

Minutes of the meeting of **Environmental Health Sub-Committee** held on **6 June 2000** when there were present:

Cllr P A Capon
Cllr K Gibbs
Cllr J E Grey
Cllr A Hosking
Cllr C C Langlands

Cllr V H Leach
Cllr C R Morgan
Cllr R A Pearson
Cllr R Vingoe
Cllr Mrs M J Webster

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs D M Ford and Mrs S J Lemon

SUBSTITUTES

Cllrs Mrs H L A Glynn and Mrs M J Webster

VISITING MEMBERS

Cllrs R A Amner, D R Helson, M G B Starke and P F A Webster

ADVISOR

Mrs J V Rigby (Rochford Hundred Association of Local Councils)

OFFICERS PRESENT

G P Woolhouse - Head of Health, Housing & Community Care
D Brown - Environmental Protection Manager
Miss N Shorten - LA21 Officer
Mrs M Martin - Committee Administrator

90 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr R Vingoe was appointed Chairman of this Sub-Committee for the forthcoming municipal year.

91 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2000 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

92 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference of this Sub-Committee were noted.

93 BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Corporate Policy and Initiatives which outlined the next steps for the Essex Biodiversity Action Plan and sought Member approval of Rochford's Biodiversity Action Plan, the draft of which was appended to the report.

Members were informed that, whilst this Council is not a lead partner in any of the action plans, the District Council is required to undertake a number of actions when a species or habitat type identified in the Essex plan occurs within the district, particularly where it is one of the flagship species as detailed in the report. The draft plan showed details of the lead partner for the species or habitat, the Council services affected and the current and recommended actions.

In answer to Members' questions and concerns, it was confirmed that:-

- a clone bank would exist where a species may be dying out through disease, for example, to ensure that representatives of that species can continue, or where a resistant species can be built up.
- no resource implications exist, as any cost when working with partner agencies would not have to be borne by the District Council.
- the issue of protecting hedgerows and trees should be addressed by the Planning Policy Sub-Committee
- a more appropriate indexing system would be considered for the final action plan
- a wildlife forum could be created with the Rochford District Matters and Press Releases being the tools for information and publicity.

Recommended

- (1) That subject to additional points above, the draft Rochford Biodiversity Action Plan be agreed.
- (2) That additional species as identified, for example slow worms, adders, other amphibians be included in the surveys.
- (3) That a wildlife forum be created via the LA21 Forum with local schools and other interested groups being invited to participate. (HCPI)

94 GREEN BUSINESS PROJECT

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Corporate Policy and Initiatives which provided Members with the results of the Green Business Project undertaken recently on the Hockley Foundry and Eldon Way

industrial estates in Hockley and the Purdeys Way industrial estate in Rochford. A detailed analysis of these projects formed an Appendix to the Report. The project had originated as part of Rochford District Council's strategy to address Local Agenda 21 within the district.

The project offered businesses a free assessment to identify opportunities for environmental improvement and cost savings and free help and advice on environmental matters such as energy efficiency, waste reduction and disposal, packaging, transport, water and effluent, government initiatives and legislation.

Several businesses had felt they would benefit from a regular newsletter which would keep them up to date with environmental legislation and other environmental matters. A copy of the first issue of the Rochford Green Business News was also appended to the report.

Members wished to applaud the work that had been undertaken by Officers working on this project, whilst registering their disappointment at the poor response from businesses. Members further suggested that follow up visits should be made to those businesses who had responded to ensure that they are acting on the recommendations made.

In answer to Members comments and questions, it was confirmed that:-

- funding for company visits by the environmental consultant had been provided by Essex Training and Enterprise Council.
- a group of companies could share the costs of consultancy; however for many companies only information was required.
- information regarding items such as Duty of Care when dealing with pollutants and special care required with disposal of certain wastes could be dealt with through the Rochford Green Business News
- names of businesses who had responded could be included in the Rochford Green Business News.
- it would be possible to investigate the provision of skips on industrial estates for depositing and segregating waste.

Recommended

- (1) That the Project Report contained in the Appendix be noted.
- (2) That Officers seek further external funding to continue the project on other industrial estates within the District.

- (3) That Rochford Green Business News be published quarterly and that a detailed breakdown of its production costs be supplied through the Members' Bulletin. (HCPI)

95 HAWKWELL RECYCLING TRIAL - PHASE TWO UPDATE

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care which provided Members with an update on the Recycling Trial and the results of a questionnaire sent to all households on the trial round. Members were asked to consider the future of the trial.

Members were informed that:-

- if the trial was discontinued, the collection and cleaning of existing recycling bins is likely to be in the region of £7,000.
- the cost of providing extra bins to larger families was minimal as spare ones already existed.
- it was likely that emptying of the grey bins on a weekly basis would reduce the amount of waste segregation and cost in the region of £17,500 to £22,000.
- the announcement regarding whether West Rayleigh would become a major waste facility site was not expected until October 2000; this would be communicated to Members via the Members' Bulletin.
- tenders for the new refuse collection contract would contain provision for kerbside collection.
- the latest Government waste strategy document, to be debated at the next meeting of the Transportation and Environmental Services Committee indicated that the Government would set statutory recycling targets
- the Chief Executive recommended that the Government Office for Eastern England be advised of the achievements of the Hawkwell Recycling trial

Members wished to congratulate Officers for their continued hard work on implementing and carrying through the Hawkwell Recycling Trial.

On a Motion moved by Councillor V H Leach and seconded by Councillor A Hosking it was **recommended:-**

- (1) a. That families with five or more in the household be entitled to an additional blue box on request.
- b. That families with six or more in the household who reported difficulty storing their waste be entitled to more storage capacity; in the first instance this would be a second blue box, subsequently if this is not sufficient, an additional green bin and only if they still had an excess of non-recyclable waste a further 120 litre grey bin.

- (2) That the trial continues until 31st March 2001, to be funded from the Recycling Credit Reserve.
- (3) That provision be made over the Christmas 2000 period to ensure residents receive their normal collection frequency, the cost to be met from the Recycling Credit Reserve.
- (4) That if budget is subsequently agreed to allow implementation of the recycling provisions within the new refuse collection contract, then the trial round should receive the new contract recycling service from 1st April 2001.
- (5) That appropriate publicity be given to the Hawkwell Recycling trial including advising the Government Office for the Eastern Region and that a request be made for further funding for recycling which should be ringfenced within the Standard Spending Assessment. (HHHCC)

The meeting closed at 10 pm.

Chairman

Date