

Environmental Services Committee – 13 March 2007

Minutes of the meeting of the **Environmental Services Committee** held on **13 March 2007** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr M G B Starke

Cllr R A Amner
Cllr T G Cutmore
Cllr J M Pullen

Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr Mrs M A Starke
Cllr Mrs M J Webster

VISITING MEMBER

Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs J P Cottis, Mrs L Hungate, C J Lumley and Mrs J A Mockford.

SUBSTITUTES

Cllr Mrs T J Capon

OFFICERS PRESENT

J Bourne	- Head of Community Services
R Evans	- Head of Environmental Services
R Peacey	- Commercial Regulation Manager
A Lovett	- Street Scene Manager
A Law	- Solicitor
S Worthington	- Committee Administrator

ALSO PRESENT

Mr M Jarvis, Regional Manager Serviceteam Ltd
Mr D Lester, Operations Manager Serviceteam Ltd

67 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

68 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs T J Capon declared a personal interest in item 15 of the agenda, relating to public footpaths 1 and 3, Stambridge by virtue of being a resident of Stambridge.

69 PROGRESS ON DECISIONS

The Committee reviewed the progress on decisions schedule.

Additional Bring Banks (Minute 142/05)

The implementation of the kerbside recycling scheme to flats within the district was completed last month. The roll out of the service to caravan parks would commence at the end of this month.

Lighting in Alleyways (Minute 387/06)

Officers would advise Members in writing whether or not the investigation into lighting for the alleyway between Market Square, Rochford and the new supermarket development included the access adjacent to the post office.

Officers noted Member concern that lighting for the alleyway between Wakering High Street and Whitehall Road, Great Wakering be investigated as a matter of some priority, given the removal of cameras covering the High Street and the Co-op. It was further emphasised that a report outlining priorities for the lighting of alleyways around the district should come to Committee as soon as practicable.

Essex County Council – Tree Preservation Orders (Minute 388/06)

It was noted that Members should be provided with lists of tree preservation orders within their wards.

Tendering Process for Waste Management and Street Cleansing Services (Minute 390/06)

During discussion of the contract procurement process, Members concurred that there would be merit in expanding the terms of reference of the Waste Management and Recycling Sub-Committee to include overseeing progress on the street cleansing and for grounds maintenance contracts, subject to agreement by the Leisure, Tourism and Heritage Committee.

Resolved

That the terms of reference of the Waste Management and Recycling Sub-Committee be expanded to include overseeing progress on the contract procurement process for the street cleansing and for grounds maintenance contracts, subject to agreement by the Leisure, Tourism and Heritage Committee. (HCS)

70 SERVICETEAM (VEOLIA) PROGRESS REPORT – REFUSE COLLECTION, RECYCLING AND STREET CLEANSING

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Community Services to which was appended a progress report from Serviceteam Limited on the refuse collection and street cleansing contracts.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Jarvis and Mr Lester from Serviceteam to the

meeting. It was highlighted that Veolia had purchased both Serviceteam Ltd and Cory Environmental on 28 September 2006.

In presenting the Serviceteam (Veolia) report on the refuse collection, recycling and street cleansing contracts, Mr Jarvis emphasised that the recycling tonnages detailed in the report for February 2007 were only for the first week of that month. Particular reference was made to occasional instances of refuse collection vehicles being diverted to the waste transfer station, as a result of high winds causing vehicles to be refused entry at landfill sites. This resulted in minimal disruption.

In response to Member enquiries the following points were noted:-

- A Serviceteam employee who had displayed unacceptable behaviour towards members of the public in an incident involving a second wheeled bin had subsequently been suspended.
- It was unacceptable for refuse vehicles to park on double yellow lines at any time other than during operational duties.
- The figures detailing graffiti removal in the table on page 10.4 of the report referred to the number of sites visited; graffiti was not included in the overall totals in the table.
- It was important that instances of white goods not being collected at pre-booked times were reported to the Council, as such instances were usually oversights and the contractors needed to be alerted to them in order to rectify the situation.
- The schools recycling scheme was due to start at the end of March. Joint visits would be made to schools by Serviceteam staff and the Council recycling officers and schools would be introduced onto the scheme gradually.
- Officers would confirm to Members in writing arrangements for refuse and recycling collections for the flats over the shops at Golden Cross, Rochford.
- Graffiti removal at the Magnolia play space was the responsibility of Hawkwell Parish Council. Officers would, however explore the possibility of this area being included in the next round of the environmental campaign.
- The educational campaign aimed at raising awareness of recycling would seek to inform the public what actually happens to the items that they put out for recycling.

Particular reference was made to the marked improvement in the placement of wheeled bins in Wheatfields, Stambridge after emptying. It was also

remarked that the tonnages accrued during the environmental campaign were increasing gradually.

It was noted that, as part of the procurement process for the new street cleansing contract, those Parish Councils that arranged street cleaning of their areas should not be penalised.

In response to a Member enquiry relating to follow ups, Mr Jarvis advised that the recent visit to Rainham Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) had been arranged at short notice; arrangements would, however, be made for Councillors to visit Rainham MRF.

Resolved

That the contents of the report be noted. (HCS)

71 REFUSE COLLECTION – ADDITIONAL BIN CRITERIA

(Note: Cllr Mrs M J Webster declared a personal interest in this item by virtue of having 2 wheeled bins).

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Community Services seeking Members' approval to use specific criteria as the basis for assessing requests for an additional wheeled refuse bin.

Resolved

That no changes be made to current arrangements for dealing with requests for a second wheeled bin until the waste management procurement process has been concluded. (HCS)

72 REPORT OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee considered the report of the Waste Management and Recycling Sub-Committee recommending a series of proposals for the spending of this year's funding received from the Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant (WPEG).

During debate the importance of promoting recycling and educating residents on the importance of recycling was particularly emphasised. In response to Member enquiries relating to the proposed textile recycling collection, officers advised that:-

- There would be two collections per annum, with bags distributed to households by the Salvation Army with leaflets indicating collection dates for the bags.

- The vehicle used for collection would clearly advertise that this was a joint Council/Salvation Army initiative.
- The Salvation Army should provide the Council with guidance on the method of advertising the service and notification of delivery dates, given its expertise in this area.
- The value of textiles collected would go to the Salvation Army and the Council would benefit by way of increased recycling tonnages contributing to the overall recycling rate. Some of the textiles collected would inevitably go to charity shops, some would be sent to poorer countries and rag elements of the collection would be re-processed.
- Consideration would be given to the textile collection bags clearly indicating that the service was a joint Council/Salvation Army initiative.

Members concurred that there would be merit in publicising this new service heavily, in *Rochford District Matters* and via the local media and press. The publicity would emphasise the benefits of the scheme and highlight the partnership between the Council and a well established charity while also alerting residents to the fact that there were many commercial companies operating within the district collecting textiles from residents for commercial, rather than charitable, gain.

It was noted that a visit would be arranged for Members to a recycling plant.

Resolved

That the spending of the Council's Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant of £68,554 for 2007/08 be allocated to the items listed in the table in section 3.1 of appendix 1 to the report. (HCS)

73 HOW CLEAN ARE OUR STREETS SURVEY JULY 2006: ANALYSIS

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Community Services providing details of the outcome of the street cleansing survey conducted in July 2006.

While acknowledging the complexities involved in assessing the survey results, Members nevertheless expressed disappointment at the delay in reporting the results of the survey to the Committee.

Members were particularly disappointed with the survey results relating to dog fouling. Although it was noted that the environmental campaign was focusing on hot spots for dog fouling and the importance of education in this area was also recognised, particular attention was drawn to the importance of obtaining prosecutions in this area. There was a general consensus that there would be merit in employing external staff on a temporary basis, to visit known dog fouling hot spots over the course of 2 to 3 days in order to instigate

prosecutions in this area.

Officers noted that an additional hot spot area for dog fouling was outside Holt Farm School, Ashingdon Road, particularly on weekday afternoons.

It was noted that all Members would be provided with a list of hot spot areas for the environmental campaign.

Resolved

- (1) That the findings of the survey be noted and that a further survey be carried out in summer 2007.
- (2) That action be taken to address the issues raised, in particular the public perception around dog fouling and that, where appropriate, these be included in the specification for the new street cleansing contract.
- (3) That officers explore the possibility of hiring external staff over 2-3 days to target known hot spots for dog fouling with a view to instigating prosecutions. (HCS)

74 REGULATION OF COSMETIC PIERCING AND SKIN-COLOURING BUSINESSES

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (External Services) recommending the adoption of new byelaws relating to the practice of acupuncture or the businesses of tattooing, semi-permanent skin-colouring, cosmetic piercing or electrolysis.

Resolved

- (1) That the byelaws outlined in the officer's report be adopted.
- (2) That the necessary procedure be completed and that an application be made to the Secretary of State for confirmation of the byelaws.
- (3) That the fee for registration of premises at which acupuncture, tattooing, semi-permanent skin colouring, cosmetic piercing or electrolysis is undertaken be £148 for 2007/08. (CD(ES))

75 PUBLIC FOOTPATHS 1 AND 3, STAMBRIDGE – PROPOSED FOOTPATH DIVERSIONS

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Legal Services relating to an application by Mr Mark Fry, the owner of Stewards Elm Farm, Stambridge, to divert Public Footpaths 1 and 3.

In response to a Member concern raised with respect to consultation with

Stambridge Parish Council on this proposal, officers advised that, currently, letters are sent out to Parish Councillors at the statutory consultation stage. Responding to a further concern relating to ward and Parish Councillors being consulted in advance of the statutory consultation on relevant footpath proposals, officers confirmed that the procedure would be reviewed.

Although it was considered that the proposals relating to footpath 1 were acceptable, it was observed that the proposed diversion of footpath 3 was unacceptable, given that it was less convenient than the current route, lengthened the route considerably and changed the walk to the detriment of residents' enjoyment of the path. Particular reference was made to the difficulty elderly residents would experience in negotiating the proposed footpath, given the increase in length and the introduction of a stile.

Concern was expressed that County Highways had not raised any objection to the proposed diversion of footpath 3.

On a Motion moved by Cllr T G Cutmore and seconded by Cllr Mrs T J Capon, it was:-

Resolved

That the applicant be advised that this Council does not support the proposal to divert footpath 3 and part extinguishment of footpath 1. (HLS)

The meeting commenced at 8.20 pm and closed at 9.45 pm.

Chairman

Date

If you would like these minutes in large print, braille or another language please contact 01702 546366.