

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Streetscene Scrutiny Panel (to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Thursday, 17 October 2019

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

PRESENT:

Councillor Miss T G Harper (Chairman)

Councillor (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: J E Butts, Mrs L E Clubley, L Keeble, Mrs K Mandry,
R H Price, JP and Mrs T L Ellis (deputising for G Fazackarley)

**Also
Present:**



1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor G Fazackarley.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Streetscene Scrutiny Panel meeting held on the 18 July 2019 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements: -

Firstly, it is with great sadness that I announce that Angie Ostler passed away on the 20th August 2019. Angie had over 40 years of continuous service with the Council and was a much-loved member of the Fareham Borough Council Team. I would like to take this opportunity to pass on the Panels condolences to her family.

Secondly, on the 17 September 2019, the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment at Hampshire County Council agreed a series of proposals as part of Hampshire County Council Transformation to 2021 savings programme.

Hampshire County Council consider that, after 22 years the financial position, and therefore the Memo of Understanding that governs the Project Integra partnership, is no longer sustainable. As such they are proposing to implement the following changes from 31 March 2021:

- a) Cease to pay recycling credits for recyclables for which provision has been made through the contract;
- b) Recharge each Waste Collection Authority the cost of disposing of the contamination/non-recyclable material within their dry mixed recyclables deliveries; and
- c) Retain the income from the sale of all Materials Recovery Facilities processed recyclables.

Hampshire County Council will continue to provide free of charge access for the Domestic Mixed Recycling collections at the Material Recycling Facilities. Officers are currently awaiting legal advice on the validity of the Hampshire County Council proposals which will help to inform the Fareham Borough Council response and ongoing future arrangements for the disposal of recyclable materials.

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. EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

(1) Purchase of Refuse Collection Vehicles

Members enquired as to the reason for the purchase of the new, upgraded vehicles to the Council's current fleet. Officers advised that the new vehicles are 2 cubic meters larger, with greater capacity meaning that the new vehicles are more economical.

7. PRESENTATION ON WOODLAND AREAS, SPORTS PITCHES AND CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS AT COLDEAST

The Panel received a presentation from Mark Trigwell, Countryside Ranger and Mick Gore, Public Spaces Operations Manager on transforming woodland areas, sports pitches and play areas at Coldeast.

The presentation, which is appended to these Minutes, showed a series of photos of the site, highlighting the extensive work that had been carried out by both staff and volunteers to transform the Coldeast site.

Members asked if recognition had been given, particularly to the volunteers for their work and asked for more to be done to advertise the site to the wider community. Members suggested Fareham today as a possible platform in which to promote the new community space.

Members enquired about the funding for similar play areas, such as Holly Hill, across the borough. Officers explained that Leisure and Community are manage the provision of new play areas across the Borough with Streetscene responsible, purely for the maintenance and repair of play areas.

RESOLVED that the Streetscene Scrutiny Panel notes the contents of the presentation.

8. GRASS CUTTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Panel received a report from Mick Gore, Public Spaces Operations Manager, on the Council's grass cutting arrangements.

The main areas of discussion for the Panel included; detail around the challenges the service had experienced this year as a result of staff shortages whilst still ensuring customer satisfaction. This in turn resulted in a few more strimming complaints than usual. Officers explained that the staffing shortages this year were unusual and as the short-fall in covering operations was largely due to illness. Agency staff were used to cover some of the staff shortages but obtaining the appropriately trained agency staff and budget constraints were an issue.

The Panel discussed the potential for an increase in pro-active communication for the service to keep the public better informed and minimise queries and complaints to the service. Officers advised that this is something that is currently being developed across the Streetscene services.

Members enquired about the contributions from Hampshire County Council Highways Department and asked that in future, information could be provided to detail the cost towards the Highways grass cutting element of the service.

RESOLVED that the Panel scrutinised the arrangements for grass cutting as set out in the report.

9. ROUTE OPTIMISATION OF WASTE COLLECTION ROUNDS

The Panel received a report from Gary Squire, Refuse and Recycling Manager on the route optimisation of the waste collection rounds.

The report provided information to the Panel on the importance of route optimisation to maximise collection capability across the Borough in the most efficient manner. This is an extremely complex piece of work with several factors influencing the need to re-balance the refuse and recycling rounds.

Members asked about operatives assisting with the route optimisation work due to their knowledge of the rounds. Officers confirmed that discussions have already taken place with operatives to get their input.

RESOLVED that the Panel scrutinised the current arrangements for the refuse and recycling rounds.

10. STREETSCENE SCRUTINY PANEL PRIORITIES

The Chairman asked Members of the Panel to consider the Scrutiny Priorities for the Streetscene Portfolio. The Panel requested that at future meetings a copy of the Scrutiny Priorities be available for Members as a prompt for discussions at this item.

Members asked to see the pro-active communication information that was being prepared for Streetscene services to keep the public informed and help minimise queries and complaints. The Head of Streetscene confirmed that the finalised communications document would be circulated to members of the Panel.

The Head of Streetscene confirmed that, at the next meeting scheduled for the 30 January 2020, items would be brought to the Panel to allow Members to scrutinise arrangements for cleaning and clearing; fly tipping, dog fouling, graffiti, litter and abandoned vehicles throughout the Borough.

RESOLVED that Members considered the Scrutiny Priorities for Streetscene.

(The meeting started at 6.00 pm
and ended at 7.38 pm).