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COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Virtual Community and Environment Committee Meeting held at 6.00 pm on Wednesday 14 October 2020.

Under Regulations made under the Coronavirus Act 2020, the meeting was held virtually. Members of the public were able to view the virtual meeting via the District Council's website at www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk or via our YouTube channel.

PRESENT

Councillor Chris Furness - In the Chair

Councillors Matthew Buckler, Sue Bull, Martin Burfoot, Helen Froggatt Clare Gamble, Susan Hobson, David Hughes, Tony Morley, Peter O'Brien, Joyce Pawley, Garry Purdy, Mike Ratcliffe, Andrew Statham, Alasdair Sutton, Steve Wain and Mark Wakeman.

Paul Wilson (Chief Executive), James McLaughlin (Director of Corporate & Customer Services), Tim Braund (Director of Regulatory Services), Ashley Watts (Director of Community and Environmental Services), Rob Cogings (Director of Housing), Isabel Cogings (Rural Housing Enabler), Simon Beynon (Housing Strategy Officer) Samantha Grisman (Clean & Green Manager), Becky Bryan (Community Development Manager), Mike Hase (Policy Manager), Jason Spencer (Electoral and Democratic Services Manager)

Also present: Andy Harris and Jeremy Rowe (Freedom Leisure)

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

111/20 – MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Garry Purdy, seconded by Councillor Mike Ratcliffe and

RESOLVED (unanimously)

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community & Environment Committee held on 19 August 2020 be approved as a correct record.

112/20 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In line with the Council's temporary suspension of direct public participation the following questions were submitted in writing and were shown on screen at the virtual meeting:

QUESTION from Mr Dobbs an Ashbourne resident.

Why is Air Pollution (particularly with respect to Air Quality Objective exceedances in Ashbourne) not a regular agenda item for this committee?

“I note that my suggestion to make the discussion of the Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) an agenda item for this committee has not been adopted. It appears that not even having Ashbourne quoted as a pollution hot spot on prime time TV has caused air pollution to be moved up this council’s list of priorities.

I therefore propose to use my Public Participation as an opportunity to appraise the Committee of the key points from the recently published ASR:

- 1. It contains several errors. Like most reports mistakes have crept in. Without any scrutiny these errors would go unchallenged. This is what I thought committees were supposed to do with reports. If the data supplied in the ASR was to be used in making the ‘Detailed Assessment’ it would have to be repeated with the correct data.*
- 2. The data from the NOx sample tubes relates to 2019 (ie before the pandemic reached the UK). The 2020 ASR should therefore be completely unaffected by any issues with lock-down since all data was secured before then. The reason for this report being delayed from its target publication date of June 2020 should not be attributed to the virus.*
- 3. All data points for tubes 12 and 19 on Buxton Rd Ashbourne have returned values well beyond the air quality objective value of 40ugm-3. The annual mean for one is almost 20% higher than the ‘safe’ value and the other is over 40% above the target. Plotting the data indicates no downward trend.*
- 4. There is no possible interpretation of this data that does not conclude that DDDC are obliged to declare an air quality management area on a section of Buxton Rd. This should have been done last year.*
- 5. Your chairman will have recently received a copy of a significant discussion document from the Traffic Group of Ashbourne Town Team. It repeats the request for the immediate declaration of an Air Quality Management Area on Buxton Road.*

I also have two questions:

- 1. Has the contractor to carry out the ‘detailed assessment’ been appointed?*
- 2. What timescale are you requesting for the completion of this detailed assessment?”*

RESPONSE:

Thanks for your question, Mr Dobbs. In reply I can inform you that a preferred consultant has been identified and contracts are in the process of being agreed.

In relation to timescales, the preferred consultant has indicated that their work can be completed in a very short space of time – 2 weeks has been suggested. However, a start date has not yet been set as part of the contractual arrangements. I will ask officers to update you when a more definite timescale is available.

113/20 – INTERESTS

Councillor Chris Furness declared a personal interest in item 9 – Affordable Housing Development Programme – as he was a director of Bradwell Community Land Trust.

Councillor Sue Bull declared a personal interest in item 8 – Ashbourne Neighbourhood Plan, Regulation 16 Public Consultation - as she is a member of Ashbourne Town Council.

114/20 - QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO RULE OF PROCEDURE NUMBER 15

Question from Councillor Clare Gamble to Councillor Chris Furness, Chairman of the Community & Environment Committee:

“Can I be given the dates this authority met with other agencies to discuss the education of the public regarding the use of portable BBQs and the dates of any planned meetings?”

Councillor Furness provided a verbal response.

Response:

Over the last few weeks, Officers have spoken with colleagues at the Peak District National Park Authority and neighbouring authorities on this issue. The discussions have not been held as formal meetings, so dates cannot be given.

In addition, a contact has been established at the Fire Authority regarding the campaign material they used and the intention is to touch base again in early 2021.

Preparatory works for the PSPO consultation exercise are underway and will go live later this year.

Supplementary Question from Cllr Gamble

Will the consultation on the PSPO include disposable barbeques?

Response from the Director of Community and Environmental Services

Yes it will include disposable barbeques.

115/20 – ANNUAL LEISURE REPORT 2019/20

The Committee considered an annual report to provide an update on the performance of the four leisure centres within the district, from 1 April 2019 – 30 March 2020. It was noted that, following the decision to appoint Freedom Leisure to operate these leisure centres, the Committee had asked to receive an annual performance report and that this was the first report.

The Committee welcomed the report and during discussions raised questions relating to cleanliness at the ARC Leisure centre, the environment impact on operations and the appointment of an Active Community Manager.

Andy Harris and Jeremy Rowe from Freedom Leisure were present to answer questions.

Councillor David Hughes arrived at 6.10pm during consideration of this item.

It was moved by Councillor Helen Froggatt seconded by Councillor Mike Ratcliffe and

- RESOLVED**
(unanimously)
1. To note the annual report provided by Freedom Leisure for 2019/20 as set out in appendix 1.
 2. To note the rise in participation figures for 2019/20.
 3. To note the CO2 savings through the Leisure Energy Project for 2019/20

116/20 – HOUSING RENEWAL POLICY

The Committee considered a proposal to update the District Council's Housing Renewal Policy, which set out the ways in which the Council would work to improve the existing stock of good quality private sector housing. This included proposals to amend the way in which disabled facilities grants were processed and approved.

It was moved by Councillor Garry Purdy, seconded by Councillor Mark Wakeman and

- RESOLVED**
(unanimously)
- To approve the draft Housing Renewal Policy 2020-2023.

117/20 – ASHBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - REGULATION 16 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Committee considered a report setting out the contents of the draft Ashbourne Neighbourhood Plan and detailing the representations received during the six week period of public consultation. The report also included the Council's representations on the content of the plan to be considered at the forthcoming examination.

Members expressed disappointment that, despite the hard work put in to developing the Plan, only 12 submissions had been received during the public consultation period. There was a discussion on whether business sites outside the parish of Ashbourne could have been included and noted that while a joint plan could have been an option it would have needed support from the other parishes to progress.

It was moved by Councillor Sue Bull, seconded by Councillor Susan Hobson and

- RESOLVED**
(unanimously)
1. To note the representations received during the statutory publicity period for the Ashbourne Neighbourhood Plan, as set out in Section 2 of the report and forward them to the examiner appointed to undertake the Examination of the Ashbourne Neighbourhood Plan.
 2. To note the comments made in respect of the policies and proposals contained within the Ashbourne Neighbourhood Plan set out in Section 3 of the report and forward them to the examiner appointed to undertake the Examination of the Ashbourne Neighbourhood Plan

3. To forward the further comments received from statutory consultees and other stakeholders to the examiner appointed to undertake the Examination of the Ashbourne Neighbourhood Plan
4. To receive a further report at a meeting of the Committee setting out the Examiner's Report findings and any recommended modifications to the Ashbourne Neighbourhood Plan.

118/20 – AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Committee considered a report setting out details of the current and proposed affordable housing programme.

The Chairman reported that this would be the last meeting of the Committee to be attended by Isabel Cogings, Rural Housing Enabler, before she left the Council to work at Nottingham Community Housing Association. On behalf of the Council the Chairman thanked Isabel for her significant contribution to the delivery of affordable housing within the District and wished her well for the future. The Chairman's comments were endorsed by other members of the Committee.

The Committee sought clarification on whether the proposed Member workshop on affordable housing would be going ahead. It was confirmed that although dates had not been confirmed the workshop would still take place.

It was moved by Councillor Tony Morley, seconded by Councillor Alasdair Sutton and

- RESOLVED**
1. To note the outturn for 2019/20.
 2. To note the projected completions for 2020/21.
 3. To note the affordable housing programme for 2020 onwards.

Voting:	For	16
	Against	0
	Abstention	1

The meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes following consideration of this item.

119/20 – HOME OPTIONS ALLOCATION POLICY

The Committee considered a report setting out proposals to change the Home-Options Allocation Policy – the joint policy with a number of Derbyshire authorities and registered providers of social housing (including Platform Housing Group) – which determined how applicants for housing were assessed and prioritised for accommodation in a fair and transparent manner.

It was moved by Councillor Andrew Statham, seconded by Councillor Susan Hobson and

RESOLVED To approve the proposed changes to the Policy as set out in the report.
(unanimously)

120/20 THE USE OF GLYPHOSATE

The Director of Community and Environmental Services introduced a report providing an update on the current use of Glyphosate within the Derbyshire District as an active means of weed control, and outlined an approach to further reduce use. In his introduction the Director confirmed that recommendation 3 should recommend option 2 in the report.

The following motion was moved by Councillor Garry Purdy, seconded by Cllr Susan Hobson :

- “1. That the Director of Community and Environmental Services continues to engage in discussions with Derbyshire County Council in respect of arrangements for the management of weed control throughout the District under contract.*
- 2. That the Director of Community and Environmental Services continues to engage in discussions with Parish and Town Councils on appropriate alternative weed management options in order to inform the forthcoming review of Clean and Green Service Standards.*
- 3. That in the period prior to the implementation of any new service standards arising from the Clean and Green Review, Council adopts the approach outlined in Option 2.”*

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Peter O'Brien, seconded by Councillor Steve Wain:

Add to paragraph 1 “With the objective of progressively reducing the use of glyphosate based products to zero by January 2023.”

Delete paragraphs 2 and 3 and replace with

- “2. Undertake consultation with those UK and other Authorities who no longer use glyphosate based products in normal weed control activities, to inform the Clean and Green Review, and with a view to a revised specification being available for consideration for incorporation in the tender documentation for the 2022 weed control contract. Hammersmith and Fulham, Brighton, Vancouver, Bruxelles and the City of Luxembourg are examples of such Authorities.*
- 3. When conditions permit, continue site based trials in a variety of environments (including at least one town or village following consultation with Town and Parish Councils) with the current contractor, including the use of mechanical, foam and superheated steam based methods within the current budgetary arrangements.*
- 4. Report the discussions with Derbyshire County Council, consultations with relevant Authorities and the results of trials to a future meeting of this Committee before 31 July 2021. (Covid 19 circumstances permitting)*
- 5. Confirm the commitment of this Council to eliminating the use of glyphosate in its weed control activities by the earliest possible date subject to the agreement of Parish and Town Councils on mutually satisfactory methods of control.”*

With the consent of the mover and seconder of the original motion this amendment was accepted.

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

1. That the Director of Community and Environmental Services continues to engage in discussions with Derbyshire County Council in respect of arrangements for the management of weed control throughout the District under contract with the objective of progressively reducing the use of glyphosate based products to zero by January 2023.
2. To undertake consultation with those UK and other Authorities who no longer use glyphosate based products in normal weed control activities, to inform the Clean and Green Review, and with a view to a revised specification being available for consideration for incorporation in the tender documentation for the 2022 weed control contract. Hammersmith and Fulham, Brighton, Vancouver, Bruxelles and the City of Luxembourg are examples of such Authorities.
3. When conditions permit, to continue site based trials in a variety of environments (including at least one town or village, following consultation with Town and Parish Councils) with the current contractor, including the use of mechanical, foam and superheated steam based methods within the current budgetary arrangements.
4. Report the discussions with Derbyshire County Council, consultations with relevant Authorities and the results of trials to a future meeting of this Committee before 31 July 2021 (Covid 19 circumstances permitting)
5. Confirm the commitment of this Council to eliminating the use of glyphosate in its weed control activities by the earliest possible date subject to the agreement of Parish and Town Councils on mutually satisfactory methods of control.”

MEETING CLOSED 8.30PM

CHAIRMAN