

Outer East Environmental Sub-Group Minutes

Meeting held in Committee Room 4. Civic Hall,

20th June 2013

1. Introduction and Apologies:

Attendance: Cllr McKenna (Chair,) Cllr Grahame, Tom Smith (Env Services,) Krstan Nenadic (Parks & Countryside,) Chris Adlam (AVH), Amanda Douglas-Smith, Martin Hackett (AST), Peter Mudge (AST).

Apologies: Cllr Mark Dobson, Cllr Mary Harland, Andrew Milnes.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Regarding item 5.2 MH said AVH had mentioned they could pay half of the costs for a dedicated community payback team for OE. The Sub-Committee agreed not to pursue this as they were getting sufficient support without a dedicated group and had received no complaints about the change in provision.

3. Service Level Agreement

3.1 TS said the main discussion today concerned the draft SLA which would be presented to OE AC on 2nd July.

3.2 The report shows a lot of partnership working and key partners include schools, community groups, In Blooms, Parks, Waste Management, Almos, business, geocaching and Continental. These partnerships seem to be becoming ever stronger and going well.

3.3 Key issues centre around fly tipping, gulley cleaning, dog waste, litter and leafs. 93 legal notices have been served and 25 fixed penalty notices. TS said this seemed a low amount and may well increase in the coming year.

3.4 Covert cctv cameras are fully operational in each ward. Currently they must legally display notices warning people there are covert cameras in the vicinity and as a result no one has been found. Locality is therefore progressing with gaining permission from magistrates to place the cameras and this will mean no warning signs are required.

3.5 Decreasing staff overtime is a key target for this year. This could be assisted through some projects being undertaken by HMPS (Her Majesty's Prison Service) which is undertaking 4 six week projects with Locality Working following a successful pilot last year.

3.6 A reduction in the number of vacancies has led to greater action and the team is now running at 92% of sites being rated acceptable. This is compared to 86% in the previous year.

3.7 Ward Members asked for the team's sickness figures to differentiate between people on long term sick. This will give a clearer comparison with other services.

3.8 Ginnels which have been cleared on a schedule are subsequently checked every two months whilst ones not cleared are checked every month.

3.9 TS mentioned that there is the opportunity for services, parish councils, businesses etc to utilise the ad-hoc capacity of Locality Working. Through this they can fund a litter picker, enforcement patrol or mechanical sweeper to undertake extra work on areas they want to receive extra care.

Q) Cllr Grahame said that in Swarcliffe some grass had been sprayed by Continental Landscaping and then left on the roadside. It had turned a luminous grey and residents noticed that birds avoided it. Cllr Grahame asked if the spraying was safe and why this atrocious incident had occurred.

A) CA said they Continental experimented with spraying in Outer South but AVH had not been happy with the results and so the process had been stopped. Possibly similar spraying had been undertaken in Swarcliffe. PM to check with Continental.

Q) Cllr McKenna asked if the ginnel beside Meadow Road in Garforth should be included in ones being maintained.

A) Discussion revealed some residents wanted the ginnel maintained while others found this encouraged people to loiter, drink and cause nuisance. Consequently TS said he would get an officer to investigate and liaise with MH and AVH.

Q) Cllr McKenna asked if Locality is involved in the hard hitting TV campaign against dog fouling.

A) TS said Leeds has not been included however a meeting has been held about launching a citywide campaign. The main success is likely to be that people realise what a danger it is and consequently report incidents which will be followed up by Locality.

Cllr McKenna and Cllr Grahame agreed they would be pleased to support a campaign to crack down on dog fouling.

4. Parks & Countryside

4.1 The service is discussing its delegation and the idea is to agree a year in advance what the priorities will be for the year. This will be announced to Locality Working at the start of the year.

4.2 Trials with Interserve to get unemployed people working in Parks and Countryside areas is working well and it is hoped to soon introduce this capacity to Temple Newsam park.

4.3 Looking to introduce seasonal work patterns so that staff work longer in the summer than winter. Discussions have been held with many staff and there have been very few objections and so P&C are likely to introduce this scheme from January 2014. The scheme is anticipated to save £168,000 and fund additional apprenticeships.

Q) Cllr Grahame said that Cross Gates and Whinmoor had no interest or wish for a skateboard park.

A) KN said he had already made a note of that.

5. Aire Valley Homes

5.1 AVH is concentrating on all priority ginnels and had achieved its maintenance targets with these with regard to cutting and spraying.

5.2 AVH continues to work closely with Locality Working and the benefits are clear.

5.3 TS said the decision has been made to bring the ALMOs in house and that as part of this the ALMOs environmental services are being reviewed and merged with the Locality Teams at a future date.

6. East North East Homes

6.1 ENE are concentrating on increasing tenants participation but there is still a long way to go. This includes tenants joining in the walkabouts and making bids to Area Panel.

7. Waste Management

7.1 Apologies had been received from Waste Management but members said there should definitely be attendance from Waste Management at the next and subsequent meetings.

7.2 TS said he would check with Waste Management how the alternate collection was progressing in Swillington area. This area is of particular note as it seems only half of it is currently covered by the service.

8 AOB:

Cllr McKenna said this would be her last meeting as chair of the group as the Area Lead for Environment and Community Safety would chair in future.

Date of Next Meeting: 12 September 2013, 2.30pm. Civic Hall, Room 3