

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP held on Tuesday 13th May 2014 at 2.00pm

Present

Councillors: M A Lucas (Chairman), Mrs D L Brandon, D R Coren, J D Squire, Mrs M E Squires and Mrs N Woollatt

Apology

Councillor: J M Downes

Also Present

Councillors: C J Eginton and K D Wilson

Present

Officers: P N Williams (Head of Environmental Services), C Yandle (Audit Team Leader), R Keith Hill (Environmental Protection Officer) and J Stuckey (Member Services Officer)

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN** (Cllr E J Berry, Chairman of the Council, in the Chair)

RESOLVED that Cllr M A Lucas be elected Chairman of the Group for the municipal year 2014/15.

Cllr Lucas then took the Chair.

2. **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED that Cllr D R Coren be elected Vice Chairman of the Group for the municipal year 2014/15.

3. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no members of the public present.

4. **MINUTES (00hrs.04mins.05secs)**

The Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 23 April 2014 were approved as a correct record and **SIGNED** by the Chairman.

5. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (00hrs.05mins.23secs)**

The Chairman had the following announcements to make:

- He thanked the Group for his re-election and hoped that the Group would continue to work as a team. He said that he was delighted to be in the Chair for what would be a very busy year.
- The Chairman explained that the agenda was light for this meeting following the previous Special Meeting and that there were no policies to be reviewed. However, there was a busy year ahead and the Chairman was on the Waste

Project Group from which he would report back to the Group after every meeting.

- The Head of Environmental Services updated the Group on a recent court case in which an offender was found guilty of fly tipping. District Officers had investigated several reports of dumped bags containing rabbit droppings and straw. Following appropriate procedures a covert camera was placed and the offender was caught and interviewed but later failed to appear in court. An arrest warrant was issued and the offender pleaded guilty. He was fined £600 and ordered to pay costs of £1520 along with a victim support payment of £60. The Officer reported that it was reassuring that the courts had backed the Council and that a press release had been issued.
- The Chairman thanked Councillor Squire for his support as Vice Chairman over the last two years and welcomed Councillor Coren as the new Vice chairman.

6. **PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT FOR 2013/14 FINANCIAL YEAR (00hrs.11mins.30secs)**

The Group had before it and **NOTED** a report* of the Head of Communities and Governance providing Members with an update on performance against the Corporate Plan and local service targets for the 2013/14 financial year as well as providing an update on the key business risks.

The Audit Team Leader highlighted the carbon footprint indicator. The level of reduction in carbon footprint was largely due to the Anesco investment project on five Council sites (with the installation of energy saving measures); further percentage savings would now be limited.

Silverton Mill was highlighted in the report as high risk but the Officer explained that this risk had been removed with the planned move to new premises.

Missed collections for recycling were high in Quarter 4 due to vehicle breakdowns. The Head of Environmental Services informed the Group that the tendering exercise for new vehicles had been completed and that two vehicles had been trialled. The new vehicles were included in the 2014/15 budget and would be made to a specification to suit Mid Devon's requirements.

Members were reminded that information regarding missed collections could be found on the front page of the website.

Note: *Report previously circulated, copy attached to signed minutes.

7. **SILVERTON MILL (00hrs.18mins.00secs)**

The Head of Environment Services updated the Group on progress being made with regard to the existing site at Silverton Mill and the move to new premises.

He informed the Group that the lease for the new premises had been signed. The premises would provide undercover storage for recyclates and outside parking for vehicles. The lease was for three years but could be extended if required. This was not the intention as the premises had limited space and the long-term aim was to find a depot to accommodate all of the Council's operational services.

Some work was required to adapt the building to suit MDDC needs, including concrete bays, installation of the baling equipment and the rearrangement of lights to allow vehicle movements. Materials would need to be processed promptly due to the lack of storage space. A project group had been set up in which Human Resources were involved due to the change of base for staff.

The new depot was very close to the waste depot at Station Yard so staff, in particular supervisors, would work across the two services. There was office space available which would be utilised.

Discussion took place regarding:

- The fact that it would be a much more efficient operation to have the recycling service centrally based within the District.
- That there might be changes to collection times and that householders should be encouraged to put their rubbish and recycling out by 6.00am in case their collection times changed.
- There was no flexibility in the date for leaving Silverton Mill and that any equipment still there on the completion date would become the property of the landowner.
- The move would take place as soon as possible and on the final day would simply be a case of the vehicles leaving Silverton Mill in the morning and returning to the new depot at the end of the day.

It was **AGREED** that a visit would be arranged for the Group and other Members to view the new premises when the adaptations had been made.

8. **SUPERMARKET PACKAGING (00hrs.31mins.40secs)**

The Head of Environmental Services gave a verbal report in which he informed the Group that he had written to the Co-op, Morrison's and Tesco. He had not received any response, other than from Tesco to say that they had forwarded the letter to their Headquarters.

The Chairman reminded the Group that supermarket packaging and waste minimisation were not District Council responsibilities and that Devon County Council took the lead on such matters. As a Member of DAWRAC (Devon Waste and Recycling Authorities Committee) he **AGREED** to ask the Committee to add this matter to the agenda for their next meeting. The Chairman would update the group following this.

9 **AIR QUALITY (00hrs.34mins.45secs)**

The Pollution Control Officer updated the Group regarding data that had been collected in the District and the results shown. He distributed data sheets as a basis for discussion.

The officer explained that monitoring equipment measured the level of pollution in the air. There were two Air Quality Management Areas within the District, in Cullompton and Crediton. An annual report was submitted to DEFRA but it had not yet been approved for 2013/14. The Pollutants measured are NOx and PM10.

The permanent measuring sites were on Exeter Road, Crediton and Station Road, Cullompton; the pollutants measured were from traffic and in Crediton were particularly high because of the canyon-like position of the road.

Discussion took place regarding:

- That the new bypass at Crediton should alleviate a lot of pollution by diverting traffic away from Exeter Road.
- There were higher levels of pollutants in the winter months due to cloud cover.
- Barometric pressure and inversion had a negative effect on pollution levels. In October 2012 the levels were very high for the whole country with no known reason.
- Pollution mainly came from vehicles; cleaner newer engines make a difference.
- Pollution levels would have to fall to a safe level for over three years before monitoring would be stopped.
- Stop/starting traffic caused the most pollution.
- Devon County Council had undertaken work in Cullompton which had reduced pollution. Millennium Way had diverted traffic away from Station Road and traffic lights had been changed to a reactive system to prevent queuing. Changing the junction at Tiverton Road to left-turn only could also result in improved air quality.
- Tiverton's Leat Street could see raised levels of pollution if traffic increased following the Rackenford Road development. Levels would be monitored.
- The Pollution Team were consulted on planning applications.
- Information was available on the website as 'real time' data.

It was **AGREED** that the Officer would be asked to attend the next meeting of the Group to demonstrate the website and how Members could see the 'real time' figures.

10. **MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK IMPROVEMENTS (01hrs.04mins.50secs)**

The Head of Environmental Services updated the Group on improvements that had been made to the multi-storey car park following recommendations from the Car Parking Working Group.

The Officer informed the Group that work on the upper floors of the car park had been completed in January, this had included replacing expansion joints, re-routing drainage, re-casting gullies, repairs to the roof of the Shopmobility Offices and white lining.

There was a tendering process taking place for painting of the car park and quotes had been received for replacement of signage.

Discussion took place regarding:

- There had been an increase in income from the car parks.
- Signage needed to be appropriate.
- The aim was to make the car park brighter and lighter.
- RingGo, the pay by telephone system had proved successful.
- Speed restricting humps would remain at the entrance to the car park with an additional restrictor being added to the exit to slow vehicles down.

11. START TIME FOR MEETINGS (01hrs.18mins.50secs)

It was **AGREED** that future meetings would continue to take place at 2.00pm.

12. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Items for the next meeting 8 July 2014

Waste Project Team Update
New Recycling Depot
Financial Monitoring Report
Contaminated Land Cost Recovery Policy
2008 Off-Street Parking Order, Amenity Car Parks
Air Quality (to include demonstration of website)

(The meeting ended at 15.40pm)

CHAIRMAN