

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE – 2 JANUARY 2002

Minutes of the meeting of **Environmental Health Sub-Committee** held on **2 January 2002** when there were present:

Cllr A Hosking (Chairman)
Cllr P A Capon
Cllr J E Grey
Cllr C C Langlands
Cllr V H Leach

Cllr C R Morgan
Cllr R A Pearson
Cllr Mrs M S Vince
Cllr R E Vingoe
Cllr Mrs M J Webster

OFFICERS PRESENT

R Crofts – Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
G Woolhouse – Head of Housing, Health & Community Care
J Bourne - Leisure & Contracts Manager
Ms S Worthington – Committee Administrator

108 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2001 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to apologies being noted from Cllr P A Capon.

109 SERVICETEAM UPDATE

The Sub-Committee were informed that Gary Such, Serviceteam Area Contracts Manager, was unable to attend due to ill health. The Chairman of the Leisure Sub-Committee had accordingly agreed that any questions Members of this Sub-Committee might wish to raise with respect to the refuse and street cleansing contracts could be taken to the Leisure Sub-Committee meeting next week.

During discussion, the following issues were identified:-

- Some residents received leaflets detailing new days for refuse collection which had the wrong dates printed on them. It subsequently took 3 weeks to rectify collection arrangements.
- The method of communicating changes to refuse collection needs to be examined; leaflets placed on litter bins are inadvisable in wet weather and residents often disregard leaflets through letter boxes.
- Refuse vehicles cause problems on the roads during peak times.
- There has been a slip in performance by the Serviceteam and a deterioration of attitude towards the job.
- Complaints are regularly received from the Parish Council about the maintenance of Plumberow Mount in Hockley: not all dog fouling bins are emptied; grass is not cut around play equipment and broken gates take

longer to be dealt with than in the past.

- How is the Serviceteam performance monitored?
- Rubbish is regularly left in certain areas of Roche ward.
- Rubbish bins have been left lying flat on the pavement in Lingfield Drive and Coombes Grove, Rochford causing an obstruction.
- In Hockley rubbish collects on shop forecourts and at the back of the shops and is never removed.
- In Bellingham Lane there is often wind blown litter arising from local businesses.
- It would be useful to have a presentation on the various stages of the recycling scheme.

It was the consensus of the Sub-Committee that Members should be given the opportunity to raise any questions relating to refuse and street cleansing contracts to the Serviceteam Area Contracts Manager at the next meeting of the Transportation & Environmental Services Committee. Specific questions should be notified to the Committee Office in advance of the meeting to give Serviceteam an opportunity to properly address the issues.

110 STAMBRIDGE SEWAGE TREATMENTS WORKS – PROGRESS REPORT

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care, updating Members on the current actions taking place at the Works.

An abatement notice in respect of noise nuisance was served on Anglian Water Services Ltd on 23 November 2001. The company will have to take remedial action in respect of the noise nuisance by the end of March, unless an appeal is received from them.

Anglian Water have confirmed that they will be undertaking trials to improve odour controls at the Works. A pre-scrubber to the existing Odorguard will also be provided. The Parish Council have agreed that monitoring be reconsidered once the outcome of these trials is known.

No firm date has yet been given for the dismantling of the N-Viro plant; it has merely been confirmed that this will happen within the next few weeks.

One complaint was received about odours on 6th December, during the period that the Odorguard was shut down due to a fault.

Members expressed concern that the Odorguard was shut down by the company without prior warning. It was closed down on the day following a Liaison Meeting, however no mention was made at the meeting. The general

consensus of the Sub-Committee was that the company has made no real attempt at keeping the local community informed.

On a motion moved by Cllr R E Vingoe and seconded by Cllr A Hosking it was:-

RECOMMENDED

That a letter be sent to the responsible Minister giving details of all the difficulties encountered with respect to the Works, and the lack of co-operation of Anglian Water, and expressing concern that sludge from the Works currently goes to landfill, which is a finite resource. This to be copied to the Members of Parliament for the Rayleigh and Rochford & Southend East constituencies and the Environment Agency. (HHHCC)

111 ESSEX BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP REPORT – FUNDING REQUEST

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive requesting funding of £2,000 towards the Essex Biodiversity Partnership, 2002 – 2003.

During Member debate, the following issues were noted:-

- Some concern was raised that it was more important to provide funding for specific projects within the District, rather than for partnership initiatives such as this one.
- There has been little evidence of initiatives coming from the Essex Biodiversity Partnership.
- It is vital that the District's biodiversity is protected by experts.
- The District makes a large contribution to biodiversity by virtue of its coastal, woodland and green belt areas. These could be under pressure in future as a result of the Thames Gateway development.

On a motion moved by Cllr V H Leach and seconded by Cllr C R Morgan it was:-

RECOMMENDED

- (1) That a contribution of £2,000 be made to the Essex Biodiversity Partnership towards the implementation of their action plan in 2002/03, subject to Essex County Council agreeing to support the Partnership project for the next five years and that a report be made on progress at the end of the next financial year.
- (2) That a letter be sent to the Essex Biodiversity Partnership confirming the investment, with the expectation of an appreciable return.

- (3) That the Essex Biodiversity Partnership be invited to give a presentation to Full Council. (CD(F&ES))

112 BEACON LEARNING ACTIVITY DAY

Colchester Borough Council are holding a Beacon Learning Activity Day on waste management on 13 February and are holding one place for this Council.

It was the general consensus of the Sub-Committee that Cllr V H Leach should attend this course and provide feedback to Members.

The meeting opened at 7.30 pm and closed at 8.40 pm.

Chairman

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Date

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