

Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 16 September 2003

Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee** held on **16 September 2003** when there were present:-

Cllr P K Savill (Chairman)
Cllr C A Hungate (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr C I Black
Cllr Mrs R Brown
Cllr T E Goodwin
Cllr K H Hudson

Cllr P F A Webster
Cllr D A Weir

OFFICERS PRESENT

J Bourne	-	Leisure & Contracts Manager
A Bugeja	-	Head of Legal Services
S Worthington	-	Committee Administrator

ALSO ATTENDING

G Such	-	Serviceteam
D Lester	-	Serviceteam

414 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2003 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following being noted:-

Cllr Mrs M A Starke did not attend the meeting and Cllr M G B Starke attended as a visiting Member.

415 SERVICETEAM UPDATE

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director of Finance and External Services updating Members on the progress of the refuse collection and street cleansing contracts in Rochford.

Members noted an amendment to the appendix to the report in that the average weekly total of refuse collected by Serviceteam was of 380 tonnes.

The following issues were raised by Members:-

Recycling

- The blue recycling boxes tended to get blown about during windy weather.

Serviceteam representatives advised that various alternatives to the blue box were currently being investigated

- similarly-sized box with clip-on lid – there would, however, be a capital cost associated with this, in order to cover the purchase cost of the box, approximately £4.
- wheeled 120 litre bin with built in lid – there would also be a capital cost to cover the purchase cost of the bin, approximately £10-£12.

Responding to a Member enquiry, the representatives confirmed that utilising the above wheeled bin would necessitate less frequent collections, but that this, in turn could lead to the requirement for two recycling rounds on a scheduled collection date in order to cope with increased capacity of the bins and more trips to the site at Rainham to empty the vehicle.

Refuse Collections

- The refuse bins were not collected frequently enough, particularly during the hot summer months; the potential for health and safety concerns, particularly with respect to kitchen waste.

Members were advised that additional collections could be made, at an additional cost.

- Members expressed concern that families wishing to purchase an additional grey bin currently had to pay in advance a lump sum of £199.75 which covered the capital cost of purchasing the bin, approximately £10 - £12, plus the collection costs for a 3-year period.

Officers would explore the possibility of a monthly charge for this being incorporated into householders' council tax bills.

- Complaints had been received from residents in Great Wakering about rubbish being left in the roads after bins had been emptied by Serviceteam.

Road Cleansing

- There were instances around the District of litter accumulating in road verges, and in Lower Road, Hockley, in particular.

Officers advised that permission had to be sought from the Police to close roads, such as Lower Road, Hockley, with a 60mph speed limit in order to carry out road cleansing. They would, however, look into the matter.

- The footpath along Greensward College had an accumulation of litter.

The Serviceteam representatives confirmed that this area was on the programme of work of the 'hit squad'.

- A lot of rubbish had collected in the verges by the bridge at the end of White Hart Lane leading into the Broadlands Estate.

The Serviceteam representatives confirmed that this would be investigated.

- Rubbish was not being cleared on a regular basis from the rose garden at the end of Ferry Road in Hullbridge.

Officers advised that this should be done daily on weekdays and that this would be investigated.

- Many landowners had the misconception that it was the District Council's responsibility to keep clear drains and ditches. In reality it was the responsibility of individual landowners. Recently there was a build up of rubbish in the ditches along part of Lower Road, Hockley; the relevant landowners failed to clear the rubbish, which lead to the drains becoming blocked. The situation resulted in County Highways having to dig up part of the road in order to resolve the problem.

Officers advised that they would report back to a future meeting of this Committee on measures that could address this issue.

Removal of White Goods/Furniture

Officers advised Members that white goods, once collected from residents, would be taken to the depot and taken from there under ECC contract to specialist sites for recycling. Furniture would be taken to the civic amenity site.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Chairman

Date