

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 1 April 2003, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00pm.

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

(Councillor Gill substituted for Councillor Roberts)

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

Councillor Tamlin (Portfolio Holder for Development Services)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Golby and Mrs Goode.

947. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Minute No. 948 - Action 21

Councillor Evans declared a personal interest in Action 21 as he represented Warwick District Council on the Action 21 Board.

948. **ACTION 21**

The Committee considered a report from Action 21 on their work during the past year.

Action 21 operated under a service level agreement with Warwick District Council to deliver objectives on the Local Agenda 21 Scheme. It was established in 1996 as a network of volunteers affiliated to Warwick District Council with the aim to deliver sustainable development objectives at community level. Over the last six years Action 21 had built up a multi skilled network of volunteers.

Until last year there had been a number of factors holding back the development of Action 21. In order to overcome these factors Action 21 had now recruited a new Management Committee of ten people with expertise in a range of areas; registered Action 21 as a limited company; negotiated a Council funded member of staff & budget for a three year initial period operating under a service level agreement and appointed an Officer on secondment from Warwick District Council with a good knowledge of sustainability and community involvement who was responsible directly to the Action 21 Board.

The headings Action 21 were required to deliver under for the Service Level Agreement were as follows:

- (1) To raise awareness within Warwick District of sustainable development issues.

- (2) To promote good practice amongst householders, businesses and other organisation within the district.
- (3) To undertake practical projects which contributed to sustainable development.
- (4) To expand the membership of Action 21 and make every effort to ensure that membership was representative of the community of Warwick District and was active.
- (5) To participate in relevant consultations including the Community Plan and planning policy.
- (6) To achieve the above to work in partnership with others including the District Council.

Since June 2002 Action 21 had co-ordinated or participated in a number of key events within Warwick District to help raise awareness of several development issues. These included, Car Free Day, Pumpkin Day at Bath Place Community Venture, an evening seminar on energy saving, the establishment of a Green Library as a public resource at Gaia on Regent Place and the creation of a quarterly newsletter (Transaction) to help keep members in touch of activities.

There were also a number of other initiatives due to take place to help raise awareness, these included a recycling road show, a recycling directory, the allotments project, Kenilworth train station campaign and the 2003 & Beyond Project.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the Action 21 Team be commended for their hard work on these projects.

949. GRANT AID REVIEW 2002/2003

The Committee considered a report from Planning and Engineering reviewing the work of the Grant Aid Scheme in respect of historic buildings 2002/2003.

Warwick District Council had a long association with the provision grants for the maintenance of historic buildings throughout the district with a variety of grant aid schemes. There were four schemes in operation within the District, these were; the Historic Building Grants, the Warwick Grant Scheme, the Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme of Grants for Leamington Spa and the Townscape Heritage Initiative Scheme

A new publicity leaflet had been launched to market and publicise the grant schemes at the Council's Heritage Day in November.

Alan Mayes gave a brief slideshow highlighting the work of the grant aid schemes across the district.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the contents of the report be noted;
- (2) a further report be submitted to the Environment Scrutiny Committee in six months time; and
- (3) the Planning Policy and Conservation Team be congratulated for all their hard work and effort they have put in and on their successes considering the small amounts of money they have available to them.

950. **EXECUTIVE MEETING - MONDAY 10 MARCH 2003**

The Committee received a verbal report from the Chair of the Committee on the meeting of the Executive held on Monday 10 March 2003 and the minutes of that meeting which came within its remits.

RECOMMENDED that the report and minutes be noted.

951. **THE EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON-CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS)**

The Committee considered the items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Monday 7 April 2003 which came within the remit of the Committee. As a result the following comments were made for forwarding to the Executive.

Item 2 - Service Plans 2003/2004

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report but sought a report from the Planning & Engineering, for inclusion in the Members' Weekly Bulletin before the election, defining the exact highway responsibilities which remained within this Council.

Item 3 - Energy Management

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Item 4 - Draft Programme for Best Value Reviews and Implementing Electronic Government (IEG) Development

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Item 5 - Warwick Town Centre Traffic Management Scheme Options

The Environment Scrutiny Committee did not support the recommendation in the report and proposed that the Council does not commit itself to one of the proposals until it has seen the outcome of the consultation meeting on 8 April, as there was a lack of clarity within the proposals. The committee would then like a report and presentation to its meeting in May with a report to the Executive in June as it felt this would give the Council the chance to fully scrutinise the proposals and make a firm recommendation.

Item 6 - South Warwickshire Tourism Limited - Service Level Agreement

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Item 12C Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

952 **WORK PLAN 2002/2003 AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER PRIORITY AREAS**

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

It had been agreed to consider the Committee's work plan as a standing item on each agenda. The agreed work plan for the year ahead reflected items agreed by the Committee from the last meeting and was attached as an appendix to the report.

The Executive had agreed priorities and work programmes for each Portfolio Holder at its meeting on 25 June 2001 in relation to the 2001/2002 financial year. These had now been superseded by the service plans that were agreed by the Executive at its meeting on the 5 March 2002. The relevant service plans and action plans for this Committee were attached as an appendix to the report.

Annexed as an appendix to the report was a schedule of the matters considered by the Committee during the course of the current municipal year in the form of the items on the Scrutiny agenda and matters coming before the Executive that fell within the remit of this Committee.

Additionally, an indicative Committee work plan for the coming year was attached as an appendix to the report which included a number of proposals that, for the present, should remain inchoate. It was suggested, however, that it be used as a living document for regular and progressive updating, amendment and development as the year unfolded.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the Warwick Town Centre Traffic Management Scheme be added into the work plan for May;

- (3) the delayed Public Art Strategy report be noted; and
- (4) in future the Scrutiny Committees should focus more on reviewing the effects of the decisions not affecting the decisions to be made.

953. **PUBLIC AND PRESS**

RESOLVED that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting for the following item by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within paragraph 9 and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

954 **EXECUTIVE AGENDA (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS)**

The Committee considered the confidential items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Monday 7 April 2003 which came within its remit. As a result the following comments were made for forwarding to the Executive.

Item Number 14 Operation of Talisman Square Car Park, Kenilworth

The Committee supported the recommendation of the report.

Item Number 15. Redevelopment of the Court Street Car Park Area, Leamington Old Town

The Audit and Resources Committee resolved that this item be referred back to the Executive on 7 April and that the Executive be asked to call for a full appraisal of the options including those already considered, with development and marketing briefs for the site, to be submitted to its May meeting.

The Environment Scrutiny Committee supported the decision of the Audit & Resources Scrutiny Committee.

(The meeting ended at 8.15 pm)