

Outer East Environmental sub-group minutes

Meeting held in Committee Room 4, Civic Hall,
28th February 2013

1. Introduction and Apologies

Attendance: Cllr McKenna (chair), Cllr Grahame, Cllr Harland, Cllr Dobson, Tom Smith (Env. Services), Krstan Nenadic (Parks & Countryside), Richard Spensley (AWC Waste Management) Ray Johnston (AWC Waste Management) Peter Mudge (Area Support Team).

Apologies – Cllr Mitchell, Mark Gray (AVH)

2. Minutes of last meeting

2.1 Krs asked for 5.7 to replace “public benches” with “wayside seats” and reference to Property Services to be deleted.

2.2 Matters Arising:

All were dealt with in other items.

3. Alternative Weekly Bin Collections

3.1 Richard Spensley (RS) presented details of the AWC (Alternate Weekly Collection) bin scheme which is being introduced across the city in phases. Phase 1 covers the Outer East areas of Garforth, Swillington, Kippax, Methley, Allerton Bywater, Micklefield and Great and Little Preston. Phase 1 is scheduled to be launched on 29th April and Phase 2 – at venues yet to be confirmed – in early November 2013.

3.2 Preparing for the launch all communication must be properly and thoroughly undertaken. Information should be “checked, double checked and checked again” before being circulated.

3.3 Crews have been consulted on areas they would prefer to cover and this has gained support for the scheme from the majority of crews.

3.4 As the bins are collected less frequently they will gain in weight and consequently routes are slightly smaller than before and some new routes will be created.

3.5 As there is no longer a need to have green and black collections in the same week, there is a staff saving. These staff will become “buddies” to speed up missed collections and quickly resolve any issues which arise.

3.6 Food Waste collection will be expanded to cover the Methley area, Carlton and half of Swillington. Cllr McKenna expressed concern that by only doing half of Swillington, problems could result.

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- 3.7 Cllr Grahame asked for confirmation that collection of black bags had been properly dealt with. RS said each crew member would get a list noting where black bags were to be collected.
- 3.8 A suggestion was made that bin collections in areas with peak times – such as neighbourhood centres and schools – should be timed appropriately. RS said crews had the capacity to amend routes to address these issues and if it became a problem a request could be made to the strategic team.
- 3.9 Waste doctors are being appointed to will work with communities during implementation to identify and quickly resolve problems.
- 4.0 It was agreed a representative from Waste Management will be invited to attend future meetings to provide updates on issues and changing patterns.

4. Future Input of Community Payback

- 4.1 Probation Service have told the Council the cost for the existing service is to double. Area Committee were informed of this at the February meeting and Area Support were asked to contact parish councils and almos to see if there is the potential for partnerships.
- 4.2 Cllr Grahame said the proposal was also made to see what ideas individual wards could come up with.
- 4.3 PM said while there was some interest from a couple of parish councils there would still be a major increase to the council if the option was to retain the scheme at the new rate.
- 4.4 TS suggested if the Council provided an overseer for the teams they could get the service at no cost. He said he was already investigating how to develop a leader system to oversee day release prisoners or long term unemployed.
- 4.5 Cllr Grahame said that with the pressure on Council budgets the need to reduce costs is ever more pressing and every opportunity should be explored to see locality workers overseeing the teams.
- 4.6 KN said that the Parks supervisors regularly oversee in the way proposed by Cllr Grahame.
- 4.7 Agreed that TS and PM should bear in mind the comments and develop a report for AC.

5 Officer Updates

5.1 Parks

- 5.1.1 KN said the Skelton Woods playing pitches have been identified as needing maintenance and better drainage. He said an independent assessment is being obtained.
- 5.1.2 Members had raised the opportunities for schools to play a key role in environmental issues yet in the Outer East this partnership was not as strong as in some areas of the city. KN circulated an information sheet

about this potential benefit and said he will send an electronic link to all Members to use if they wish to highlight the opportunities to schools in their area.

- 5.1.3 Two discussions are underway about the potential skateboard parks. One is in Kippax where KN and Members are meeting representatives from the Parish Council to consider potential sites and opportunities. The other discussion centres on a petition asking for a skatepark and other sporting facilities covering Temple Newsam and Cross Gates. KN suggested Members should visit the site at Woodhouse Lane before deciding if they want one in their area.

5.2 Aire Valley Homes

- 5.2.1 TS said AVH and Locality Working are identifying opportunities for joint maintenance of ginnels and problem areas.
- 5.2.2 AVH have now completed their report on maintenance of ginnels under their control and are providing information to affected residents on how they should be managed to ensure quality maintenance. TS said locality working will assist with inspection and provide updates for AC.

6 Service Performance

- 6.1 **Overall Cleanliness** – Restructuring of the enforcement team has been undertaken and the service is now managed by Dave Gommersall. Three vacancies remain and these will be filled. It was noted Simon Norman is doing a good job covering Temple Newsam Ward.

TS said he would like to see a rise in the number of legal notices served however the meeting agreed with Cllr Grahame that the moderate figures suggested good partnerships were operating to find less antagonistic ways to deal with issues.

- 6.2 **Service Delivery** – 91% of manual cleansing rotas and 92% of mechanical ones were undertaken as scheduled between 1 September – 31 December 2012. This compares with 85% and 87% in the previous period.

Concerning wedge wide services (litter bins, bulk flytipping and gulleys) problems were encountered by the gulley service which did not run on 19 occasions, largely due to holidays and the inability to identify trained cover. Training of replacement staff is being investigated.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 Overtime

- 7.1.1 TS brought a report regarding Cover and Overtime .(Attached with the minutes)
- 7.1.2 Cllr Grahame said the Council was like any other company and therefore why was overtime required to meet costs?

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7.1.3 TS said the overtime costs for 2012/13 had exceeded the budget and money saved through staff vacancies had been used to cover the shortfall. Budgets would be even tighter in the coming year and his team was working hard to improve the position in terms of sickness and managing down expenses.

7.2 **Future Meetings**

It was agreed that four meetings should be held each year on a three monthly basis and that meetings will be held in the Civic Hall. TS and PM to discuss proposed dates.