
Minutes of the meeting of **Environmental Health Sub-Committee** held on **6 March 2001** when there were present:

Cllr R E Vingoe (Chairman)
Cllr P A Capon
Cllr D M Ford
Cllr K A Gibbs
Cllr J E Grey
Cllr A Hosking

Cllr C C Langlands
Cllr V H Leach
Cllr Mrs S J Lemon
Cllr C R Morgan
Cllr R A Pearson
Cllr Mrs M J Webster

VISITING MEMBERS

Mrs J E Ford

OFFICERS PRESENT

D Brown - Environmental Protection Manager
Mrs M A Martin - Committee Administrator

103 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2000 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

104 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE STAMBRIDGE SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS WORKING GROUP

The Sub-Committee considered the following recommendations from the meeting of the Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works Working Group held immediately prior to this meeting.

On a Motion moved by Cllr A Hosking and seconded by Cllr P A Capon it was:-

Recommended

- (1) That whilst it is noted that sludge is currently being deposited in landfill, confirmation is sought from Anglian Water that this is only a temporary process and what the intended use is for the sludge derived at these works.
- (2) That a final meeting of the Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works Working Group be held as early as practicable after the next meeting of the Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works Liaison Committee to confirm the completion of the clearance process at the site. (HHHCC)

**105 REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NOISE ACT 1996 -
CONSULTATION**

The Sub-Committee received the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care which sought Members' view on a consultation published by the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR). They had commissioned the University of Birmingham to undertake a review of the take up and workings of the Noise Act 1996 (the 1996 Act) in October 1999.

The Government is now seeking views by 30 March 2001. To date, this Authority has not adopted the 1996 Act. The Act relates to domestic, night time noise only.

One of the options outlined would, if adopted, make it a statutory requirement for all authorities to provide an out of hours service between 11 pm and 7 am, 365 days a year. The provision of an out of office hours responsive service would be considered as part of the Best Value Review process, programmed for 2002/2003.

Following a survey of all local authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and 12 in-depth interviews, it had been noted that the majority of noise complaints were received during normal working hours. Of those received "out-of-hours", less than a quarter were between 2300 hours and 0700 hours and of those over half were received before 0100 hours, with a steady decline throughout the remainder of the night period.

Only thirteen local authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland have so far adopted the provisions of the 1996 Act. A further three had indicated that they were likely to adopt within two years.

During Member discussion, there was general agreement that:-

- this Act is better suited to areas more densely populated than this District
- the current system of some out of hours service on a planned visit basis is adequate.

Recommended

That, subject to Government funding being made available to cover the costs involved in implementing services that are provided in response to standards set by Government through the best value process, the option of no legislative change be recommended. (HHHCC)

The meeting opened at 8 pm and closed at 8.20 pm.

Chairman

Date