

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Streetscene Policy Development and Review Panel

(to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Thursday, 2 November 2017

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

PRESENT:

Councillor L Keeble (Chairman)

(Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: J E Butts, Mrs L E Clubley, J M Englefield, G Fazackarley and R H Price, JP

Also Present: Councillor Miss T G Harper, Executive Member for Streetscene (Items 7 & 9) Councillor Mrs T L Ellis (Item 9) and Councillor M J Ford, JP (Items 7 & 9)



1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology of absence was received from Councillor S D Martin.

2. MINUTES

It was AGREED that the minutes of the Streetscene Policy Development and Review Panel held on 7 September 2017, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman passed on his thanks to Paul Doran for his services and help to Streetscene over the years.

The Chairman also welcomed Mark Bowler to the meeting as the newly appointed Head of Streetscene.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISCLOSURES OF ADVICE OR DIRECTIONS

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

5. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations made at this meeting.

6. REVIEW OF WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Operations which reviewed the Panel's work programme for 2017/18.

It was AGREED that the panel confirm the programme of items for 2017/18, as set out in Appendix A to the report.

7. MEMBERS OPEN FORUM

The Chairman invited Councillor Ford to address the Panel as he had submitted a question.

His question was "It appears that re-cycling percentages are pretty flat so what could be the next initiative. I reckon that even amongst enthusiastic re-cyclers kitchen waste that goes into the 'under the sink' bin contains both re-cyclable and non-recyclable material. The full bag will then go into the green top bin. Short of providing a kitchen caddy, are there any thoughts on tips we can offer households to help them separate materials within the kitchen?"

The Chairman then provided the following response; "The levelling-off of recycling rates is a national trend, which is replicated across Hampshire as well as Fareham. The reasons for the trend will vary according to the area.

There is undoubtedly an element of recycling fatigue, and people citing confusion about what materials are accepted as a reason not to recycle.

The standard of materials accepted by re-processors has been rising, with the effect that the sorting has become more stringent in order to protect the market the materials are sent to.

The contamination rates in Fareham (i.e. non-recyclable materials put in the recycling bins) at 10% is the second lowest in Hampshire; the average across PI is just under 13%, with some authorities at 18%.

Within Fareham, we are currently putting our efforts into focusing on food waste, with our Food Saver Champion, Barbara Cowie, working on a project funded by Sainsbury's. Events have been held in Sainsbury's, local libraries, markets and Council Connect and we have given presentations in several schools. We are working closely with the Communications team to maximise use of social media.

We are asking householders to keep a food diary for a week, to highlight just how much food is wasted; to date 1226 diaries have been issued. We are producing 'doggy bags' for restaurants to offer diners. The children's competition to design the bag has just closed, 1550 competition forms were delivered to local schools. We are also issuing 'Welcome packs' to new tenants in Council and Housing Association properties, with tools and tips to avoid food waste.

Generally, raising awareness of one aspect of waste, such as food, has a knock-on effect on improving recycling as people are reminded of the issue. It is accepted good practice that a drip-drip effect if continual reminders is required to maintain recycling rates.

We send an annual bin collection calendar which includes a reminder of what can be recycled. This year's calendars were delivered during October. During 2016 we delivered 2000 bags to residents in flats to store recyclable materials, to discourage plastic bags in the recycling bins.

Project Integra are working with a Behavioural Insights team to look at the reasons people are not recycling, and develop a targeted campaign to encourage recycling. We are proposing that Fareham would like to be a pilot for the project."

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Miss Harper, Executive Member for Streetscene, addressed the Panel on this item.

Councillor Price enquired as to whether the 'welcome pack' that is being given out to new Council and Housing Association tenants could also be given to local Estate Agents so that they could be given out to new tenants in privately rented properties. The Head of Streetscene agreed that this could be looked into.

It was suggested that the ideas from the Behavioural Insights team could be presented to the Panel or to all Members as a briefing session.

The Chairman thanked Officers and Members for their participation in the Members Open Forum.

8. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was AGREED that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and representatives of the Press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting as the Panel considered it was not in the public interest to consider the matter in public on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

9. REVIEW OF THE HEDGE CUTTING CONTRACT

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Operations on a review of the Hedge Cutting Contract.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Mrs Ellis, Ford, JP and Miss Harper, Executive Member for Streetscene addressed the Panel on this item.

It was AGREED that the Panel: -

- (a) note the content of the report; and
- (b) recommends Option 3 to the Executive as the preferred option for endorsement.

(The meeting started at 6.00 pm
and ended at 7.03 pm).