

Environment Select Committee

A meeting of Environment Select Committee was held on Monday, 4th January, 2010.

Present: Cllr Mrs Maureen Rigg (Chairman), Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Roy Rix, Cllr Michael Smith, Cllr Mick Womphrey, Cllr Bill Woodhead

Officers: G Birtle and Mrs T Harrison (LD)

Also in attendance: F Hayes and T Bowman (Standards Representatives)

Apologies: Cllr Mick Stoker

1 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

2 **Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2009**

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2009.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2009 be agreed upon amendment from beyond the control of officers to beyond the control of Development and Neighbourhood Services.

3 **Progress Update on Previously Agreed Recommendations**

Members considered the assessment of progress in the progress update on the implementation of previously agreed recommendation including outstanding recommendations from the review of Rats and Pigeons and Waste Management.

Rats and Pigeons

The Chair advised that there was no further information from the Cabinet Member following the detailed discussions that had taken place regarding Rats and Pigeons at the previous meeting. However the Chair would report to Members when information was received.

Members discussed the funds that were allocated for the improvement of the High Street and were advised that a Member of the Committee had sent a request to the Cabinet Member that some of the funds be used to tackle the rats and pigeons issue. This could be done by providing signage with instructions such as 'Do not feed the birds'.

The Committee noted the lack of progress and expressed a hope that something could be done in the coming 6 months.

Waste Management

The Chair advised that over the Christmas period, some side waste had been accepted, and in some wards this was felt to be less than in previous years. Members surmised that it could be due to education relating to recycling and the reduction in packaging.

Members raised a number of questions relating to Waste Management which were to be fed back to the Head of Direct Services who would be invited to attend the next meeting at which Waste Management would be discussed to address Members issues.

The Chair advised that progress on anaerobic digestion treatment could be reported annually at the tripartite meeting.

In evidence of progress to the recommendation that funding be explored to deliver waste awareness and an education strategy, Members requested more detail of the £800,000 bid to the Waste Resource Action Programme (WRAP).

Members discussed the possibilities of further recycling such as anaerobic waste and food waste.

Members requested a site visit to an anaerobic waste plant site.

The Chair mentioned that the only one she knew of was in Derby. Siting of anaerobic waste plant sites were restricted owing to the volatility of the resulting product (methane).

Members requested that a letter be sent from the Environment Select Committee to the collection service thanking them for the great work that had been done over the Christmas period in the collection of waste.

The Chair observed that there was no further information regarding the Work Programme.

CONCLUDED that:

1. The updates be noted.
2. The Scrutiny Officer will inform the Head of Direct Services of question raised by Members and invite him to report to Committee at the next meeting at which Waste Management will be discussed.
3. Wastes Management with particular emphasis on anaerobic digestion to be discussed annually at the tripartite meetings.
4. More detail of the £800,000 bid to the Waste Resource Action Programme (WRAP) be provided to Members.
5. Members interest in a site visit to an anaerobic site will be investigated.
6. The Chair will send a letter to the collection service from the Environment Committee, thanking them for the great job they did over the Christmas period.