

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP held on Tuesday 8 July 2014 at 2.00pm

Present

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

Also Present

Councillors: C J Eginton, Mrs J Roach, K D Wilson

Present

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

13. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

14. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 May 2014 were approved as a correct record and **SIGNED** by the Chairman.

15. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman informed the group that the Council had recently been awarded the Golden Carton Award from 'ace uk' for the greatest percentage increase in beverage carton recycling in 2013. The Chairman stated that it was an honour for the authority to be recognised and wished his congratulations to the staff involved to be recorded.

At a previous meeting the Group had discussed supermarket packaging. The Chairman informed the Group that waste reduction was an area covered by the County Council, who had the staff and resources to do so, and that he had added this item to the agenda for the next DAWRAC (Devon Authorities Waste and Recycling Committee) meeting. The Chairman would report back to the Group at the December meeting.

The Chairman informed the Group that despite the number of complaints that had been received regarding the recently implemented new rounds, he had also been made aware of a compliment. The customer had reported a missed collection but had contacted Customer First again to thank staff, saying that having been missed once her collection had been made as per the schedule from then on and that the crew were helpful, kind and worked like clockwork.

16. WASTE PROJECT UPDATE (00hrs.02mins.36secs)

The Chairman outlined the aims of the Group, who were working on changes to the Waste and Recycling Scheme, which would be implemented in October 2015. The framework of the changes that would be made had been agreed by Council.

Tenders for new vehicles had been returned and were now ready to be evaluated. It was anticipated that the vehicles would be in use by January 2015. Trials using demo vehicles were being undertaken by staff.

Discussion took place regarding the process for choosing vehicles and that the staff who actually used the vehicles should be consulted on what they considered to be the most suitable for purpose. It was **AGREED** that the Head of Environmental Services would ensure that staff consultation took place during the procurement process.

It was **AGREED** that a visit to the new depot would be arranged.

17. **AIR QUALITY (00hrs.17mins.42secs)**

The Environmental Protection Officer demonstrated the Council's website, in order to show Members where they could find daily information regarding air quality reported from the measuring sites in Cullompton and Crediton.

The Officer informed the Group that the data sent to DEFRA for the reporting year 2013 had recently been approved and would be uploaded to the website shortly.

Discussion took place regarding:

- The potential improvements to air quality that could be seen when the new link road opened in Crediton;
- The possibility that other areas might see a reduction in air quality following this;
- Monitoring in Willand had stopped due to the results being low;
- Air quality at motorway junctions would generally be good due to the openness of the area and the flow of traffic.

The Environmental Protection Officer offered to provide data to Members on request.

18. **SILVERTON MILL (00hrs.36mins.47secs)**

The Group had before it and **NOTED** a report* of the Head of Environmental Services outlining the situation with regards to the move from Silverton Mill to the new depot at Shop 16, Blundells Road, Tiverton.

The Officer explained that the report was a compilation of verbal information that had been given to the Group at previous meetings.

He informed the Group that the new depot was a short term solution and that in the longer term the requirement would be for a bigger depot which could combine the Councils operational services, as well as allow for increased volumes of recycling.

Discussion took place regarding:

- Increasing recycling targets from central Government;
- Reduction in the amount of waste allowed to be sent to landfill;
- The amount of recycling material that could require storage space;
- Other avenues of income generation from reuse/recycling of materials collected;

- The collection of furniture items for resale/charity use.

The Group also discussed arrangements that were in place at Recycling Centres for reuse and recycling. There was concern that items that could be sold were in fact being recycled. The Chairman **AGREED** to raise this matter at the next DAWRAC meeting as recycling centres were contracted out by the County Council.

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

19. **CURRENT WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS (00hrs.56mins.53secs)**

The Group had before it a report * of the Head of Environmental Services providing an update on the current situation regarding changes to waste and recycling collection rounds and problems that had been reported.

The Officer explained that many of the initial problems occurred because there were several Bank Holidays at the time when the new rounds started. He explained that there had been no choice but to start the new rounds at this time due to the previous calendars finishing. The decision had been made to issue a calendar for 18 months to coincide with the new scheme starting in October 2015.

The new rounds had been generated by computer but had been driven by experienced drivers to check that they were suitable and had been monitored by tracking facilities in the office. He pointed out that between 97 and 98% of collections had been made to schedule and that there were 50,000 collections per week. Unfortunately some households that had been missed were repeatedly missed. Extra rounds had now been added and it was anticipated that significant improvements would be seen.

Discussion took place regarding communication with the public and the fact that some households were experiencing problems with recycling being collected with waste to landfill. It was **AGREED** that the Head of Environmental Services would provide an article for Mid Devon Talk explaining what materials need to be presented in which containers.

The Head of Environmental Services explained that the new Waste Manager would commence employment in September. He had a background in Waste Management which would be integral to moving the new service forward.

The Chairman, the Cabinet Member and the Head of Environmental Services all apologised to the public for the service that had been provided to some households and assured the group that everything possible would be done to improve the situation.

Discussion took place regarding BINFO. Devon County Council (DCC) had been developing an app which would allow households to check their collection day and obtain information about recycling in Mid Devon. The Chairman **AGREED** to discuss this matter with DCC and would report progress to the next meeting.

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

20. **ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING (01hrs.42mins.04secs)**

Items for the next meeting 2 September 2014

Report regarding the effect on Air Quality and transport following completion of the Crediton Link Road
Performance and Risk
Update - Public Conveniences
Financial Monitoring
Flood Strategy update from Devon County Council and the Sustainable Drainage Approval Body
Update regarding the move to the new recycling depot
Update regarding changes to collection days
Possible visit to new depot
Play area update.

(The meeting ended at 15.42pm)

CHAIRMAN