

Environment Select Committee

A meeting of Environment Select Committee was held on Monday, 3rd September, 2007.

Present: Cllr Mrs Maureen Rigg (Chairman); Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Michael Smith, Cllr Mick Womphrey and Cllr William Woodhead.

Officers: R.Bradley, Ms S.Daniels, Ms J.Robyns (DNS); N.Hart, Ms J.Trainer (LD).

Also in attendance: Ms Sh. Daniels, Ms P.Locke, C.Willows (DNS).

Apologies: Cllr Larkin, Cllr Rix, Cllr Stoker, Cllr Walmsley.

ENV 8/07 Draft minutes of the meeting held on 30th July 2007.

Consideration was given to the content of the draft minutes of the meeting held on 18th June 2007.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 30th July 2007 be forwarded to Council for consideration.

ENV 9/07 Review of Cemeteries and Memorials - The Management of Memorials:-

Consideration was given to a presentation from Richard Bradley (Care For Your Area Service Manager) outlining key issues emerging from the management of Cemeteries and Memorials; and in particular regarding unauthorised memorials and the consequent health and safety, maintenance and anti social behaviour issues arising.

Items classed as unauthorised memorials broadly fell into two categories:-

-Memorials permissible under the provisions of the Rules and Regulations in respect of the Borough Cemeteries placed contrary to the Memorial Application Process and without the approval of the Bereavement Services Officer;

-Items placed upon grave spaces in contravention of the Rules and Regulations in respect of the Borough Cemeteries, generally inadequately secured DIY memorialisation placed upon the whole of the grave space.

It was noted that Care For Your Area (CFYA) had already commenced an inspection process of memorials; targetting those that were likely to be found as being of most risk in terms of contravening the regulations regarding permissible memorials and giving rise to health and safety implications; or generally causing difficulties for CFYA when carrying out maintenance. Concern was expressed regarding the potential health and safety implications for families, funeral staff and CFYA operatives as a result of the difficulties in ensuring safe passage around areas where unauthorised memorials are erected; as well as the consequent difficulty in carrying out maintenance in an economical and cost efficient manner.

Reference had previously been made to the need for appropriate publicity to be issued advising the public of the different services available from the

Bereavement Service; including what was permissible in terms of memorials/signage of graves. This information needed to be available from relevant sources in a constant manner, rather than only made available to families at a time of their loss.

Members expressed gratitude to all staff at CFYA who had contributed to the work on memorial inspections in a continuing caring and professional manner.

CONCLUDED that the presentation be received.

**ENV
10/07** **Work Programme**

Members were presented with the Work Programme for 2007/2008.

CONCLUDED that the Work Programme 2007/2008 be noted.