

**Outer East Environmental Sub-Group Minutes**

Meeting held in Committee Room 2. Civic Hall,

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2013

**1. Introduction and Apologies:**

Attendance: Cllr Mary Harland (Chair,) Cllr Pauleen Grahame, Cllr Andrea McKenna, Tom Smith (Env Services,) Krstan Nenadic (Parks & Countryside,) Mark Gray (Housing Leeds), Amanda Douglas-Smith (Housing Leeds), Shaid Mahmood (AST), Peter Mudge (AST).

Apologies: Cllr Mark Dobson, Cllr Katherine Mitchell, Martin Hackett.

**2 Minutes of last meeting**

Minutes of the Parks report needs amending as it is not recorded correctly. KN has forwarded details to PM for amendment.

**2.1 Matters Arising**

TS advised that they are still liaising with the police on this matter and the work is on going  
TS advised that the 25% increase had stayed static and not increased any further however advised that this is positive as ordinarily there would be a spike increase followed by a subsequent decrease. Also advised that they are rolling out phase 2 of this but this does not affect the Outer East Area

Cllr Grahame advised that she is please that recommendations have been taken on board

TS advised he had no update at this time but would ensure that one was available at the next meeting

**3 Locality Working – Tom Smith**

- The draft report for the December Area Committee was raised and follows the usual format detailing priority areas.
- New items include developing greater monitoring and partnership working with high streets and business areas to ensure businesses are overseeing litter removal.
- Locality Working's Facebook page is proving hugely useful with a lot of community interest. It is serving as a good means of promotion to primary and secondary sources.
- The largest piece of new work currently underway is a fundamental review of the service and how environmental matters formerly overseen by the Almos (now Housing Leeds) will be incorporated within Locality Working.
- The review is also looking at what provision should be included within Locality Working and items noted include bulky waste collection, graffiti and disposal of needles.

- The number of cases dealt with in Outer East has fallen when compared with the other areas of South East Leeds. This is seen as positive but TS stressed they were always finding new projects to be undertaken.
  - The number of enforcements and enforcement patrols is increasing and Locality Working aims to undertake a repeat patrol every eight weeks. The number of fixed penalty notices has risen from 3 – 14 in the last year which is seen as improved take-up.
  - Projects are now routinely undertaken by Prison Services, Armley. The jobs tend to be along the lines of vegetation clearance and cleansing.
  - A new model for the Environmental Sub Board Locality Working is being progressed under which staff will work in zonal teams and be able to undertake a variety of roles rather than only having a specialist skill – graffiti removal, bulky waste, litter etc. This should ensure issues are dealt with more efficiently. Consideration is now being given of how many staff to allocate to each of the areas. Each will have one key contact. The aim is to have one job description for the entire workforce.
- Q) Cllr Grahame said there would need to be a great deal of negotiation and further consideration before levels of resourcing would be agreed.
- Q) TS agreed that further discussions need to take place around resource levels in each zonal area. SM said it is important to prove the added value of this new way of working.
- A) TS agreed and said the intention is to prove that changes will lead to improved productivity.
- Q) Cllr Grahame drew attention to Appendix A which placed Cross Gates and Whinmoor at the top of most graphs. She asked why this was as it did not match the figures.
- A) TS said that the figures were for all jobs, not just requests and therefore the heading needed changing which he will do before they go to Area Committee.

#### **4 Waste Management – Tom Smith**

- 4.1 TS offered to update the sub-committee as no one was in attendance from the waste management team.
- 4.2 A report on changes to the bulky waste collection policy is planned for the January Executive Board and the next Scrutiny Board (Safer and Stronger Communities). The intention is that Locality Teams will undertake the removal in future. This will clarify the policy and when the council will and will not collect items.
- 4.3 Underlying any changes or clarification in the policies is the principle of a social contract, where the Council sets out what it will do but also what the public need to do to support the council.

- 4.4 It is anticipated that once the policies are formalised each house will be entitled to just one wheelie bin of each colour. Instances of homes having three brown bins etc will stop.
- Q) Cllr Grahame asked if someone will remove the extra bins  
A) TS understood that this may be the case.
- 4.5 In the areas which have fortnightly black bin collections, extra bags left beside wheeled bins will no longer be allowed. If residents leave them it is likely the bin staff will simply place them in the bin and return them to the house.
- 4.6 Where a single bin has been missed on a street and the rest of the street has been collected, crews will not return to empty the bin. Should the problem persist, recoveries will be made. Residents must put their bin before 7am on collection day and if one on a street has been missed it is likely that it was not out in time.
- Q) Cllr McKenna said this was a positive step as the old system was open to abuse. People were told to put their bin out at a set time and it was their responsibility to remember.
- 4.7 Assisted collections would require completing a proper process. It would no longer be acceptable to simply have a word with the bin staff.
- 4.8 Bulky Waste collections would be limited to a maximum of 3 per year per household.  
Q) Cllr Grahame said staff at the call centres will need a good script to ensure they provide the proper answers.

## **5 Parks & Countryside – Krs Nenadic**

- 5.1 The Outer East Area had once again been highly successful in annual In Bloom awards:
- Britain in Bloom, Best Town category - Garforth won a Silver Gilt in the
  - Yorkshire in Bloom, Village category: Ledston, Silver Gilt
  - Large Village - Great & Little Preston, Silver Gilt, Micklefield, Silver Gilt
  - Urban Community - Swillington, Silver, Allerton Bywater, Silver Gilt, Kippax Gold and Category Winner
  - Large City - Leeds, Gold and Cat winner. The Yorkshire in Bloom Chairman's award for services to the In Bloom Initiatives
- 5.2 Savings within the service has enabled Parks to take on 4 female and 7 male apprentices. They are currently learning the skills of the profession and looking for suggestions of areas to plant new woodlands.
- 5.3 Bonfire Night saw Parks hold 6 organised displays which attracted 100,000 people. Members said the event had been a superb success and undoubtedly reduced the number of potentially dangerous events.
- 5.4 Spring bedding has gone in.
- 5.5 The annual report is available to be taken to one of the Area Committees early in the New Year.

Q) SM said Parks' development of Bonfire Night was a masterclass in resource management.

**6 Housing Leeds – Mark Gray / Amanda Douglas-Smith**

6.1 MG said from the environmental aspect of housing the priority is to get staff allocation and outstanding projects completed prior to the handover to Locality Working.

6.2 ADS said the service continued to run along established paths at present and there is still some Area Panel funds available for suitable projects.

**7 AOB**

7.1 None were raised.