

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 9 September 2003 at the Council House, Southbank Road, Kenilworth, at 6.00 p.m.

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

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

(Councillor Cockburn substituted for Councillor Hatfield)

396. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Minute Number 398 - Smells from a Foul Sewer in Kenilworth

Councillor Cockburn declared a personal interest in this item because he had sold sheep to the abattoir.

397. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 12 August 2003 having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

398. **SMELLS FROM A FOUL SEWER IN KENILWORTH**

The Chairman of the Committee explained that the purpose of the meeting in Kenilworth and discussing this item, was to give local residents the opportunity to hear the information first hand and ask questions about the issue, and also to try and find a way forward for dealing with this issue and not to apportion blame for the cause of the problem.

Officers from the Council and from Severn Trent reported verbally that both were working closely together to address the issue. A meeting had taken place at the abattoir, at which it was demonstrated to officers that the smell nuisance could be effectively controlled by the automatic injection of a suitable chemical into the effluent. Constant dosing would take place on a temporary basis for the next five weeks and the situation would be constantly monitored by WDC and Severn Trent over that period. Another meeting was then to take place (on 8th October) to review the situation and it was anticipated with confidence that a permanent automatic installation would then be installed. It was also noted that Severn Trent would be installing a permanent discharge monitor and that a specific reference number (25314321) had been allocated for residents to log further complaints via the free phone service (0800 7834444).

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the information presented to the meeting be noted;
- (2) the implementation of the proposals be closely monitored by the Council's Environmental Health department and by Severn Trent;
- (3) a further report by way of update be presented to the meeting of this committee during the November cycle;
- (4) a spokesperson on behalf of the abattoir operator Farmers Fresh be invited to attend that meeting;
- (5) close monitoring of any future complaints from residents in Leycester Road be undertaken;
- (6) it was not possible to answer all of the questions that were put by members of the public on the night without notice and officers undertook to use their best endeavours to provide answers to the following, at the November meeting: –
 - (a) how many sheep are being slaughtered at the abattoir?
 - (b) is there any risk to health from the chemical that is being used to treat the effluent?
 - (c) why has it taken so long to sort out this problem?
 - (d) why won't the Environment Agency agree to install a treatment plant on abattoir premises?
 - (e) what is the current maximum level of effluent discharge?
 - (f) will the current levels of effluent discharge be made available as public information?
 - (g) will the public know if an application is made to Severn Trent to increase the throughput?
- (7) the Executive be informed of the action undertaken to date.

399. RECYCLING

The Committee undertook a pre-planning discussion on the scrutiny of recycling within Warwick District with input from the Council's Waste Management Group.

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

Nine areas for scrutiny were identified by the Committee. These were:-

1. Process of selection for green bin and red box issuing.
2. Joint working arrangements with Warwickshire County Council and other local authorities;
3. The Council's performance on recycling against the defined action plan;
4. Public perception and impression of the services that the Council provide and the achievements which have been made;
5. Is the Council achieving its legal obligations for recycling;.
6. How the Council itself considers recycling and what is practicable for recycling within the Council, and the resulting implications on the resources within the Council;
7. How the Council can educate and encourage further participation in recycling throughout the District;
8. Scrutiny of the decisions made by the Recycling Steering Group; and
9. Performance of the Council's contractors who provide recycling collections/services.

The Committee were sympathetic that a report containing detail on all of the above would both be lengthy and take up a lot of vital Officer time.

RECOMMENDED that a basic report be submitted on the above to the next meeting, with a further detailed report on the scrutiny of recycling and a possible work plan for this be submitted to the November meeting.

400. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered its work programme for the ensuing year and made amendments to it as necessary.

The following amendments were made to the work plan:-

a further report on the Rouncil Lane problem was added to the work programme for November and removed from October, scrutiny of planning best value review was added in for November, and the presentation from the Professor Ashton of the Primary Care Trust was added into October's work programme.

In addition, the local plan was removed from November and would be added early in the new year. Also, street cleansing, community safety sustainability would be added into the work programme and submitted to the next meeting of the Committee for consideration.

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

RECOMMENDED that the work plan and subsequent amendments be approved

401. EXECUTIVE MEETING - MONDAY, 18 AUGUST 2003

The Committee considered the minutes of the Executive meeting held on Monday, 18 August 2003, which came within its remit.

RECOMMENDED that the minutes be noted.

402. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON-CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS)

The Committee considered the items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Monday, 15 September 2003, which came within the remit of the Committee. As a result the following comments were made for forwarding to the Executive:-

Item 3 - Review of the Local Plan

The Committee supported the general principle of the local plan and the timetable as detailed within the report at page 9.

Item 11B - Food Safety Enforcement Service Plan - Annual Report and Performance - April 2002-March 2003

The Committee supported the recommendation of the report.

(The meeting ended at 8.42 p.m.)

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