

Environment Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, 08 June 2016 at 18:30

PRESENT :

Councillor Smith (in the Chair); Councillors Annison, Bensly, Fairhead, Grant, Hacon, Hanton, Jones, Pratt, Walch, Waters-Bunn, Weymouth and Wright.

Also in attendance :-

Jane Beck (Director of Customer Services), Nicola Holden, Graham Jermyn and Simon Mutton (GYB Services), Sarah Flatman (Commercial Manager), Glenn Buck (Group Manager, Environmental Services) and Sammy Wintle (Member Services Officer).

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman and Councillor Grant declared a personal interest in item 5, in their capacity as members of the Norfolk Waste Partnership, but in accordance with the Council's Constitution were allowed to vote and speak on the matter.

3 FOOD SAFETY SERVICE PLAN

Sarah Flatman, Commercial Manager, provided Members with a brief overview of the Environmental Health Team, its staffing levels and the wide range of activities which were delivered by the department.

Members were advised that the Food Safety Service Plan was an annual statutory requirement, under the Food Standards Agency Framework Directive. The Service Plan explored the remit of the food safety service and the commitment to improving food standards of businesses in the Borough.

The Chairman pointed out that the dates on page 8 of the report were incorrect and should read 1 April 2015 to the 31 March 2016 and he requested that these be corrected. He asked for an update on the Civica App, and was advised that good progress had been made.

A Member asked if regular meetings were held with Trading Standards, this was confirmed by Sarah Flatman.

A Member asked for an update regarding premises with no public convenience facilities, it was advised that guidance had been reviewed and that a number of factors were taken into consideration to determine whether a premise required toilet facilities. A further question was raised as to whether it was compulsory for businesses to display their food rating certificates. It was reported that at present, it was not compulsory to display the certificate, however, it was hoped that this will be implemented in the near future.

A Member asked what sanctions were in place if a residential care home did not meet the required food standards, Sarah Flatman advised that sanctions would be dependant on what was found during an inspection.

The Chairman thanked Sarah and her team for all their hard work.

RESOLVED:

(i) That the Committee endorse the aims and objectives of the Food Safety Service Plan.

(ii) That the Committee approve the adoption of the Food Service Plan for 2016/17.

4 GYBS PRESENTATION

Graham Jermyn, GYBS, gave a presentation to Members detailing the Joint Venture Company and the services it provided.

A Member raised concern in relation to the Gorleston cliffs area, it was advised that there had been several issues with the machinery used for the grass cutting on the cliffs, however, this had now been repaired and grass cutting on the cliffs would commence next week.

A Member asked whether the horse trough situated at the bottom of Gorleston cliffs could be utilised, Simon Mutton, GYBS raised the possibility of bedding plants. It was advised that should Great Yarmouth in Bloom have spare bedding plants after planting was completed, the remainder of plants could be used.

Concern was raised in relation to the vast quantity of weeds near to the Sealife Centre on Yarmouth seafront, it was advised that the maintenance of this area was part of the Sealife Centre lease and that this matter would be raised with

them.

A Member asked in relation to the length of the grass at the Beaconsfield play area and whether this would be cut, it was advised that discussions were being undertaken with GYBS staff to find a solution to alleviate the back log for grass cutting within the Borough.

A Member asked in relation to weed killer being sprayed on weeds on pathways and whether this matter would come under the Highways Department. It was reported that this would be a matter for Norfolk County Council, Jane Beck advised that email notification had been received from Norfolk County Council stating that they would be spraying twice a year and was due to start next week.

A Member raised concern in relation to road sweeping and asked if the rota could be provided, it was agreed that Graham Jermyn would send this information via email to all members.

Jane Beck, Director of Customer Services, advised Members that Norfolk County Council were encouraging people to report any matters through their Customer Services Department. However should Members have complaints which had been raised by residents in their wards, these could be sent to GYBC, who will then facilitate these complaints on their behalf.

The Chairman advised Members that Councillors Pratt, Hacon and himself attended a monthly meeting with Graham Jermyn to discuss issues that might arise and asked the Committee to endorse that this should continue.

RESOLVED :

That the Committee agree to the continuation of a monthly meeting between Councillors Pratt, Hacon and Smith and Graham Jermyn of GYB Services.

5 WASTE COLLECTION

Glenn Buck, Group Manager Environmental Services, provided Members with an overview of his report which informed Members of the current arrangements for the collection, recycling and disposal of domestic solid waste within the Borough.

The Group Manager, Environmental Services, reported on the Norfolk Waste Partnership. He advised that the Council, together with all the other Norfolk District Councils and the County Council formed the Norfolk Waste Partnership. The Partnership was formed to help tackle and reduce the amount of household waste produced in the County.

Members were advised that a tour of the Materials Recycling Facility could be arranged if requested.

RESOLVED :

(i) That the Committee note the information contained within the Group Manager, Environmental Services report.

(ii) That the Committee endorse the research of the Norfolk Waste Partnership.

6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman advised Members of the establishment of Forward Plans for all Committees and that this would be a standing item on future agenda.

7 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 20 July 2016 at 6:30 pm.

The meeting ended at: 20:25