

Environment Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, 04 November 2020 at 16:00

PRESENT:-

Councillor P Carpenter (in the Chair); Councillors Annison, Bensly, Bird, Borg, Fairhead, Hacon, D Hammond, Robinson-Payne, Talbot & B Wright.

Councillor G Carpenter attended as a substitute for Councillor Cameron.

Councillor C M Walker attended as a substitute for Councillor Waters-Bunn.

Mrs P Boyce (Strategic Director), Mr J Wilson (Head of Environmental Services), Mrs J Beck (Head of Property & Asset Management), Mrs M Lee (Head of Customer Services), Mr C Silverwood (Director of Operational Services), Mr B Harris (Coastal Engineer, GYBC) & Mrs S Wintle (Corporate Services Manager).

Ms K Fisher (Environment Agency), Mr R Goodliffe (Coastal Manager, Coastal Partnership East) & Ms A Casey (Coastal Adaptation Officer, Coastal Partnership East).

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cameron, Talbot &

Waters-Bunn.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations declared at the meeting.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2020 were confirmed by assent.

4 MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman reported that the Friends of Horsey Seals had visited Great Yarmouth and a number of Councillors were able to engage with them regarding the reduction of plastic pollution in the Borough.

5 FORWARD PLAN

The Committee received and considered the Forward Plan.

Councillor Robinson-Payne asked that an update on the Selective Licensing Scheme be added to the Forward Plan. The Head of Environmental Services reported that an update report on the Selective Licensing Scheme was being prepared for presentation to the Housing & Neighbourhood Committee. The Chairman asked if this Committee could see sight of this report. The Head of Environmental Services agreed to this request.

6 STREET CLEANSING IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Committee received and considered the report from the Head of Environmental Services & Director of Operational Services.

The Chairman asked Chris Silverwood to introduce himself to the Committee as he had recently been appointed to the post of Director of Operational Services.

The Head of Environmental Services reported that as part of the FACET project, the Council was looking to undertake a pilot project of smart bin technology at Hemsby, reducing the trips for bin emptying and allowing

for better use of GYB resources. The pilot will run during the 2021 season and the findings will be reported back to this Committee to look at the potential to roll this out further across the Borough.

The Director of Operational Services reported that will funding from the Norfolk Strategic Fund, a team of operatives called the Litter Hit Squad who were highly visible in orange PPE had targeted and cleaned up problem hotspots and high profile areas across the Borough which had been very well received by the public. In the first four weeks, they removed 25 tonnes of detritus and weeds.

The Director of Operational Services reported that two new electric sweeping machines had been purchased with funding from the Norfolk Strategic fund.

The Chairman asked the Head of Environmental Services to go into more detail regarding the FACET project. The Head of Environmental Services reported that the Council had become a full partner of the FACET project meaning that with an investment of £80k (drawn from Covid funding streams), the Council can draw down in excess of £200k of funding for the implementation of the innovative projects around making the tourism sector into a more circular economy.

Councillor D Hammond commended the Hit Squad for the work they had undertaken in the vicinity of Sturdee Avenue.

Councillor Annison reported that the Hit Squad had undertaken outstanding work in Bradwell and asked that his heartfelt thanks be passed on to the members of staff involved.

Councillor Robinson-Payne reported the outstanding work undertaken by the Hit Squad on the Barracks Estate and the positive impact it had had on the local community.

Councillor C M Walker reported that as a result of this work, local residents and retailers were beginning to take renewed pride in the area in which they lived and worked.

RESOLVED:-

That the Committee notes the findings and updates of the Street Cleansing Improvement Plan.

7 UPDATE ON ROMAN PLACE IMPROVEMENTS

The Committee received and considered the report from the Head of Customer Services.

The Head of Customer Services reported that following approval from this Committee and with the proposals based on using a micro-pour surface which was under trial, wider testing of this surface dressing material was undertaken. However, upon further testing, the proposed surface dressing was found to be unsuitable due to being prone to the screwing and stripping of turning movements of cars in the car park. Therefore, the only option was the traditional method of resurfacing which was not economically viable as the required funds were not available.

The Head of Customer Services reported that with the available funding, improvements could still be made to the car park to address the potholes, re-lining of existing spaces and replacement signage as well as a general tidy up of the surrounding area. The current Traffic order restrictions would remain as 24 hours parking with no return within 12 hours. This area could still be considered as part of the wider review of the Residents Zone A. If endorsed these works would be completed by the end of March 2021.

The Chairman reported that the Committee had voiced their concerns regarding the suitability of the micro-pour surface at the last meeting in February.

Councillor Robinson-Payne, who was a Ward Councillor, reported that this car park had been a concern of hers for many years and had been looked over for improvements on several occasions. She was disappointed that improvements had been scaled back and felt that Norfolk County Council had let the Borough down and hoped that the car park would be included in Zone A in the near future.

Councillor Annison reiterated the concerns of the Committee expressed at the last meeting that the proposed micro-pour surface would not be fit for purpose and that he fully supported the concerns of Councillor Robinson-Payne.

Councillor Bensly also fully supported the views of Councillor Robinson-Payne and reported that the Committee should make its position known at the next meeting of the GYT&ISG and lobby the Council Council to resurface the car park. The Council did not want to be in the position of spending £16k of tax-payers money to fill in the pot holes if the car park was going to be resurfaced properly as this would be a waste of public funds.

The Head of Customer Services reported that the GYT&ISG was scheduled to meet in the New Year and she would pass the views of this Committee. Councillor C M Walker reported that she was disappointed that a County officer had not been asked to attend the meeting to answer questions. The Head of Customer Services assured the Committee that senior County officers sat on the GYT&ISG and she re-assured the Chairman that the views of the Committee would be made known.

RESOLVED:-

(i) That the Committee endorse the identified budget and spend contained

within section 5.1 of the report on the revised proposal of improvements as outlined in section 3 of the report; and

(ii) That the Committee agree that a proposal be made to the Great Yarmouth & Transport & Infrastructure Steering Group that Roman Place is to be refurbished as part of the Norfolk County Council Forward Capital Programme.

8 UPDATE ON HEMSBY COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROJET

The Committee received and considered the report from the Coastal Manager and Coastal Adaptation Officer, Coastal Partnership East

The Committee received a presentation from Kellie Fisher from the Environment Agency which provided an overview of coastal adaptation and how this might apply to Hemsby in relation to developing adaptation options for the longer-term management of the coast.

The Coastal Manager and Coastal Adaptation Officer, Coastal Partnership East ,gave a presentation to the Committee on the development of the short-term coastal defence scheme at Hemsby regarding ideas and options for the rock berm design.

The Chairman thanked the officers for their informative presentations.

Councillor Bensly thanked the officers for their presentations and for the invaluable work they were undertaking to protect vulnerable residents in his ward.

RESOLVED:-

That the Committee note the progress of this work.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman reported that she had received the following two items of urgent business:-

(i) Councillor Waters-Bunn, although unable to be present at the meeting, was concerned regarding large numbers of parents congregating at school gates across the Borough. The Head of Environmental Services reported that he would contact Councillor Waters-Bunn after the meeting to obtain specific details and to ascertain whether it might be prudent for the Covid Marshalls to be deployed at school gates at specified schools for a short period of time to reinforce the social distancing rule.

(ii) Councillor C M Walker reported that she had concerns regarding the residents in her ward as she felt that Councillors did not receive the most up-to-date Covid intelligence to disseminate to their constituents to help keep them safe and to signpost them to the necessary help. For example, following the recent outbreaks at local food processing plants which resulted in much increased numbers of Covid cases in the Magdalen ward. The Chairman reported that intelligence reports were updated several times a day and it was difficult for the Environmental Services Team to both act on the new information as well as share this sensitive information with the necessary bodies.

The Strategic Director reported that this was a very relevant point and that she would instruct the Communications Team to ensure that Councillors were made aware of issues in their wards as quickly as possible.

10 GYB LIAISON BOARD MINUTES

The Committee noted the minutes of the GYB Liaison Board by assent.

11 GYB COMPANY BOARD MINUTES

The Committee noted the confidential GYB Company Board minutes by assent.

12 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

The meeting ended at: 18:00