

# ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

# SCRUTINY

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8 October, 2002, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs Compton (Chair); Councillors Aujla, Cockburn, Evans, Gill, Gifford, Golby, Mrs Goode, Guest, Mrs Hodgetts, Holland and Mrs Leddy.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs Begg (Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services)

Councillor Tamlin (Portfolio Holder for Development Services)

(Councillor Gill acted as substitute for Councillor Roberts)

## 459. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

### Minute No. 463 Recycling

Councillor Mrs Compton declared a personal interest in this item as a member of the Warwickshire Waste Management Forum

### Minute No. 461 Progress Report on the Watercourse/Flood Management Work Programme for 2002/03

Councillor Mrs Hodgetts declared a personal interest in this item as her home had been flooded and one of the proposed schemes was designed to alleviate this problem.

## 460. **UPDATE ON PROGRESS ON PUBLIC CONVENIENCE BEST VALUE REVIEW IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

The Committee considered a report from Leisure and Amenities updating them on the progress of the Public Convenience Best Value Improvement Plan, and informing them of the targets which had been met.

The Best Value Improvement Plan had been produced in 2001 and was attached as an appendix to the report.

Progress on moving to one new contract was on track and a report had been submitted to the Executive detailing the specification for the contract and the list of selected tenders.

## **ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)**

### **RECOMMENDED** that

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the count survey in Kenilworth Cemetery, Abbey Fields and Warwick Market Place be investigated further to ensure there were inaccuracies

#### **461. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WATERCOURSE/FLOOD MANAGEMENT WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2002/03**

The Committee considered a report from Planning and Engineering informing them on the progress of the Watercourse/Flood Management Work Programme for 2002/03 and the work undertaken by the Drainage Forum.

The Watercourse/Flood Management Work Programme for 2002/03 had been submitted to the Committee in July, detailing progress on the main flood alleviation schemes.

The work programme, which was attached as an appendix to the report, had now been updated with a short commentary to demonstrate how each task had progressed against the original target dates.

The work of the Drainage Forum was also covered in the appendix to the report.

### **RECOMMENDED** that

- (1) the report be noted and the officers be congratulated on the work in Kenilworth and Warwick.
- (2) a report be submitted to the Committee in February 2003 on the outcome of the Seven Trent Survey.

(Councillor Holland left the meeting after this item was considered)

#### **462. CAR PARK BEST VALUE REVIEW - IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE**

The Committee considered a report from Leisure and Amenities updating them on the progress of implementing the Car Park Best Value Review Improvement Plan.

The Car Park Best Value Review took place during 2000 and was undertaken principally by the Engineering Business Unit.

The service had been managed by the Leisure and Amenities Business Unit since its transfer in October 2001. The delivery of the action plan was now the responsibility of the Amenities Management section.

## **ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)**

A Car Park and Public Convenience Manager had been in post since March 2002. The Best Value Review Action Plan was attached as an appendix to the report.

**RECOMMENDED** that the report be noted and the work of the Car Parks and Public Convenience Manager be commended.

### **463. RECYCLING**

The Committee received a report from Environmental Health informing Members of the progress on recycling matters and, in particular, the development and implementation of the Council's recycling strategy.

Following the decision of the Executive on 19 August 2002, expressions of interest had been invited from contractors to carry out a range of kerbside recycling services to which the Council had received a number of responses.

The contract would cover the present kerbside paper collection service from both the urban and rural areas, as well as the expanded green waste collection service from 24,000 properties, and the future phased introduction of a multi-material kerbside collection service covering the whole of the district.

The contract specification was currently being finalised but the aim was to build as much flexibility as possible to allow the Council to recycle a range of materials and make recycling available across the district.

The equipment to allow the district to implement the green waste scheme and the introduction of boxes to all households within the catchment area of the kerbside paper service would be provided by Warwickshire County Council under the terms of the Local Public Service Agreement.

The work carried out so far and the schemes which were due to be implemented in the coming years formed the Council's recycling strategy, and were designed to meet and exceed the recycling targets set over that period. The work being undertaken by all District Councils and the County Council in Warwickshire, was being co-ordinated with the aim of implementing a countywide integrated Waste Management Strategy.

The overall strategy had been drawn up by consultants commissioned by Warwickshire County Council on behalf of Warwickshire Waste Management Forum, and had been scheduled for completion in April 2002. Unfortunately, the work had not been completed to the satisfaction of the Forum and the process had now been handed over to Officers for completion.

## **ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)**

It was now planned to publish the strategy in two volumes. The first would deal primarily with recycling programmes being established by the District Councils, and at the County Council's household waste sites, while the second part would deal with the longer term and options for waste disposal and would link more closely with the revised Waste Local Plan due for completion around the same time in early 2003.

Officers were currently investigating the feasibility of a mobile recycling centre for use in the district to solve the problem of establishing recycling centres in rural communities and local schools. Despite the fact that recycling centres had been sited in Cubbington and Stoneleigh, and work was progressing in Norton Lindsey and Baginton, there had been numerous problems and objections to their introduction elsewhere.

Schools across the district had also been contacted but the majority were unwilling to accept a recycling centre on school grounds. Both Parish Councils and Head Teachers had, however, responded favourably to the concept of a mobile unit. Such a facility would also be a very useful asset at the numerous events and shows held annually across the district.

A full programme of future work on recycling was included for information as an appendix to the report.

### **RECOMMENDED** that

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the Officers be commended for the work they have done on recycling for the Council; and
- (3) the introduction of mobile recycling centres be supported in principle.

(Cllr Cockburn left the meeting after this item had been considered)

#### **464. EXECUTIVE MINUTES**

The minutes of the Executive meeting held on 16 September 2002, which came within the remit of the Committee were submitted for information and Scrutiny.

### **RECOMMENDED** that the minutes be noted.

#### **465. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON-CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS)**

The Committee considered the items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Monday 14 October 2002, which came within the remits of the Committee. As a result the following comments were made for forwarding to the Executive.

## **ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)**

### Item No. 2 - Notice of Motion

The Committee felt that a report on this motion should be submitted to them for further consideration before any decision could be made.

### Item No. 5 - Ladycroft Drainage - Cubbington/ Drainage Costs - General

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report and having received an explanation from the officer they could fully understand how the difference between the estimate and the actual cost of the scheme arose.

### Item 8 - Local Public Service Agreement - Recycling

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

### Item No. 10 - Planning Best Value Review - Draft Improvement Plan

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report, but were concerned about the proposal for a separate reception area.

### Item No. 11 - Local Sustainability Bill

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report

### Item No. 12 - Timetable of Committee Meetings

The Committee felt that, although the existing calendar was not without difficulties, the calendar appended to the report was not acceptable, as the current arrangement had far more advantages than disadvantages.

### Item No. 15 - Tendering Process of the new Public Convenience Contract

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report, but expressed their concern over the current fabric conditions of the buildings and the lack of an improvement plan for this situation.

### Item No. 17(A) - Forward Plan

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

### Item No. 17(B) Car Parks

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report

## 466. **WORK PLAN 2002/2003**

The Committee considered a report from Policy Services updating the Scrutiny Committee's work plan for the year and monitoring the progress against the Portfolio Holder Priority Areas.

## **ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)**

It was agreed to consider the Committee's work plan as a standing item on each agenda. The plan reflected items raised by the Committee and was attached as an appendix to the report.

The Executive agreed priorities and work programmes for each Portfolio Holder at its meeting on 25 January 2001. The relevant priorities and work programmes for the Portfolios covered by this Committee were attached as a further appendix to the report.

**RECOMMENDED** that

- (1) the progress against the Portfolio Holders priorities and the Scrutiny Committee's work plan be noted; and
- (2) a report on the flooding survey be included in the work plan for February 2003.

(The meeting ended at 8.30 pm)