

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 2 March 2004 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Compton (Chairman); Councillors Mrs Blacklock, Copping, Davies, Gill, Hatfield, Sandhar, Short and Smith

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

Councillor Holland.

941. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

942. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 13 January and 3 February 2004, having been printed and circulated were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

943. SCRUTINY OF STREET CLEANSING

The Committee considered a report from Members' Services informing them of the findings of the Councillors carrying out the individual scrutiny of street cleansing.

The Committee also received a presentation from the Verdant on how their contract operation was going so far.

RECOMMENDED that the officers prepare a draft report to the Executive based on the findings of the Councillors and the comments made at this meeting for consideration at the next meeting of the committee, such to report to include the following:

- (1) a recognition that although the Council and its contractor are responsible for removing litter from the Highway it is not them who deposit litter. It is the residents and the visitors to the district and if they did not do this then there would not be any litter on the highway;
- (2) Verdant be applauded for their efforts in providing an efficient service, in an area where expectations are very high and their policy of constantly training and educating their staff;

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- (3) the current contracts for litter collection within the district, for highways, car parks, recreation grounds and housing land, be revisited when they expire in 2008 or sooner if possible, to merge them into one consistent contract which would remove all anomalies;
- (4) the excellent joint working and liaison between Verdant, this Council; adjoining authorities and other agencies be noted;
- (5) the Council welcomes the employment of an enforcement/ Contract monitoring officer within the Waste Management Team which will help to improve the condition of the current street scene with regard to litter; and
- (6) Advice is being sought from the Highways Agency as to how the Council and its contractors Verdant can practicably fulfil its cleansing duty on the A46 in view of the health and safety issues currently being raised by the police and other Agencies which currently prevent cleansing taking place.

944. HISTORIC BUILDINGS GRANT SCHEME IN WARWICK DISTRICT – ANNUAL REVIEW

The Committee considered a report and presentation from Planning and Engineering on an annual review of the historic building grant scheme, in 2003/2004, which sought recommendations to the Executive for the way in which funds should be allocated for the year 2004/2005.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the content of the report be noted;
- (2) the revised grant arrangements as set out in the report be submitted to the Executive for approval for the financial year 2004/2005, subject of the Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme of Grants receiving match funding from the English Heritage and in the event of this not being available, the scheme of grants proceed on the same basis without match funding; and
- (3) the Conservation Team be thanked for their hard work.

945. CREATING A SAFER COMMUNITY

The Committee considered a report from Community Safety and Sustainability on the scrutiny of community safety within Warwick District.

The Council had a statutory duty in the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) to work together in partnership to produce an audit of crime and disorder, consult widely on that audit and produce a three year strategy to reduce crime and disorder based on the findings of the audit and the views of local people.

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RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the contents of the report be noted;
- (2) a further report be submitted to the Committee outlining further areas for scrutiny.

946. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered its work programme for the current year.

RECOMMENDED that the work programme be approved.

947. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2004/2005

The Committee discussed items which they thought would be appropriate for the Committee to scrutinise during the year 2004/2005.

RECOMMENDED that the work programme as set out at appendix “ “ be agreed as the Committees living work plan for 2004/05

948. EXECUTIVE MEETING – MONDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2004

The Committee considered the minutes of the Executive meeting held on Monday, 9 February 2004 which came within its remit.

RECOMMENDED that the minutes be noted.

949. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS)

The Committee considered the items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Monday, 8 March 2004 which came within the remit of the Committee. As a result the following comments were made for forwarding to the Executive:-

Item Number 3 – Noise Nuisance from Fireworks

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Item Number 9 – Best Value Performance Plan 2004/2005

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Item Number 10 – Scrutiny of Action 21

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report. However the Committee felt that recommendation 1.2 of the report should be investigated by the Standards Committee and should also include the responsibilities of Councillors appointed as Board members on outside bodies.

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Item Number 12B – Warwick District Towns Conservation Area Advisory Forum (Annual Review)

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Item Number 12C – Review of Warwick and Leamington Spa Conservation Areas

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report and welcomed the extension of the conservation area to include Northumberland Road and part of Lillington Road. The Committee also requested that Waterloo Street be included as part of the review of late 19th century and 20th century housing in the district.

(the meeting ended at 8.35 p.m.)

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