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COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Virtual Community and Environment Committee Meeting held at 6.00 pm on Wednesday, 7 April 2021.

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, Clare Gamble, Tom Donnelly, Richard Fitzherbert, Susan Hobson, David Hughes, Tony Morley, Peter O'Brien, , Garry Purdy, Mike Ratcliffe, Andrew Statham, Alasdair Sutton, Steve Wain and Mark Wakeman.

Tim Braund, (Director of Regulatory Services), James McLaughlin (Director of Corporate and Customer Services), Rob Cogings (Director of Housing), Amanda Goodall (Environmental Health Manager), Vikki Hatfield (Neighbourhoods Manager), Jim Fearn (Communications & Marketing Manager) and Angela Gratton (Democratic Services Officer).

APOLOGIES

Councillor Helen Froggatt substitute Councillor Richard Fitzherbert

311/20 – MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Tony Morley seconded by Councillor Tony Mike Ratcliffe and

RESOLVED (unanimously)

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community & Environment Committee held on 10 February 2021 and 25 March 2021 (Special Meeting)

be approved as a correct record.

312/20 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The following statements and questions were submitted in writing and were shown on screen at the virtual meeting:

QUESTIONS and STATEMENT from Mr Peter Dobbs, a resident of Ashbourne, on the declaration of an Air Quality Management Area in Ashbourne.

1. *I welcome the recommendations of the report and trust that the order to declare an Air Quality Management Area will be approved by this committee. The area for the AQMA suggested by RSK is commendably extensive.*
2. *I first wrote to the DDDC Environmental Health Dept in September 2017 to suggest that monitoring NOx levels on Buxton Road Ashbourne would be prudent. Although it was obvious within 3 months that the pattern of results from that sample point were clearly indicative of an exceedance of the Air Quality Objective, it has taken another 3 years for the problem to be officially recognised. Without that official recognition, effective measures to address the problem cannot be introduced, so years have been lost when mitigation measures might have been in place and the damaging effects of air pollution on health reduced.*

Qn Is the council going to take this opportunity to review its approach to air quality monitoring so that other areas of the Dales do not have to wait so long before action is taken?

RESPONSE to Question

Thank you for your question. The Council reviews its approach to air local air quality management at least annually, with the annual reports providing that opportunity. Where potential problems are identified it will continue to work with the DEFRA Air Quality helpdesk to ensure that the correct actions are taken, as it has done in the case of Buxton Road.

3. *The officer recommendation is that authority to formulate an Action Plan in relation to the Air Quality Management Area is delegated to the Environmental Health Team. The recommended composition of a 'Steering Group' for developing an AQAP is quite tightly defined in TG16;*

Qn a) Can Council give assurance that the guidance in TG16 will be followed in convening the Steering Group? and

Qn b) Could the composition of the Steering Group be made public as soon as possible?

RESPONSE to Question a)

In relation to the composition of an Air Quality Action Plan Steering Group, TG16 suggests the following:

'A local steering group of lead officers (and members) may be appropriate to develop a range of measures for further consideration, across relevant policy areas (see para 2.26), and to ensure that there is sufficient political engagement'. Para 2.26 lists a range of policy areas that may be relevant for consideration.

TG16 goes on to note that it is particularly important that transport planners are engaged in the development of the Action Plan.

It will be for this Committee to determine how the Action Plan is developed, but it may be that it will be seen as most appropriate for District Council officers to develop a draft Action Plan with

DCC Highways, taking into account the views of the local community, before submitting that Action Plan to a future meeting of this Committee for consideration.

RESPONSE to Question b)

Yes, the composition of the Action Plan Steering Group can be made public as soon as possible

4. *Of course declaring the AQMA does not solve the problem – it just names the condition. However this Council is to be applauded on its previous commitment in its Corporate Plan to ‘where necessary commence appropriate mitigation measures and create an action plan by March 2021’ some possible measures have been suggested by the*

Qn. Will this Council work via an appropriately convened Steering Group to make use of these ATT suggestions in the short term to ‘test out’ what mitigation measures actually achieve a significant reduction in NOx levels in the AQMA? In this way the Steering Group might achieve rather more than just a ‘paper plan’ by March 2022.

RESPONSE to Question

The District Council is happy to work with Ashbourne Town Team and made this offer to them in November 2020. That offer has recently been reiterated by the Leader of the Council.

313/20 – INTERESTS

None

314/20 – QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO RULE OF PROCEDURE NUMBER 15

None

315/20 – AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA – ASHBOURNE

The Committee noted a report on the findings of the Detailed Assessment of air quality in the vicinity of Buxton Road and St. John’s Street in Ashbourne. It also considered approval of the Order to declare an Air Quality Management Area for Ashbourne and that authority to formulate an Action Plan, in relation to the Air Quality Management Area, be delegated to the Environmental Health Team.

The Director of Regulatory Services gave an introduction to the report highlighting recommendations and informing Members the DEFRA process had been followed through out.

The report reached the following conclusions:

- Declaration of an AQMA along Buxton Road and St John’s Street is recommended, where exceedances of the annual mean NO2 objective are predicted.
- Continue monitoring NO2 within the areas where predicted annual mean NO2 concentrations are above 36µg/m³.

The Council is required to produce a plan as described in the report to address any areas where the national air quality objective are not or it appears will not be met. Derbyshire Dales District Council Officers have had informal discussions with Derbyshire County Council Highways Officers and will be moving forward next week to formal discussions working together on an

Action Plan to be submitted to DEFRA and will report back to this committee at 3 monthly intervals.

The committee thanked the Director of Regulatory Services for a thorough and excellent report and they agreed there was a need work together to move forward as soon as possible.

It was moved by Councillor Tony Morley, seconded by Councillor Garry Purdy and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

1. Members note the findings of the Detailed Assessment;
2. The order to declare an Air Quality Management Area for Ashbourne be approved;
3. Authority to formulate an Action Plan in relation to the Air Quality Management Area is delegated to the Environmental Health Team.

316/20 – CEMETERY CONSECRATIONS

The Committee considered a report seeking approval for the District Council to grant permission to make necessary arrangements with the Diocese of Derby for consecrations in three cemeteries within the Derbyshire Dales and approval that authority be delegated to the Neighbourhoods Manager and the Clean & Green Manager, on behalf of the District Council, to sign any documents required to facilitate the consecration of land at the Bakewell, Brassington and Steeple Arch in Wirksworth cemeteries.

It was moved by Councillor Mike Ratcliffe, seconded by Councillor David Hughes and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

1. Council grant permission for designated land at the following cemeteries, Bakewell, Brassington and Steeple Arch in Wirksworth to be consecrated.
2. The Neighbourhoods Manager or the Clean and Green Manager be given authority on behalf of the Council to sign any documents required to facilitate the consecration of land at the Bakewell, Brassington and Steeple Arch in Wirksworth cemeteries.

317/20- COUNCIL HOUSING UPDATE REPORT

The Committee noted a report to advise Members of the progress concerning the Council's housing programme.

The Housing Director gave an introduction to the report informing Members that had been a good start, having selected Nottingham Community HA as the Council's Development and Management Agent, work had been progressing to bring forward proposals that will see the first homes delivered in 2021/22. Derbyshire Dales District Council at present only provide 10% of affordable housing provided.

Questions were asked why the threshold for the purchase of existing properties was set at £150,000, Members were informed this report was to note the progress on the housing programme and the Director of Housing would produce a paper for discussion at a future council meeting.

The committee thank the Director of Housing and his team for the excellent report and hard work.

It was moved by Councillor Peter O'Brien, seconded by Councillor David Hughes

RESOLVED Members to note the progress of the Council Housing programme.

Voting

In favour	15
Against	0
Abstain	1

The Chairman declared the motion CARRIED.

MEETING CLOSED 19:40 PM

CHAIRMAN

