was confirmed that the service would be promoted on the Refuse Collection Calendars that were circulated just before Christmas.

RESOLVED:

That the information contained in the Briefing Note in respect of the recycling of Waste and Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) be noted.

## **8. Energy Recovery Facility Update**

Consideration was given to the Briefing Note of the Head of Housing and Waste Management (Enclosure 8.1 – 8.4 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Councillor Toth raised concern regarding the amount of traffic that would travel to the BIFFA owned Poplars Landfill site once this new facility at Four Ashes was opened. He considered that refuse vehicles from all around the UK would be taking their refuse to the Poplars site and that the vehicles could potentially be travelling through the Bridgtown area. There was also concern regarding the length of time the Poplars Landfill site would remain open. It was explained that it was a Staffordshire County Council function and the District Council had no control over how long it remained open.

The Head of Housing and Waste Management confirmed that the Work Programme for the Committee included an item on the future of the Poplars Site – this would due to be considered at the meeting on 12 December, 2013

and would hopefully cover some of the issues raised by Councillor Toth.

The Environmental Protection Manager agreed to raise the issue of the movement of vehicles to and from the Poplars site at the next Poplars Liaison meeting.

RESOLVED:

(A) That the new arrangements for the disposal of residual waste at the Four Ashes Energy Recovery Facility be noted.

(B) That the Environment Policy Development Committee receive an update on the commissioning of the Energy Recovery Facility and the operational implications for the Council at each meeting throughout the 2013-14 municipal year.

## **9. Love Your Street**

Consideration was given to the Briefing Note of the Head of Policy (Enclosure 9.1 – 9.15 of the Official Minutes of Council).

The Head of Housing and Waste Management led Members through the Briefing Note and sought the Committee's view on the campaign held last year and the proposals for this year.

Members considered that the campaign had been a great success and the officers involved should be congratulated. The Head of Housing and Waste Management agreed to pass these on to the officers concerned.

Councillor Bennett explained that he would be attending a meeting with the relevant officers to discuss the lessons learned from last year's campaign and to discuss the ideas and resources required for this year.

RESOLVED:

That the Briefing Note in respect of the 'Love Your Street' initiative be noted.

## **10. Environment Policy Development Committee Work Programme 2013/14**

Consideration was given to the Environment PDC Work Programme 2013/14 (Enclosure 10.1 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Councillor Toth suggested that when the Poplars Landfill Site was discussed by the Committee in December the operators of the site along with Staffordshire County Council officers be invited to the meeting to talk about the current and proposed operations and to give an indication of how long the site would continue to remain open. The Head of Housing and Waste Management advised that he could invite these officers to the meeting however there was no guarantee they would attend.

RESOLVED:

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

**11. Other Item**

Councillor Pearson raised concern regarding the number of vehicles parking on grass verges outside homes. It was explained that this issue would be covered under the estate walks that were undertaken by Estate Management Officers.

The meeting closed at 4.55pm

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CHAIRMAN