

Environment Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, 19 February 2020 at 18:30

PRESENT:

Councillor P Carpenter (Chair), Councillors Hacon, Annison, Cameron, D Hammond, Talbot, Bird, Waters-Bunn, Robinson-Payne, Borg, Bensly, Fairhead and B Wright.

Paula Boyce (Strategic Director), James Wilson (Head of Environmental Services), Miranda Lee (Head of Customer Services), Clare Dyble (Head of Marketing and Communications), Paul Shucksmith (Waste and Cleansing Manager), Richard Alexander (Multi Disciplined Enforcement Officer), Simon Mutton (Head of Policy and Strategy GYB Services) and Dave Newell (Operations Director, GYB Services), Sally Pearson (Executive Services Officer).

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 January were agreed.

The Chair advised that a guidance note relating to Bonfires had been added to the Council website. Councillor Waters-Bunn requested that Committee

members are informed of any future guidance/policy which has been added to the website prior to the meeting and also requested information on the street cleaning in individual areas.

The Head of Environmental Services clarified that there is an air quality testing tube located outside of the nursery. It was not located in the Nursery at their request. The testing tube is positioned at 1.5m which is the lowest permitted height as any lower would have an impact on data. DT 12 will show on the report and the position.

4 FORWARD PLAN

The Committee received and noted the contents of the Forward Plan.

Councillor Robinson-Payne asked that an update and overview of what is planned for the Crematorium to be added to the Forward Plan.

The Chair advised the Committee of a recent presentation she attended by the Environment Agency to residents of Hemsby and requested that the presentation also be given to the Environment Committee and other Members of the Council be invited to attend.

Councillor Talbot asked if the Electricity Energy Bill could be added to the Forward Plan. The Strategic Director advised that this is not currently a live bill in Parliament at this time, it was a private members bill in the last Parliament. She suggested the item be discussed by Committee as part of the Environmental Strategy which is on the Forward Plan.

The Committee discussed the reduction of plastic pollution and an idea regarding engagement with those local retailers who sell the products. Retailers to be asked to encourage purchasers to remove and dispose of wrapping and plastic correctly. The Friends of the Horsey Seals have expressed an interest in supporting this and will be attending the next Committee meeting to explain the work they undertake.

The Strategic Director agreed to write to the Greater Yarmouth Tourism and Improvement Area BID to request that their members are made aware of the concerns over plastic pollution and encourage dissemination of information to their members.

The Strategic Director advised that the Council are working with Norfolk County Council which had been awarded European Project funding to pilot a Circular Economy project with the Tourism Sector locally to eradicate waste and help reduce waste. The Committee agreed to add EU Project FACET to the Forward Plan and a presentation to be given to Committee.

5 PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT SCHEME FOR ROMAN PLACE

The Committee received and considered the report by the Multi Disciplined Enforcement Officer. The Head of Customer Services and Multi Disciplined Enforcement Officer explained the report which outlined proposed improvements to Roman Place parking and service area and the proposal and next steps to commence wider consultation. The funding for the project has been allocated from the Norfolk County Council Pre CPE Surplus account by the Great Yarmouth Transport and Infrastructure Steering Group.

The Head of Customer Services added that the budget for the project is ringfenced for GYBC and GYBC are not contributing any funds other than officer time.

Councillor Robinson-Payne expressed her support for the proposed improvements but felt that the layout could be tweaked.

Ward members advised that they were not invited to the Great Yarmouth Transport and Infrastructure Working Group meeting on 22 January.

The Chair asked for clarification on timescales for the consultation and programming of works.

A number of Members asked with regard to the impact of the works being undertaken and requested that careful consideration be given on the dispersal of the vehicles parking in that area during the works. The Committee discussed possible ways to mitigate the impact for those residents.

The Multi Disciplined Enforcement Officer advised that a two phase implementation was being proposed and agreed that Norfolk County Council would be asked to provide a Memorandum of Understanding of the timescales and how long the works will take so that a meeting can be held to discuss. A full method of works will also be expected and will be agreed prior to work starting. It was clarified that the works are expected to take no more than four days.

Some concern was raised with regard to the works being undertaken during in the summer months. The Multi Disciplined Enforcement Officer advised the timing was proposed by Norfolk County Council due to the conditions needed for that surface to be laid. It was agreed that NCC would be asked if the timing could be extended to late summer/autumn.

Councillor Bird referred to the original estimated cost and the current cost and asked for confirmation that with the vehicle usage in that area for unloading etc that the surface will be suitable. It was confirmed that Norfolk County Council have confirmed that the surface can be used for that area.

Councillor Waters-Bunn asked for clarification with regard to the location of the disabled bays in that area.

Members discussed the proposed 90 minute unrestricted parking and 'Roman Place' car parking only permits and the Head of Customer Services advised that the proposals will allow for a period of time for the changes to take place and allow those in Roman Place to have free parking for this period of time. Following that period changes could be introduced. A review of parking zone A is to be undertaken and NCC are leading on a consultation with residents and Members.

Councillor Robinson-Payne asked for clarification with regard to the maintenance and parking enforcement in the Roman Place area moving forward.

Councillor Cameron asked in regard to the application timescale for the change of regulation for the parking.

The Committee agreed that ward councillors should be involved in the meeting following the consultation.

RESOLVED:

The Committee note the update and progress in relation to the Roman Place Improvement proposals.

The Committee endorse the proposals and next steps to commence wider consultation with Council Members and Ward Members and members of the public on the proposals.

6 STREET CLEANSING REVIEW REPORT 2020

The Chair thanked those Members who had taken part in the recent Street Cleansing Review.

The Head of Environmental Services gave an overview of the findings from the Street cleansing Member Working Group and gave a presentation on proposals to tackle the issues highlighted in the review and to ensure cleanliness can be sustained.

The Head of Communications explained the proposed communications strategy.

In discussing the report Members asked for clarification/consideration of the following:

Include the Business Community; Link with the reduction of plastic pollution; Engage with Parish councils to support; Mayoral visits to schools to include the importance of recycling and cost of waste disposal; Presentation by Environmental Health when school children visit the Town Hall; Street washing; Engagement with private landlords; Promote ISO1401, Environmental Management System for business; Consideration of legislation

to deal with fly posting; Consideration on ways to remove chewing gum on pavements; Encourage clearance and maintenance of highways gulleys; communications with residents regarding bins left outside of property boundaries, including working with Neighbourhoods that work team.

The Strategic Director advised that the Norfolk Waste Partnership have carried out work to incentivise children to recycle and will request that this could be considered for the Great Yarmouth area.

The Head of Policy and Strategy at GYB Services explained how the reactive and planned maintenance of equipment is managed and how a breakdown can have a disproportionate affect on street cleansing regimes as there are no back up machines. Cleansing schedules are a guide as they can be affected by these events however GYB Services move resources to best deal with the priorities the Council has set and deliver a programme of service. He added that GYB Services are more than happy to be involved in the review proposals. The Head of Environmental Services added that mechanical equipment is part of the review and will be brought back to the Committee.

The Chair referred to paragraph 1.4 of the report with regard to the poor condition and untidiness of areas of private land and it was agreed that Members would advise the Head of Environmental Services of areas within their wards which may require enforcement action to be taken.

Councillor Annison asked for clarification on how GYB Services will be held to account.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee note the findings of the member group which has now completed its review.

That the Committee approves the proposed Street Cleansing Improvement Plan.

That the Environment Committee received a quarterly update designed to monitor the actions contained in the Improvement Plan.

7 QUARTER THREE PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Committee noted the Quarter Three Performance report. The Head of Environmental Services highlighted indicator EN01 and advised that temporary staff are now in place so the number of inspections will increase. EN03 was also highlighted and the work from the Street Cleansing Review will help to improve this.

The Chair asked for clarification in regard to indicator EN05.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to discuss.

9 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

10 GYB LIAISON BOARD MINUTES

The Committee noted the minutes of the GYBS Liaison Board held on 19 December 2019.

The meeting ended at: 20:40