

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 7 October 2003 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 p.m.

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

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

493. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

494. **SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE PRIMARY CARE TRUST**

The Committee received a presentation from Professor Ashton and Stephen Mundy, of the South Warwickshire Primary Care Trust, about South Warwickshire Primary Care Trust, their mission, what they needed to do, and how they needed to do it.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the presentation be noted; and
- (2) South Warwickshire Primary Care Trust be invited to do a presentation to the Social Overview & Scrutiny Committee

495. **ACTION 21**

The Committee undertook a pre planning discussion on the scrutiny of Action 21 within Warwick District.

The Committee highlighted the following areas for further scrutiny:-

Quarterly reports to Warwick District Council Senior Officers on the work of Action 21;
The Councils' Service Level Agreement with Action 21; and
The Action 21 Budget.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) a report be submitted in December, detailing these areas further.
- (2) an Action 21 Board Member and 2 volunteer representatives from the working groups, be invited to attend the December meeting,

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

496. SCRUTINY OF RECYCLING

The Committee considered a report from Environmental Health updating members on the present state of developing and implementing the Council's recycling strategy and suggesting areas for a more detailed scrutiny of the service.

The Committee had agreed that one of its major roles this year would be to carry out a detailed review of recycling within the district.

At its last meeting, the Committee had requested a preliminary report outlining the issues which members might wish to address. The aim of this report was to give a summary of the work which had been planned and carried out to date, to secure its focus and to allow members to decide on the scope of the scrutiny investigation.

There were a number of aspects in the recycling service operated by Warwick District which members wished to examine in greater detail. These included:-

- (1) The collection of garden waste - including the decision to provide the service to 24,000 households, why consultations were engaged and their recommendations, what alternatives were provided (discounted composters, free wood chipping etc) where the service was not operating, charging of the collection of garden waste under the refuse collection contract, options for future expansion (including alternate weekly collection of green waste and domestic refuse)
- (2) The Council's performance on recycling against national and local targets.
- (3) Problem areas and cases where recycling became problematic and the alternative solutions which might be considered, (blocks of flats, rural areas) and accessibility problems for elderly and disabled residents (assisted collection arrangements were offered for both the major elements of the kerbside recycling contract) and problems caused by the use of red boxes and green wheeled bins.
- (4) Partnership agreements, including working arrangements within the Council.
- (5) Public perception and the public's view of progress which the Council had made, how the public were consulted prior to the implementation of the recycling strategy, the work being undertaken to improve education and to raise awareness, wider campaigns at regional and national levels, future methods for publicising recycling and gauging the public's reaction to the measures taken now and in the future.

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) a report be submitted in December on the recycling of plastics in the District;
- (3) the following areas be investigated by Councillors who will submit bullet point reports to the December meeting:-

Garden Waste - Councillors Mrs Blacklock and Gill.

Problems - including the areas and cases where recycling could be problematic - Councillors Copping and Smith.

Public participation - including the public's view on the progress which the Council had made – Councillors Hatfield and Sandhar

Contractors - considering the performance of the contractors in providing the garden waste and paper recycling schemes - Councillor Mrs Compton and Councillor Davies.

497. GRANT AID MID-TERM REVIEW 2003/2004

The Committee considered a report from Planning and Engineering informing them of the current situation in respect of the Historic Building Grants made by the Council at the mid-point of the current financial year.

The Council had a long association with the provision of grants for the maintenance of historic buildings throughout the district with a variety of grant aided schemes.

The report detailed the work in the present year for grant schemes within the District. These are:-

Historic Building Grants;
Warwick Scheme of Grants;
Heritage, Economic Regeneration Scheme of Grants for Leamington Spa; and
Leamington Spa Town Heritage Initiative Scheme of Grants.

The Heritage, Economic Regeneration Scheme of Grants and the Townscape Heritage Initiative Scheme of Grants would conclude at the end of this financial year. It would, therefore, be necessary to investigate whether any other match funding could be obtained and how funds could be best allocated to achieve the high quality levels of restoration that had been possible over previous years.

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) a further report on the future of Grant Aid Schemes be submitted to the Executive in February 2004; and
- (3) a presentation (including slides) be made to the Committees May meeting, on the work carried out under the grant aid scheme during 2003/2004.

498. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered its work programme for the ensuing year.

The following amendments were made to the work programme:-

Tasks linked to the scrutiny of Action 21, was removed from the November meeting; and further tasks linked to the scrutiny of recycling were moved from the November to December meeting.

RECOMMENDED that the work plan, as amended, be approved.

499. EXECUTIVE MEETING - MONDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2003

The Committee considered the minutes of the Executive meeting held on Monday, 15 September 2003 which came within its remit.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the minutes be noted; and
- (2) it be noted that in general the Committee supported the Notice of Motion from Councillor Copping about cessation of smoking in public buildings, but expressed some concerns about aspects of it and looked forward to the report which would be submitted to the Executive in November.

(the meeting ended at 8.07 pm)

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