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COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 14 January 2016 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT Councillor Joanne Wild - In the Chair

Councillors Jason Atkin, Jennifer Bower, Richard Bright, Martin Burfoot, Albert Catt, David Chapman, Ann Elliott, Susan Hobson, Vicky Massey, Tony Morley, Joyce Pawley, Mike Ratcliffe, Lewis Rose, OBE, Andrew Statham, Colin Swindell and Philippa Tilbrook.

Sandra Lamb (Head of Corporate Services), Paul Wilson (Corporate Director), Tim Braund (Head of Regulatory Services), Heidi McDougall (Head of Environmental Services), Amanda Goodwill (Principal Officer – Environmental Health), Steve Capes (Head of Regeneration and Policy) and Jackie Cullen (Committee Assistant).

Councillor Chris Furness attended in his capacity as Ward Member.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sue Bull. Councillor David Chapman attended as Substitute Member.

Councillors Albert Catt, Susan Hobson and Lewis Rose arrived at 6.03pm.

267/15 - MINUTES

It was moved by Colin Swindell, seconded by Councillor Mike Ratcliffe and

RESOLVED That the minutes of the meeting of the Community & Environment Committee held on 29 October 2015 be approved as a correct record.
(unanimously)

The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

268/15 – QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO RULE OF PROCEDURE NUMBER 15

Councillor Colin Swindell asked the following question of Councillor Joanne Wild, Chair of the Community and Environment Committee:

"As Chair of the Community and Environment, can Councillor Wild please tell me what this Council is doing to tackle fly tipping in our open countryside and, more specifically, what steps are being taken to identify and prosecute repeat offenders?"

Councillor Joanne Wild gave the following response:-

Numbers of fly tipping incidents in the Derbyshire Dales are relatively low with 265 reported in 2014/15 – the lowest in Derbyshire. We are also lucky in that we don't suffer from regular fly tipping hot spots.

However, fly tipping in a scenic and environmentally sensitive area like the Derbyshire Dales is unpleasant, damaging and could impact on the attractiveness of the area. For all these reasons the District Council takes reports of fly tipping very seriously. Often incidents are reported first to our Environmental Services Clean & Green team, whose role is to arrange for the refuse to be cleared away. Where they find potential evidence amongst the waste that might be used to identify the perpetrators they will liaise with our Regulatory Services Environmental Health team who are responsible for taking any legal action that might be possible. If sufficient evidence is found then a case file is developed with the usual aim of taking action through the Courts. The most recent such case was brought before Court in November 2015, when 2 defendants were ordered to pay fines and costs of £735 each.

Whenever we obtain a successful prosecution we aim to publicise it as widely as possible, in order to make it clear that the Council takes fly tipping very seriously and to encourage others to dispose of their waste responsibly.

In the past we have used stop and search operations (with the police and the Environment Agency) and CCTV surveillance to try to identify fly tippers. This kind of action is only really successful when properly targeted, such as in connection with repeated fly tipping at a specific location but will continue to be used when appropriate.

Finally we have an excellent record at clearing up fly tips. Where there is no evidence on site we aim to remove the waste within 24 hours of it being reported. In itself this action helps to prevent areas from becoming known as good tipping sites and we believe contributes to keeping the overall number of tipping incidents in our area low.

269/15 – REVIEW OF BRING SITES

The Committee considered a report that provided an update on the review of bring site recycling centres undertaken as part of the review of the Waste and Recycling Collection Services Contract, Lot 2 delivered by H W Martin.

Councillor Chris Furness spoke as Ward Member for Bradwell relating to further signage and advice to residents regarding kerbside services.

Following advice from the Council's contractor, HW Martin, in 2013 that the current bring site contract was no longer financially viable, the Community and Environment Committee approved a reduction in the number of sites from 98 to 33 and the contract was varied accordingly. Since then, the Council had lost a further 10 sites, due to landowners' reluctance to keep the sites due to the high incidence of fly-tipping of general waste and trade waste at the sites.

The contractor was responsible for servicing the remaining 23 sites, free of charge, until August 2020, with the value of material covering the costs of collection.

Details regarding materials collected and income generated, together with the current contamination levels, were set out in the report, as were the changes in tonnage collected over the last four financial years. HW Martin advised the Council in 2015 that the current contract was no longer financially sustainable. A number of meetings had been held with HW Martin, resulting in the three options outlined in the report. HW Martin had offered compensation of £20,000 if the Council agreed to terminate the contract.

An online public consultation on the usage of bring sites was undertaken; results were set out in Appendix 3 to the report.

Based on the findings and the proposed costs it was recommended that all bring sites be removed by the end of February 2016. Additional work would be undertaken to raise residents' awareness on the use of the kerbside service, which now provided for collection of all the recyclable materials gathered at bring sites, and availability of additional containers.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose, OBE, seconded by Councillor Mike Ratcliffe and

RESOLVED

(unanimously)

1. That the contract be terminated in February 2016 and the compensation of £20,000 offered by H W Martin be accepted.
2. That all remaining Bring Sites across the District are removed by the end of February 2016.
3. That all sites are left clean and tidy and any screening be removed as soon as possible.
4. That the Shawcroft Car Park site be removed earlier than the other sites, in January, to enable the redesign scheme to commence.

270/15 – PRIMARY AUTHORITY PARTNERSHIP WITH YOUTH HOSTEL ASSOCIATION

The Committee considered a report that provided both an overview of the Primary Authority Scheme and the partnership proposal with the Youth Hostel Association (YHA).

Primary Authority was a statutory scheme, established by the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008; a copy of the Terms and Conditions was attached as Appendix 1 to the report, and the YHA Business Profile was attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

The District Council had an obligation under the Regulators Compliance Code to provide businesses with advice and guidance about their legal obligations in respect of Environmental Health and Licensing legislation, for example. Where businesses required additional advice and support services, the Primary Authority the Act enabled the Council to recover the costs associated in providing these services for the business.

Since July 2014 representatives from Environmental Health had been in discussions with the YHA and both parties now wished to progress the Primary Authority Partnership through to the formal nomination stage with BRDO; the benefits to both parties, together with the formal procedure and timetable for this was set out in the report.

It was moved by Councillor Mike Ratcliffe, seconded by Councillor Andrew Statham and

RESOLVED

(unanimously)

1. That the Principal Environmental Health Officer be delegated authority to enabling formal 'nomination' to the Better Regulation

Delivery Office (BRDO). That the Principal Environmental Health Officer be delegated authority to agree appropriate arrangements for cost recovery with partner business.

271/15 – DCLG CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

Councillor Vicky Massey left the meeting at 6.58 during discussion of this item.

The Committee considered a report on the recent Consultation Paper on proposed changes to national planning policy, and sought endorsement of a response to be forwarded to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) by the statutory deadline of 22nd February 2016.

The consultation paper sought views on the introduction of changes to national planning policy in the following areas:-

- broadening the definition of affordable housing, to expand the range of low cost housing opportunities for those aspiring to own their new home;
- increasing the density of development around commuter hubs to make more efficient use of land in suitable locations;
- supporting sustainable new settlements, development on brownfield land and small sites, and delivery of housing allocated in plans; and
- supporting the delivery of starter homes.

The consultation had been published for a period of 12 weeks with a deadline for responses of 22nd February 2016

Details of the proposed changes were set out in Section 2 of the report. The Consultation Document set out a series of key questions related to the proposals. The most pertinent questions insofar as they affect the Derbyshire Dales were set out in Section 3 of the report, with suggested Officer Comments.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose, seconded by Councillor Jason Atkin and

RESOLVED That Officer comment contained within Section 3 of the report, as the (unanimously) District Council's formal response to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) consultation on proposed changes to national planning policy, be endorsed.

272/15 – EROICA BRITANNIA

The Committee considered an update on Eroica Britannia 2015, including the significant estimated benefits as well as costs to the public purse. With regard to plans for the June 2016 Eroica event, the report considered the District Council's role and contribution in such a way that sought to retain and grow the event in the Derbyshire Dales whilst managing cost and environmental issues appropriately.

The Eroica Britannia had been held twice in Bakewell, in June 2014 and June 2015, with the cycle ride routes largely within the Derbyshire Dales, and some rides entering the High Peak and Staffordshire Moorlands. The company running the event had the rights to hold the event for a further eight years.

The estimated economic impact of the 2015 Eroica Britannia, based on the number of attendees was £1 million, and the event was regarded as successful in raising the profile of the area as a cycling destination and benefit to the local economy.

As the event promoted sustainable travel; a vintage heritage theme; showcasing of local communities; and high spending overseas visitors, the District Council was leading a funding bid to Peak LEADER towards the cost of signposting and marketing a 100 mile Peak District cycle tour route, based on the Eroica Britannia long route. An outline application was being prepared for submission in January.

The Eroica Britannia would take place in Bakewell from Friday 17 June to Sunday 19 June 2016; an outline of the proposed routes was set out in the report.

The economic impact of the Eroica Britannia in the Derbyshire Dales was clearly positive, and it was therefore recommended that the Eroica Britannia continued to be supported by the District Council in 2016 and beyond. An estimate of costs incurred by the District Council for the 2015 Eroica Britannia was tabled in the report.

It was moved by Councillor Tony Morley, seconded by Councillor Jennifer Bower and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

1. That the estimated impact of the Eroica Britannia event in 2015 is noted.
2. That the District Council continues to support the Eroica Britannia in 2016 and beyond due to the positive economic impact arising, especially from overseas visitors, whilst managing cost and environmental issues appropriately.
3. That the objectives set out in section 3.3 of the report are endorsed.
4. That the costs to the District Council arising from the Eroica Britannia in 2015 are noted, along with officer support provided to the event organisers.
5. That coordination of the District Council's input to the event via the cross-departmental group is noted.
6. That the approach to recharging the District Council's costs in connection with the Eroica Britannia is approved as set out in section 4 of the report.
7. That the bid to Peak LEADER for funding towards signposting and marketing a cycle tour route is supported.

MEETING CLOSED 7.16PM
CHAIRMAN