

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8 October 2008, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Falp (Chairman); Councillors Barrott, Mrs Blacklock, Boad, Britland, Mrs Bunker, Caborn, Coker, Copping, Crowther, De-Lara-Bond, Dhillon, Malcolm Doody, Michael Doody, Edwards, Mrs Gallagher, Gifford, Gill, Mrs Goode, Hammon, Harris, Hatfield, Mrs Higgins, Illingworth, Kinson, Kirton, Mrs Knight, MacKay, Mrs McFarland, Mobbs, Pittarello, Pratt, Rhead, Mrs Sawdon, Shilton, Mrs Tyrrell, Vincett, Weed and White.

452. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Davies, Ms Dean, Guest, Heath, Mrs Mellor and Mrs Scarrott.

453. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 20 August 2008, were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

454. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (A) The Chairman thanked everyone who had attended the annual civic service which had been held on 29 September 2008.
- (B) The Chairman referred to the Race Night which would be held on 14 November 2008 in aid of her charities, and encouraged as many as possible to attend.
- (C) The Chairman also referred to the charity Christmas concert which would be held in the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa, on 6 December 2008.
- (D) The Chairman reported that she had recently attended the awards ceremony for the Heart of England Britain in Bloom competition. The district had been very successful again this year and the Chairman invited the recipients of the awards to receive their certificates as follows:

Neighbourhood Awards

Merit Awards to Charles Gardner Square, Clapham Square Gardens, Wych Elm Pond, Ingle Court, the Friends of Eagle Recreation Ground, and Hill Close.

Outstanding Awards to Elizabeth Park, The Dell and the Friends of Leamington Railway Station.

Urban Community Class

Silver Gilt Award to Leamington Old Town

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

Large Town Category

Gold Award to Royal Leamington Spa

Silver Gilt Award to Warwick.

455. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 7 (2)

- (A) From Councillor B Crowther to Councillor M Kinson, Environment Portfolio Holder:

“Is the Environment Portfolio Holder aware that there are problems with the new waste collection and recycling scheme, identified early on by residents and local councillors, which remain unresolved after nearly six months?”

A comprehensive review of arrangements in difficult areas was proposed for May, then put back to June, but subsequently changed to a rolling programme addressing individual streets in turn.

Is there, now, a firm date by which these longstanding issues will have been investigated and any necessary changes instituted?”

Councillor Kinson replied:

“I am aware that there are still some unresolved issues relating to the appropriate collection method for some residential streets. However all residents are receiving a refuse and recycling collection service either on the alternate week collection scheme (grey and green bins) or the collection of weekly sacks. No resident is receiving a lesser collection service than was received prior to the introduction of the new service.

The Waste Management team are reviewing all those roads in the District which have been brought to the Council's attention either by individual residents, residents' groups or local ward councillors. Initially it was anticipated that the review would be completed by the end of June but the lack of two key postholders has delayed this process. One contract officer has been off on long-term sickness since the end of May and despite three recruitment exercises the post of senior contract officer has still not been filled due to a lack of experienced applicants.

The new scheme has now settled down and it is evident that many residents who originally requested a review of their collection method have now accepted the revised refuse and recycling schemes. However all requests are being investigated in detail, residents formally consulted and individual visits made to those properties indicating difficulties with any revised proposals.

As a consequence progress has been slower than anticipated. The aim is to consult all residents by the end of October with a view to moving as many properties on to the appropriate collection scheme as quickly as possible after that date. However such moves are constricted by the capacity of individual collection rounds and the contractor is currently assessing how the various routes can be moved to accommodate additional properties without amending the collection days which residents have now got used to.

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

The Waste Services Manager considers that there is a need for thorough consultation on movement from one collection method to another and would wish to make sure all residents in the road are content with the eventual decision which must be applicable to each resident. The Council cannot offer tailor-made services to individual residents which could result in more than one collection method within one street.

Members will recall that prior to the implementation of the new contract circa August 2006 consultants were called in to give advice on access and storage issues prior to the delivery of wheeled bins. The consultants' advice indicated around 5000 properties were unlikely to manage the alternate week scheme. This figure was amended upwards slightly by SITA when they initially considered the service requirements. However when the initial leaflet went out to all residents in January 2008 many residents indicated difficulties with access and storage in roads not originally on the sack collection list. It was thought prudent at the time to take note of the residents' views and err on the side of caution. As a consequence around 2000 more properties were included on the sack collection rather than on the alternate week bin collection. A further issue was raised when residents requested a green bin but not a grey bin due to storage difficulties and did not appreciate that the collection scheme had changed and that the grey AND green bin formed part of the AWC.

Despite all these issues I am pleased to tell you that due to the increase in participation by local residents in the Council's recycling and composting schemes it is likely that the national targets set for this Council to recycle and compost at least 40% of all household waste by 2010 will be exceeded this year.

The current figures since the start of the new collection scheme in April indicate that at least 60% of household waste collected is being recycled through the red box recycling scheme (22%) and the garden/food waste composting scheme (38%). The remaining non-recycling waste, which has been reduced by some 300 tonnes per week, is going for incineration to the Energy from Waste plant at Coventry. No waste is going to the landfill."

In a supplementary question, Councillor Crowther asked:

"I thank Councillor Kinson for a very extensive reply. One of the points he has made in it about the success of the scheme in terms of the high level of co-operation and enthusiasm for the scheme of the residents of our district has led to the doubling of our recycling rate and that none of our waste is going to land fill.

There are areas within the district which are unable to participate in the full scheme because of the local circumstances and because of the nature of my ward there is quite a lot in that area. A lot of the publicity which has been produced has been on the new scheme and does not make mention of other areas where this provision is not practicable. In the briefing and publicity, there is mention of the fact that households which are unable to accommodate the bins can have alternative arrangements. What is not clear is that there were going to be many households which would be capable of accommodating bins, but because of the operational requirements of making coherent rounds, they do not have them. There are some areas where people would like to have the bins, but

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

do not have them. If they do not have the bins they cannot have the green waste collection. There are other areas where bins were issued, but where the residents are not able to accommodate them.

The answer says that the aim is to consult residents by the end of October, but there is no firm commitment. Can we please have a firm commitment and a firm date by which the concerns of residents will have been addressed and that this information is made known to the residents. Will the Portfolio Holder either identify a firm date or firm dates for the individual areas which are still to be resolved.”

In reply, Councillor Kinson said:

“As far as I know, everyone is receiving a collection service. In 2006 enquiries were made about where bins and bags could be used. We do not want to use fortnightly bags and some people will be on bags permanently as they do not have room for bins. We are improving the system all the time and recycling from flats is our next objective, and shortly we will be asking for details as to where recycling points could be placed near to flats. This is a marathon and not a sprint. At the County Council Waste Partnership Team Meeting on 30 September, Warwick District Council was held up as an excellent example for others to follow. Credit is due to the Waste Management Team for all the hard work they have put in this year to exceed the targets. We and the contractor are learning from mistakes and experience.”

456. CALL IN ITEM

The Council considered minute 277 of the meeting of the Executive held on 23 July 2008, entitled “Improvement of the District”. The item had been called in under the Council’s Constitution and considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 24 September 2008, when it had been decided to refer the matter to the Council meeting for discussion.

It was proposed by Councillor Gifford that the Council should call upon the Executive to withdraw its proposal to set up a working party of new Councillors, with the remit of proposing ideas for improving the district, and the associated budget of £60,000, given the severe budget pressures facing the district over the next three years.

As an amendment to this proposal, Councillor Kirton moved that the matter should be referred back to the Executive for further consideration.

On this amended proposal being put to the meeting, upon a vote being taken, it was carried.

457. EXECUTIVE

It was moved by Councillor Michael Doody, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the Executive dated 3 September 2008 be approved and adopted subject to the deletion of the words

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

“in principle” in line three of the final paragraph of minute 388 (Free Swimming Programme).

458. EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Coker, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the reports of the Employment Committee, dated 12 August and 16 September 2008, be approved and adopted.

459. REGULATORY COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Gallagher, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the reports of the Regulatory Committee dated 21 August and 23 September 2008, be approved and adopted.

460. AUDIT AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Knight, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the reports of the Audit and Resources Scrutiny Committee dated 2 and 24 September 2008, be approved and adopted, subject to the word “apologise” in the second line of the first paragraph of minute 448 (External Auditor Governance Report) being amended to “advise”.

461. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Gifford, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 2 September 2008, be approved and adopted.

462. PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor MacKay, duly seconded and

RESOLVED that the reports of the Planning Committee dated 19 August and 17 September 2008, be approved and adopted.

463. NOTICES OF MOTION

(A) It was moved by Councillor Mrs E Higgins and duly seconded:

“Lock Lane, Warwick lies between Millers Road and the Grand Union Canal. It is an unadopted road with no footway. It is on the Warwickshire County Council’s Safer Routes to Schools for parents to escort primary school children to Woodloes Primary School. It has many HGVs going to the Thai warehouse, MOTs, and builders merchants yards and SITA have a recycling depot down there.

COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

The Council, as owners of the land, urges Warwickshire County Council to build a footway along Lock Lane for the safety of the children and their parents.”

RESOLVED that the motion be referred to the Executive for consideration.

464. **COMMON SEAL**

It was

RESOLVED that the Common Seal of Warwick District Council be affixed to such deeds and documents as may be required for implementing decisions of the Council arrived at this day.

(The meeting ended at 8.00 pm)

CHAIRMAN

26 November 2008