

MINUTES of the meeting of Cleaner Greener Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 7 February 2012 at 7pm

Present: Councillors James Halden (Chair), Wendy Curtis, Joycelyn Redsell, Michael Stone, Pauline Tolson.

Apologies: Councillor Steve Liddiard.

In attendance: Councillor Amanda Arnold
A. Murphy - Head of Environment
L. Magill - Head of Public Protection
J. Gilford - Waste & Recycling Manager
R. Evans – Senior Democratic Services Officer
K. Martin – Senior Democratic Services Officer

25 MINUTES

The Minutes of Cleaner Greener Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 14 December 2011, were approved as a correct record.

26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

a) Interests

No interests were declared.

b) Whipping

No interests were declared.

27 URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items discussed, however the Chair informed the Committee that Items 7 and 8 would be swapped around and brought forward to be considered first.

28 Work the Council Carries out with Regards to Dogs

The Head of Public Protection talked Members through the report. She explained that it was an information item so that Members were aware as to the work the Council does with regards to dogs.

Members queried as to how many cases of dog fouling had gone to court Officers informed the Committee that it was difficult to charge

someone with allowing their dog to foul, if there were people around most owners would pick up after their dog.

Members queried how many Community Protection Officers and camera helmets the Council currently had, the Committee also queried whether the Council had the ability to advertise cases in which people were fined. The Committee was informed that the Council currently had eight Community Protection Officers and two camera helmets. The Head of Public Protection notified Members there were Officers working on advertising, the outcome of cases concerning owners who were fined with dog fouling, as well as engaging with residents.

The Committee enquired as to whether Community Protection Officers had to be visible and to what enforcements are used with regard to dog fouling. Members were advised that the Council used Fixed Penalty Notices as well as other enforcements, it was confirmed that Community Protection Officers did not always have to be visible.

The Chair asked if Police Community Support Officers would also be able to deliver Fixed Penalty Notices and who would award more notices between Community Protection Officers and Police Community Support Officers. He was informed by the Head of Public Protection that it was likely that Community Protection Officers would award more Fixed Penalty Notices.

It was questioned by Members as to whether there was a policy in regard to having dogs in a council flat. Officers advised Members that they would speak to the Housing Department to find out whether there was a policy on pets in flats.

The Head of Public Protection advised Members that should they know of any cases regarding dogs that they wished the Public Protection Team to look in to, then to email all of the details to her directly.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee note the work which the Council carries out in relation to dogs.

29 Future work on Dog Control

The Chair invited Councillor Amanda Arnold to address the Committee. She explained that there had recently been a number of dog related attacks in her ward and that dog on dog attacks were not regarded as an offence by the police. Councillor Arnold continued to inform the Committee that she was working towards Dog Control Orders (DCO) to have dogs on leads in open places, she notified Members that the police had to prove that they know where the dog came from and who it belongs to. If a dog was off its lead this would be a matter for the

Council however any matters relating to dangerous dogs were a matter for the police.

The Head of Public Protection, advised Members that the Council had powers to put DCOs in place, this would therefore mean that dogs would have to be on leads at all times in certain places. Members were informed, there was a process to follow in order to create a DCO, the Head of Public Protection informed the Committee that when such an order was in place the Council needs to be able to enforce it.

The possibility of DCOs was discussed by the Committee, with the Head of Public Protection advising Members there would need to be a consultation period and for Ward Members to identify the areas in which they feel could benefit from such an order, however she felt that this work could not be carried out until September 2012.

RESOLVED:

That :

i) The Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee engage with Ward Members in September 2012 to identify dog related issues in ward.

ii) A working group be established by the Committee to take this work forward, with Ward Members who have raised concerns being invited to attend the Working Group.

iii) A further report outlining the recommendations of the Working Group return to March's meeting.

30 Green Car Working Group Update

The Chair gave a brief verbal update on the Green Car Working Group, he explained that Officers were working on providing information for the Committee.

The Chair suggested inviting Members to a meeting to discuss the information gathered by Officers.

RESOLVED:

That a report be provided for the Committee to consider at its next meeting.

31 Olympics Update

The Chair talked Members through the briefing note, which was tabled at the meeting. He explained there were a range of questions regarding the Olympics asked by Members, however he felt the questions asked were due to lack of information, rather than concern.

The Head of Public Protection provided Members with the handouts, during the meeting. These were about celebrating Thurrock, events within Thurrock and an update on the Olympics, Members were informed that the handouts would be published in the Thurrock Enquire on Thursday 9 February 2012.

Members asked why the Stanford Festival was not on the events calendar, Officers responded by explaining that any events that were not on the calendar, had not been made aware to Officers.

Officers reassured Members that any events that were missed from the calendar, could be put on the electronic copy on the Council's website, which would be updated regularly

The Head of Public Protection informed the Committee that information for residents to organise street parties would also be on the Council's website by the end of February.

It was enquired by Members, as to what was going to happen with the Dartford tolls, in response to this Members were advised that the Leader of the Council Councillor Kent had emailed the Department of Transport regarding the tolls and the Queen Elizabeth Bridge, however as yet he had not received a reply. Members were also informed that Kent County Council had also expressed their concerns.

RESOLVED that:

- i) Submitted questions were answered.**
- ii) Members were supplied with direct contact information for the most relevant Olympics officers in the public protection, transport, environment and communications department.**
- iii) Members were also supplied with a full list of events in Thurrock. Also with a wider view of what neighbours are doing.**
- iiii) Communications stepped up to catalogue all members concerns relating to the Olympics and helped to coordinate information to keep members informed.**

32 Charging for the collection of waste from public buildings and commercial premises

The Waste & Recycling Manager advised the Committee as to the different types of waste as well as the waste which Thurrock Council collected , along with the waste in which Thurrock Council can charge for.

Members were informed that Thurrock Council was not as yet a charging authority. As well as collecting household waste the Council also collected from private hire venues such as Village Halls and Sports Clubs who did not currently get charged for this service, even though they were hired out for commercial use therefore making a profit, this in turn made an impact on the budget with regard to treating and disposing of waste.

The Committee queried whether the Council collected waste from private nurseries, Officers explained that most private nurseries would have a private agency dispose of their waste. However should any private organisation wish for the Council to collect their waste then in return the Council would charge for this service.

Members asked the Waste & Recycling Manager whether the recycling bins at public Bring Sites were now necessary, as residents were recycling at home. The Waste & Recycling Manager responded to Members questions, telling the Committee that such sites would be kept at supermarkets as this allowed residents to recycle bigger packaging.

The Chair asked Officers how such a service would be invoiced, Offices advised the Committee that the bins at such premises would be chipped, therefore whenever the bin was collected, it would be scanned and an invoice would then be sent to the premise.

Members asked whether private care homes were charged, the Committee was informed that the Council did not currently collect from care homes, however this could be discuss with home managers. The Waste & Recycling Manager was asked whether the Council could collect clinical waste from care homes, he responded to this explaining that the Council could collect clinical waste as this can be incinerated.

The Chair queried as to how the new charging system would be communicated to the community by the 29 March 2012. The Head of Environment explained that the first step was to identify all of the businesses within in the area who would benefit from the service, so to inform them of the changes, next the charges would be explained outlining that the charge would start at the beginning of the new municipal year.

RESOLVED:

That Members endorse the introduction of a policy for recovering costs for the collection, treatment and disposal of waste materials from public buildings and commercial premises.

33 Work Programme

RESOLVED that :

- i) A report on the Green Cars be scheduled for March's Meeting**
- ii) A briefing note on dogs be provide for March's Meeting.**

The meeting finished at 8.35.

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIRMAN

DATE

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
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or alternatively e-mail kmartin@thurrock.gov.uk**