

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 30 March 2004, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 p.m.

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

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Davies)

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

1024. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Minute Number 1033 – Hill Close Gardens Trust – Heritage Lottery Bid Application

Councillors Mrs Begg and Smith declared personal prejudicial interests because they were trustees of Hill Close Gardens and left the room while it was considered.

Councillors Copping and Holland declared personal interests because they were members of Hill Close Gardens.

Minute Number 1035 – Kenilworth Town Centre

Councillors Mrs Blacklock, Mrs Compton, Copping, Gill, Hatfield, Sandhar, Short and Smith all declared personal interests as they were on Council owned Land.

1025. SCRUTINY OF STREET CLEANSING

The Committee considered a report from Environmental Health seeking approval of the draft report to the Executive in June, based on the Committee's deliberations regarding the scrutiny of street cleansing.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the draft report attached as an appendix to the report be submitted to the Executive in June; and
- (2) a report be submitted to the Executive on the progress made on the cleansing of the A46 in liaison with partner agencies and the possible budgetary implications this may have.

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

1026. CREATING A SAFER ENVIRONMENT

The Committee considered a report from Community Safety and Sustainability seeking guidance for how the Committee wished to undertake the scrutiny of community safety within Warwick District.

RECOMMENDED that the following three areas be investigated by Councillors who will submit bullet point reports to the June meeting:-

How community safety issues at Ward level can be properly communicated and addressed – Councillors Mrs Compton, Copping and Short;

The membership, operation and effectiveness of the Communities and Fear of Crime Group – Councillors Mrs Blacklock, Hatfield and Gill; and

How we can minimise the risk to elected members and staff as they go about their duties – Councillors Davies, Sandhar and Smith

1027. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE COMMUNITY PLAN

The Committee considered a report from Policy and Performance providing Members with an update on the current community plan for Warwick District, with specific reference to the work of the Environment, Health and Community Safety Steering Groups.

In this first community plan for Warwick District, action plans were developed for the period up to the end of March 2003. A review was carried out during the summer of 2003 to consider what had been achieved to date and following on from these action plans, what the priorities were for the future.

A leaflet which summarised the review was produced entitled “Your Community Plan 2001-2004: What Happened So Far” which was widely distributed across the district. A copy was also sent to every Councillor.

The more detailed findings of the review could be found within the “Setting of the Scene” document which was produced for the new Warwick Partnership in October 2003.

RECOMMENDED that the content of the report be noted.

1028. UPDATE REPORT AND ENERGY MANAGEMENT (MINUTE NUMBER 966)

The Committee considered a report updating them on the progress made with regard to actions recommended to the Executive from the Committee on energy management in April 2003 with regard to minute number 966.

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the content of the report be noted; and
- (2) a further report be submitted in March 2005.

1029. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered its work programme for the current municipal year.

RESOLVED that the work programme be noted and the outstanding issues be taken forward to the Committee work programme for 2004/05.

1030. REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE WORK OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

The Committee considered a report from the Corporate Management Team and the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, seeking suggestions for ways of improving the effectiveness of the work of the Council's four Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the current way of working continues but with a greater emphasis on post decision scrutiny rather than pre decision;
- (2) the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee be held on the same night as the Audit & Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee; and
- (3) when cross cutting issues are to be scrutinised a single group should be established with representatives from each of the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committees.

1031. END OF TERM REPORT – 2003/04 AND WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2004/05

The Committee received a list from the items considered during the 2003/04 by all four Overview and Scrutiny Committees, and considered finalising their work plan for the year 2004/05.

Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee was constitutionally bound to report annually to Council on the workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amend working methods if appropriate.

The matters considered by the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees during the municipal year both in the form of the items on the Overview and Scrutiny agenda itself and also matters for the Executive which fell within the remit of each Committee were appended to the report.

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

In addition to this, the draft work programme for ensuing year for the four Scrutiny Committees was also appended to the report.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the items considered during the municipal year be noted; and
- (2) the work programme for the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2004/05, as amended, be approved as a living work programme.

1032. EXECUTIVE MEETING – MONDAY, 8 MARCH 2004

The Committee considered the minutes of the Executive meeting held on Monday, 8 March 2004 which came within its remit.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the minutes be noted; and
- (2) the Committee expressed disappointment that the further report to the Executive, as detailed at Minute number 969 had not been submitted for consideration at this meeting.

1033. 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 2 – Notice of Motion – Councillor R Smith

The Committee requested a report back to them, from Planning & Engineering on this matter before it is taken forward to the Executive.

Item Number 3 – Notice of Motion – Councillor Mrs Begg

The Committee agreed, at the request of Councillor Mrs Begg, that Action 21 should drive this motion and therefore sought a report from Action 21 to the Committee to consider the next stages.

Item Number 6 – Aviation White Paper – The Future of Air Transport

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report but reminded the Executive to be mindful of the significant Environmental impact this would have including the atmospheric pollution.

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

Item Number 9 – Countywide Waste Management Strategy

The Committee and included this item within its work programme for 2004/05 to monitor its progress.

Item Number 12 – Hill Close Garden Trust – Heritage LotteryApplication

The Committee strongly supported the recommendations in the report but expressed concern over what might happen if the bid failed as they felt it was essential for the scheme to be a success.

Item 14A – Historic Building Grant Scheme in Warwick District – Annual Review

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Item 14C – Food Safety Enforcements – Adoption of a Home Authority Partnership with Warwickshire County Caterers

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Item 14D – Food Safety Enforcement Service Plan 2003/2004

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

1034. **PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

1035. **EXECUTIVE AGENDA (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS)**

The Committee considered the items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Monday, 5 April 2004 which came within the remit of the Committee. As a result the following comments were made for forwarding to the Executive:-

Item 16 – Kenilworth Town Centre

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Item 17 – Kenilworth Town Centre

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

(The meeting ended at 8.40 p.m.)